

We Remember Them



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The day will
come
when they
will write about this
time. They will write
about the plague of
the latter part of the
twentieth century.
And when they do,
it's important for
them to know that
we were not all
monsters. We were
not all cowards.
Some of us dared to
care in the face of it.
Some of us dared to
fight because of it.
Some of us dared to
love in spite of it. It
is through the
caring and the
fighting and the
loving by which we
live.

- Shades of H.O.P.E.

We Remember Them

News from Around the State:

News from the Southwest

Two RAIN Team Trainings were held in April. Kingston OK now has the Colbert/Calera United Methodist Parish RAIN Team. The team received a client the following week.

A team is expected to form from the training in Lawton at the Cameron Campus Ministry. They are seeking a pastor who is willing to serve with them and undergo training. That team will cover the Anadarko - Apache area which is 20 miles north of Lawton.

Several pastors attended the training at Lawton and are hoping to have teams form from their churches.

Two days were spent at the rural community of Apache 25 minutes north of Lawton where we presented AIDS 101 for 150 5th, 8th and 12th graders in that community. It was my first experience with 5th and 8th graders. They asked many good questions.

Thanks for the support and information given to me by Joan Foreman, Dannette Geren, and Kathy Bird. I am very pleased with the way RAIN works together with clients, trainings, educational materials and exchanging ideas. If more organizations worked together this way we would have a much better defense mechanism going against this disease.

News from the Northwest

The Enid St. Matthew's Episcopal Church RAIN Team lost their client in March. This was my first experience of losing a client as a RAIN staff person and I was soberly reminded of the intense pain and the incredible blessings that AIDS work can bring to our lives. We will always feel sorrow about losing our client and dear friend, but we can rejoice in the fact that with the help and support of a RAIN team he was able to find peace and experience unconditional love while he was still with us. RAIN teams really do make a difference.

We have scheduled a RAIN team training in Ponca City for June 13 &

14th. This is the first RAIN team training to be held in Ponca City and we greatly appreciate the hospitality of the staff and congregation at the First United Methodist Church who will be hosting the training. Please contact the Enid office if you are interested in attending this training. A group of pastors in Woodward have decided to postpone a training there in order to spend some time better educating their congregations and the community on the issue of HIV/AIDS.

I would like to congratulate Jo Anna Hau who is a member of the Enid St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church RAIN team for being recognized as volunteer of the year as an HIV/AIDS Educator at the Oklahoma State convention of the American Red Cross. We're very proud of Jo Anna and greatly appreciate all of her hard work and dedication to this issue!

News from the East

It seems like all we ever hear on the news about HIV/AIDS is about how there is a cure here or around the corner. The new developments in medicine and research are exciting and full of hope and promise. But as we look around Eastern Oklahoma, the picture is quite a bit more complex than this simple media view. Yes, many folks are responding well to the meds and some RAIN teams struggle as they experience being not needed. But not everyone who has asked for help from RAIN has it yet... and not everyone can tolerate (physically and/or emotionally) the new medicines. We are still saying goodbye as people die. HIV/AIDS continues to offer all of us new challenges. Many people are struggling to learn what it means to live with HIV/AIDS. Many volunteers are struggling to learn what it means to support someone who is living - and discovering that this task has new and different challenges than the task of helping someone as they die. Let's continue to hope and hang in there together!

News from the West

The traveling monthly Team Representatives Meetings are working very well. Thanks to the RAIN Teams who have hosted us so far and provided such wonderful snacks: OKC St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Village United Methodist Church and Linwood United Methodist Church. Other teams have signed up to host us through November!

Thanks to Rev. Don Alexander, Senior Pastor, and other staff at the First Christian Church in Oklahoma City for hosting our March RAIN training. A new RAIN Team from Our Lady's Cathedral of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City formed out of the March training and we have another new team to be sponsored by Greater Mount Carmel Baptist Church in OKC.

We are excited about our RAIN Training scheduled for July 19-26 at St. Monica's Catholic Church in Edmond.

Seven RAIN Team members spoke and gave readings at the 14th Annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization Service held May 4th at Will Rogers Park in Oklahoma City. In conjunction with the event, two quilt blocks from the Names Project were displayed in the Senior Center Building at Will Rogers. One of the blocks included the first RAIN memorial panel from 1990-91 with the names of the first 36 RAIN clients who died of complications of AIDS.

Work is in progress for RAIN's 1996-97 memorial panel to be dedicated at the Names Project Display in Tulsa, October 7-18-19. RAIN Teams who have lost a client since September, 1995, are making a small "patch" in honor of their deceased client. Panel-makers Jeff Zielney and Rick Landtroop will stitch together the 45 patches into one large panel.

RAIN welcomes intern Peggie Singleton who will be doing a 400+ hour internship under Joan's supervision. Peggie is a graduate student at the OU School of Social Work.



