

The RAINbow

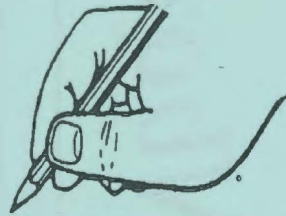
Volume 5, Number 2

March, 1994

The DIRECTOR'S DESK

When is a Care Team not a Care Team? When it's a RAIN Team. We're dropping the care from our name, but not from our service. There are a couple of reasons why our teams are now known as RAIN Teams. One is that the word "care" sets up some preconceived notions in people's minds and that has caused some confusion about what a RAIN Team actually does.

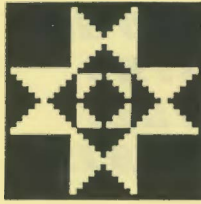
The second is that other groups have begun what they call "care team ministries" which have no connection with RAIN and are often in opposition to RAIN's strong commitment to non-judgmental care and response to those touched by this epidemic. These other programs tend to imitate the RAIN Team structure and confusion has been the result for some people. We can't stop people from saying they are doing "care teams" and we're flattered when RAIN is so highly effective that others want to imitate what we do. BUT, we want to emphasize that pastoral care through practical response - the hallmark of a RAIN Team - NEVER, NEVER includes judgements related to a person's life



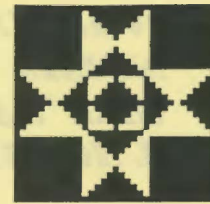
style or how he or she acquired HIV infection. RAIN does NOT accept the belief voiced by some that HIV disease is a result of sin. A RAIN Team DOES NOT evangelize or try to "re-church" people. We live our faith by our response, not our words.

What RAIN offers works because we give ourselves and all we ask from our clients is that they allow us to be with them and help make this phase in their earthly journey a little easier. We are only too eager to work with groups in other states to begin RAIN in their areas. In Oklahoma we are RAIN - the only RAIN - and no one else does what we do. We work with any faith community which accepts the RAIN mission and works through our organization to provide a RAIN Team to a person with AIDS. If anyone else tells you they are doing the same thing as RAIN, but not with RAIN, look at their program very carefully.

(Continued)



Will
|
Be



Welcome?

AIDS and the Church

Letty Russell-Keynote

The Church with AIDS: Renewal in the Midst of Crisis ed.
Household of Freedom: Authority in Feminist Theology author
Becoming Human author

April 15-16, 1994

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
Oklahoma City

Sponsored by the AIDS Task Force
Oklahoma United Methodist Conference

COST:

ENTIRE CONFERENCE

Single registration \$30 before March 15, \$35 after March 15

Registration for 2 or more registering together \$25 before March 15

ONE DAY \$15

For more information and registration forms call:

Jarrell Tyson (405)525-2252, X115

David Mueser(405)521-1405

Leslie Penrose (918)838-7232

Tish Malloy (405)751-8116



A GIFT TO YOU FROM RAIN

APRIL 17, 1994

3:00 - 6:00pm

JIM & JEAN STRATHDEE IN CONCERT

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 913 S. BOULDER

TULSA, OK

***CELEBRATE THROUGH THE MUSIC OF THE
STRATHDEE'S THE JOY OF LIFE, THE
CHALLENGE OF FAITH AND A VISION
OF GOD'S JUSTICE, HEALING AND PEACE
FOR OUR BRUISED AND BROKEN WORLD.***

Annual Have a Heart Auction Was much-needed success

The 9th annual Have A Heart Auction, sponsored by Tramps (owners Larry Crosby and John Eckert), was a huge success raising much-needed funds for Western Oklahoma RAIN and the Loaves and Fishes meals program. Host Tony Sinclair, auctioneers Kitty Litter and Patty Melt, assistant Janet Hall, and all the entertainers - Erica LaMonte, Dominique Nicole, Ann Marie, Danae Daniels, Randall Powell, Lady Carmen, and Michael Evans - donated their talents and their tips to the cause. Many people donated auction items to make the night a success and all are deeply appreci-

ated. Special mention goes to Geoffrey's, Nick Backes, The Frame House, Harold Stevenson, Prestige Travel, Gil's Clothing, Valentino's Catering, and Aunt Pitty Pats. Larry Crosby received a richly deserved honorary award for the time and service he has given to care and response to people with HIV/AIDS.

