



2019

ANNUAL REPORT



Circle of love. Circle of support.

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JULIE FINNIN DAY

If you've been a longtime supporter, you've seen Rainbow Valley grow from a residential ranch in upstate New York into a national support network connecting families, volunteers, caregivers, and ambassadors. Thirty-five years ago, its visionary founders, June and Doug Dickinson and Joy Parker, created a nurturing environment in which Christian Scientists with special needs could live and flourish in a "circle of love."

In 2004, the ranch closed, and a decade later, the board was led to hire its first executive director. I'm blessed to share that in 2019, I was hired as RVRN's first executive director who's raising a child with special needs. I personally understand what our families need—and I can happily attest to the uplifting impact that RVRN is having on constituents across the country.

We have partnered with visionary donors who value that we are the only community-building and advocacy organization that specifically supports Christian Science families raising loved ones with special needs. As we welcome new families into our network, the demand for RVRN's services is growing. Together we can help connect these families so they don't feel alone.

Thank YOU for being a part of our story!

MISSION

RVRN provides financial assistance, information resources, and experiential enrichment activities that foster spiritual growth for families and individuals with developmental/ special needs, who have chosen Christian Science as their way of life.



Visiting a goat farm at RVRN Family Enrichment Program

PROVIDING

- ✦ **Family Support Network (FSN)**
 - The first community connecting Christian Science families and caretakers through tailored programs and conversations so they feel supported in their unique journey
- ✦ **Financial Assistance**
 - Providing annual subscriptions to Christian Science Publishing Society (CSPS) publications
 - Assisting with bills to cover CS care and support
 - Making aid available for respite and enrichment activities
- ✦ **Enrichment Activities**
 - Arranging personal visits with those who would appreciate wellness checks
 - Hosting adaptive camp experiences for families and their loved ones at Christian Science camps.
- ✦ **Resources**
 - Offering useful information about organizations and professionals serving our community—including residential housing, financial planning, legal services, etc.
 - Building a library of inspirational articles focused on relevant topics

HIGHLIGHTS

RVRN's Family Support Network (FSN) is attracting new participants, including those families with younger children.

- Presently there are more than 70 contacts in the FSN community.
- Discussion topics for regular monthly calls are evolving in response to those in attendance. Sharing includes inspiration, healings, practical experiences, and metaphysical ideas related to the challenges of caring for loved ones with special needs. Periodically, individuals representing a variety of professions and organizations are invited as guest speakers on the monthly calls.
- With input from these families, we are expanding our online resource library and making it available to the public.

"The [FSN calls] platform is extremely meaningful and very beneficial.... They have given me a greater comfort level to reach out and recognize I don't have to do this alone anymore."

—Parent participant



Participants at RVRN 100 Elk Family Enrichment Program

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Demonstrations of progress and growth thanks to all our supporters. So much to be grateful for!

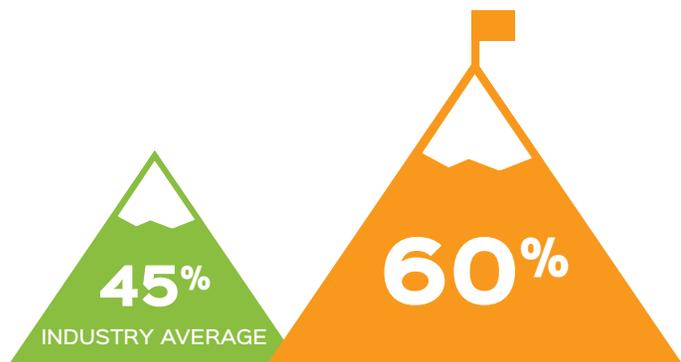
EXISTING DONORS INCREASED 2016-2019



40% RISE IN SUPPORT TO CONSTITUENTS COVERING CS PERIODICAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND PRACTITIONER CARE 2018-2019



DONOR RENEWAL RATE 60% 2019



GRANT AWARDS FROM FOUNDATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS DOUBLED 2018-2019



100% BOARD GIVING 8 BOARD MEMBERS



TOTAL DONORS GREW 10% 2018-2019



IMPACTING LIVES

RVRN is delighted to share stories of healing and progress with you, as well as expressions of gratitude. Told in the words of our constituents and supporters, they convey the impact and benefits of our mission better than we could ourselves.



“It’s an absolute gift to be able to talk with other Christian Scientists not focused on all our problems. In other settings, the whole medical world is the only thing you hear about.... Our conversations at the 100 Elk event were inspiring, as was the opportunity to share challenges we thought we could never talk about openly.” –Sandy Hallet

Read more: <https://www.rvrnetwork.org/impacting-lives>

Gratitude for financial assistance with Christian Science periodicals:

- “Being able to access JSH-Online brings joy and daily reminders of the truth about us—my daughter with special needs and me as her caregiver. We find that we are so much more!”
- “Because of the support from RVRN, I receive the Christian Science Sentinel. It has encouraged my spiritual growth.... My mind has been healed of fear and guilt, and this freedom has blessed my daughter and me, making our lives more harmonious.”

BOARD MEMBERS *(Listed alphabetically)*

- Chris Cheney, CA
- Rich Clarke, MA | Vice Chair and Treasurer
- Julie Finnin Day, IL | Chair and Exec Dir
- Brady Fyfe, MO
- Todd Herzer, CA | Retired Chair
- Barb Horton, MO | Secretary
- Phebe Telschow, MO

Learn more about these volunteers and why they are inspired to serve our organization at: <https://www.rvrnetwork.org/about/#boardandstaff>.

RVRN is proud to stand with families and friends, and all Christian Scientists, in seeing beyond limiting and stereotypical labels. We invite you to join us in seeing everyone as *developmentally abled!*

Are you interested in meeting members of the RVRN community? Subscribe to RVRN’s YouTube Channel and you will hear directly from our participants, volunteers and stakeholders.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- Refer families who can benefit from RVRN services
- Chaperone participants as they travel and attend our events
- Host a regional gathering to help broaden awareness for RVRN
- Embrace those RVRN serves via check-in calls and visits
- Give a gift and become a member of our **circle of support**