Calendar

June

- 1, 2 & 3 - State HIV Conference, Norman
 7 & 8 - Tulsa Hope Candlelight Tour of Homes
 13 & 14 - NW OK RAIN Team Training, 1st UMC, Ponca City
 21 - Follies Revue Fundraiser, 2 pm & 8 pm, Rose State College - call 405-232-4372 for tickets and info.
 22 - Gay Pride Parade, Memorial Park, OKC, 2 pm, kickoff at 4pm
 23 - OKC Team Rep Meeting, 7:00 pm, Epworth UMC
 28 - W OK RAIN Talent Show & Pot Luck Dinner, Village UMC

July

- 19 - SE Volunteer Update: Resources and HIV, 10:30 - 2:30, Muskogee Grace Episcopal Church
 19 & 26 - W OK RAIN Team training, St Monica Catholic Church, Edmond
 28 - 7pm Team Rep Meeting, Edmond 1st UMC

August

- 16 - "Opera by the Slice" fundraiser sponsored by Christ the King Catholic Church benefitting RAIN, St Joseph Residence & Our House.
 25 - W OK Team Rep Meeting, 7:00 pm, Southern Hills Christian Church, Edmond

To Be Announced - Eastern OK RAIN Team training - call Tulsa Office for info on dates, times, & locations - 918-749-4195

Fundraiser Benefits RAIN

A special thanks goes to Roy "Buster" Holloway and Vernon Kinder who hosted a party at their home. The event was dedicated to the memory of James A. Perry, Erick N. Norris, and Keith Jerone Pardue. Funds raised will continue RAIN's mission of education and service.



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MONTHLY CONTRIBUTORS

Jeffrey Gaughan • Robert & Delores Browning • Roy & Aline Brown • Warren & Margaret May • Billie Hurst-Gasaway • Terry Knapp • Carol Woods • Jackie & Barbara Cooper • Mary Catherine & Skip Smothermon • First Presbyterian Church of Edmond •

MEMORIALS

Rudy Garcia by the OKC Metro Men's Chorus; John Hocking by Terry Knapp; J.B. Chenoweth & Randy Hurst by Billie Hurst Gasaway; Michael May by Warren & Margaret May; Mark Maier by Fred & Martine Maier; Brian Pool by Mary Pool; Damon Bosse by Christine Van Cleave, Terry Knapp; Becky Wesley by Daniel Sortore; William Allen by Alice Pestonjee, John & Sally Bingman; Nancy Altman by Mary Stevens; Mrs. F.W. (Helen) Souter by Alice Ruebhausen; Mary Lynn Sherwood; Dorothea Seay; Ann Bartlett; Mr & Mrs Mike Borden; John & Eleanore Graham; Anita Kent by Tom Young; Dorcy Sargent by John & Darla Webb; Mark Devin Taylor by Kathryn Reynolds; Stephen May by Warren & Margaret May; James Michael Wilson by Betty Wilson; Michael Hall by Richard & Karen Covington; Jim Hausserman by Charles & Verna Lee Falk; John Whittmore by Peggy Byerty; Tommy Michaels by Stephen Villasenor; Jim Perry by Lorie Summers; Kathren Cudjoe & Penny Trolinger; James Truss;

Robert Bell by Emily Shurley; Greg Stewart by Rosalie & Bob Vaught.

DONATIONS IN HONOR OF:

Thom Collins by Anonymous; Yvonne & Tom Allen on their Birthdays by Joy Naifeh; Barbara Saunders & HIV Peer Counselors at Eddie Warrior Correctional Center-Taft, OK by Suzanne Edmondson; The Smothermon Family by Larry & Shannon Freeman; Haven Alan King-Nobles by Rebekah Wallace; Sapulpa 1st Presbyterian & Good Shepherd RAIN Teams by Yvonne Allen.

ORGANIZATIONS

JC Penney Store #2237-6, Tulsa • OKC Metro Men's Chorus • 1st Christian Church, Broken Arrow • American Red Cross, Bismarck, ND • Parish of Christ the King RAIN Team, Tulsa • Columbia Hospice, OKC • The Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church • Mercy Memorial, Ardmore • JC Penney Co, Inc • The Winds House •

FOUNDATIONS

DIFFA - New York City, NY • Video Industry AIDS Action Committee, Inc, Los Angeles CA • Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, Tulsa •

INKIND DONATIONS

40 Public Service Announcements by KCCU "Classic FM", Cameron University, Lawton • Ink cartridges for printers, Sandra Powell, Lawton • 1 SWB Prepaid Calling Card, Diane Trout Harwood • Television and VCR, Jan Weaver • Long distance calling card, Richard Wawro • Office storage cabinet, Robert Wagner.

FUNDRAISERS

- Have a Heart Auction - Tramps, OKC
- OKClassic Bowling Tournament, OKC
- Buster Holloway Party, OKC.

HIV/AIDS ACTION INITIATIVE DONATIONS

- Prayer Breakfast & Day of Prayer Service • OKC Community Foundation.

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