RAIN thanks those who made the auction possible and those who entered into the spirit of the evening and kept those bids coming! Mary Catherine was there and had a wonderful time - and has a beautiful cactus arrangement to show for her bidding prowess.

Arizona RAIN is up and going

Over a year ago, Paul Eppinger from Arizona attended a RAIN training in OKC in preparation for beginning RAIN in Arizona. Since then, several phone calls have taken place between Mary Catherine and the group in Arizona. Sarah Brown, Arizona RAIN secretary, reports two training sessions in November and

January have resulted in 40 volunteers serving on Arizona RAIN teams. We're pleased to have been able to help Arizona get the RAIN program going.

In addition to Oklahoma and Arizona, RAIN is active in Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New York, North and South Carolina, and Texas.

Bowling league "strikes" for RAIN

Oklahoma GBO league play includes a "Strike Pod" each week. Bowlers buy raffle tickets and the winner gets the chance to roll for a strike in order to win part of the proceeds. A portion of the proceeds goes to a designated non-profit organization and RAIN has been honored to be the recipient twice this year. Larry Hamilton shows up on RAIN Night and helps sell tickets. Mary Catherine helped in February and reports that Larry is quite a salesman. When she thought everyone who was going to buy had done so, Larry went out and sold many more. Western Oklahoma RAIN thanks all the bowlers and the league for including us in "Strike Pod."

RAIN Oklahoma

Regional AIDS Interfaith Network

EDUCATION & SERVICE STATISTICS

	<u>Dec 90</u>	<u>Dec 91</u>	<u>Dec 92</u>	<u>Dec 93</u>	<u>Jan 94</u>
# RAIN Teams (active, to date)	12	34	58	66	72
# Volunteers (active, to date)	60	321	450+	700+	900+
# Volunteer hrs given/period	n/a	15,623	22,369	28,366	2,435
# Volunteer hrs given (to date)	n/a	15,623+	37,992+	66,358+	68,793+
# Clients served (to date)	7	67	125+	200+	213
# Programs presented (to date)	n/a	162	428	561	574
# People presented to (to date)	n/a	9,268	13,414	19,207	19,760

CLIENT STATISTICS

Year To Date:

STATE-WIDE TOTALS		EASTERN OKLAHOMA		WESTERN OKLAHOMA	
Total Clients	213	Total Clients	100 46.9%	Total Clients	113 53.1%
Active	54 25.4%	Active	29 29.0%	Active	25 22.1%

STATE-WIDE TOTALS		EASTERN OKLAHOMA		WESTERN OKLAHOMA	
<u>RACE:</u>		<u>RACE:</u>		<u>RACE:</u>	
White	169 79.3%	White	76 76.0%	White	93 82.3%
Native American	26 12.2%	Native American	16 16.0%	Native American	10 8.9%
Black	12 5.6%	Black	7 7.0%	Black	5 4.4%
Hispanic	6 2.8%	Hispanic	1 1.0%	Hispanic	5 4.4%

STATE-WIDE TOTALS		EASTERN OKLAHOMA		WESTERN OKLAHOMA	
<u>SEX:</u>		<u>SEX:</u>		<u>SEX:</u>	
Male	194 91.1%	Male	93 93.0%	Male	101 89.4%
Female	19 8.9%	Female	7 7.0%	Female	12 10.6%

Current Clients:

STATE-WIDE TOTALS		EASTERN OKLAHOMA		WESTERN OKLAHOMA	
Total Active	54 25.4%	Total Active	29 53.7%	Total Active	25 46.3%

STATE-WIDE TOTALS		EASTERN OKLAHOMA		WESTERN OKLAHOMA	
<u>RACE:</u>		<u>RACE:</u>		<u>RACE:</u>	
White	40 74.1%	White	21 72.4%	White	19 76.0%
Native American	10 18.5%	Native America	5 17.2%	Native American	5 20.0%
Black	3 5.6%	Black	2 6.9%	Black	1 4.0%
Hispanic	1 1.9%	Hispanic	1 3.4%	Hispanic	0 0.0%

STATE-WIDE TOTALS		EASTERN OKLAHOMA		WESTERN OKLAHOMA	
<u>SEX:</u>		<u>SEX:</u>		<u>SEX:</u>	
Male	47 87.0%	Male	26 89.7%	Male	21 84.0%
Female	7 13.0%	Female	3 10.3%	Female	4 16.0%

RAIN DONORS

Some pledge and/or donate regularly...some honor or memorialize someone special...some support fund raising activities...some donate for a special event or presentation...some donate anonymously - all are vital to the ministry of RAIN. WE THANK EACH ANDEVERYONE.

DONATIONS:

John McNeese...Barbara Felber...Skip and Donna Ambler...Charles Faudree... Jackie and Barbara Cooper...Jeffrey Gaughan...Dennis Parker...Mrs. Raymond Shartouny...Keith A. Catto, Jr....Kandie Fairchild...M.Z. Woodall...Larry and Shannon Freeman...Carol Woods...Billie Hurst...Jack H. Stout...Richard and Jayne Cox...Roy and Aline Brown...Robert and Joy Beckerley...Larry Crosby and John Eckert...Mr. & Mrs. Jack Allen, Jr....Mr. & Mrs. Chris Andrews...James Arnold... Mark Bizjack...Mrs. Bryon Boone...Mr. & Mrs. John Bumgarner...Frances Herndon Chandler...Mr. & Mrs. Fulton Collins...Mr. & Mrs. Roger Collins...Mr. & Mrs. Jackie Cooper...Mr. & Mrs. Chip Doudican...Mr. & Mrs. Kent Dunbar...Mr. & Mrs. Charles Flint, Jr....Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Frank...Mr. & Mrs. Mark Grahom...Elise P. Grant...R.H. Harbaugh...Mrs. Thomas J. Hardman...Cisar Holt...Norman Hulings... Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Jackson...Dr. & Mrs. James Johnson...Dr. Susan B. Kennedy... Gordon Lantz...Mr. & Mrs. Edward Leinbach...Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lorton...Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Lorton...Patsy Lyon...Mrs. Lurline Mabrey...Mr. & Mrs. Peter Meinig...Mr. & Mrs. Paul Molloy...Rosamond Mulford...Mr. & Mrs. Charles Neal...Mr. & Mrs. Jack Neely...Ruth K. Nelson...Mr. & Mrs. Donald Newman... Martin Newman...Mr. & Mrs. Robert Norman...Mr. & Mrs. Angel Olmeta...John Oxley...Dr. & Mrs. Clio Robertson...Mr. & Mrs. Hal Salisbury...John Simmons Highcroft II...Mrs. F.D. Sinclair...Mr. & Mrs. Jim Sturdivant...Mr. & Mrs. Edward Taylor...Dr. Robert G. Tompkins...Peter Walter...Mr. & Mrs. John Walton...Mr. & Mrs. W.K. Warren, Jr....Dr. & Mrs. Stan White...Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Wiley...Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Winter...Larry Crosby...John Eckert.....Michael A. Haro...Edward Russell..... Vickie N. Casey...P. Sean Cusac...Dana L. Dayton...Jack O. Foster... Stoney Humbard...Jackie R. Lucas...A.H. McMullen...Sam L. Nicolosi,...Donald E. Paul... James M. Prock...Camille Rohn.....J. Frank Russell...Fred V. Simpson, Jr...Mike Swepston...Nickey Thomason.

GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Apache Corporation...Oklahoma Lambda Bowling Association...Tramp's... Valentino's Catering...Geoffrey's...Shelter Insurance...Memorial Baptist Church, Tulsa...Nichols Hills United Methodist Church...Grace Episcopal Church, Ponca City...First Christian Church of Tulsa.

IN MEMORY OF:

STEPHEN BRECKINRIDGE by Patricia A. Maxey, Jerry and Paulene Talley, Roger and Suzanne Ames, Richard and Marilyn Thompson, Eleanor Lutsey, Mary Beth Stinnett, John and Janet Bradley, Robert and Charlotte Thompson, Jerrold and Jean Wagener, Grace Ann Fischer, Carol K. Dillard, Barbara Thompson, J.O. and

The DIRECTOR'S DESK (Continued)

If you see or hear RAIN misrepresented or of our materials misused by any other organization, please let me know. Our RAIN Oklahoma name and logo are trademarked and cannot be used without permission. If you see it someplace where you think it shouldn't be, call me at the Executive Office in OKC. If I'm not in, give Wes the information. I'll follow up on it and let you know the results.

A RAIN Team is a group of caring individuals who have been trained by RAIN to provide non-technical, loving response and service to a person with symptomatic HIV disease. RAIN is a faith-based response and each team is sponsored by a faith congregation. Each RAIN Team is honored to be accepted by their client during a crucial time in his or her life. The team members become

extended family as they and the client journey together through the course of the HIV disease. The love and trust which grows between a RAIN Team and their client is truly a blessing for all concerned. What we do goes far beyond some of the singular tasks which are done by RAIN Team volunteers. Lives are impacted at every level - and they are changed, nourished, and expanded.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see some amazing statistics about RAIN. They tell part of the story. Volunteers and clients who are living the story tell the rest. I'm so thankful for RAIN and for each of you who help to make it possible.

In Love and Faith,



"Will I be welcome? AIDS & the Church"

Don't miss this wonderful conference. Sponsored by the Oklahoma United Methodist AIDS Task Force, the two-day conference will feature Letty Russell, Jim and Jean Strathdee, and seminars led by experts in the field of HIV/AIDS in Oklahoma. April 15th and 16th are the dates, St.

Luke's United Methodist Church, OKC, is the place. An enclosed flyer gives more information.

Also, the Strathdees will be in Tulsa April 17th to present a concert at First Christian Church - a gift from RAIN to YOU! Check the enclosed flyer for details.

*"Life is easier to take than you'd think;
all that is necessary is to accept the impossible,
do without the indispensable, and bear the intolerant."*

Kathleen Norris

Hope Candlelight Tour of Homes once again a stellar event

The 4th annual event is now a thing of the past, but the memories linger on. Charles Faudree and his committee once again provided a stellar tour which was preceded by a progressive buffet for patron donors.

Committee members were P.S. Gordon, Joan Flint, Terry Williams (another Terry, not our E. OK. Coordinator Terrye), Charles Faudree, Roxanna Lorton, Nancy Vaughan, Sally Minshall, Francesanne Tucker, Jody Walls, Francie Faudrec, Linda Robertson, Nancy Renberg, Judy Fisher, Monnie Mooberry. The staff at Charles Faudree in Utica Square worked long and hard to make things turn out right also.

RAIN Teams from All Souls Unitarian Church, Christ the King

Catholic Church, Tulsa Parents FLAG, and St. Mary's Catholic Church volunteered as helpers during the progressive buffet as well as the tour itself. They will also be helping during the post-tour party for patron donors to be held later in March.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Andres, and Mr. and Mrs. Martin Vaughan were hosts for the progressive buffet. Homes on the tour included those of Mr. and Mrs. John Woolman, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Arnold, Ms. Karen Sheehan, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Childs, and Dr. and Mrs. Robert Sonnenshein.

Proceeds of the tour were shared equally by Eastern Oklahoma RAIN and St. Joseph's Residence for people with AIDS in Tulsa.

Clean your closets for garage sale

Remember Tulsa's Biggest Garage Sale held last year to benefit RAIN? It's coming again and you can begin to donate your items now as a storage facility has been donated just for that purpose. Call the Tulsa office for information and start your spring cleaning now. You'll be happy you cleared out those closets and Eastern

Oklahoma RAIN will receive the proceeds.

Watch The RAINbow for the date and place of the sale. It's one you don't want to miss. Be sure to leave some of the space you cleared - you're bound to find something you can't live without at this sale!

*"Time does not heal. It makes a half-stitched scar
that can be broken and you feel grief
as total as in its first hour."*

Elizabeth Jennings

RAINbows and RAINdrops

Eursey Lenoir, OKC Clark United Methodist RAIN Team, was featured in the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center "Intercom," for her work as a volunteer with RAIN, Loaves and Fishes, and the OKC Area HIV/AIDS Coalition.....Mary Catherine and Skip Smothermon are thrilled to welcome their first grand-daughter, Jessica Marie James, born February 15th in OKC.....Glenn Olson, member of OKC Clark United Methodist RAIN Team, continues to be ill.....Bonnie Cox, Edmond First United Methodist RAIN Team, was named Volunteer of the Week recently by the Edmond Evening Sun newspaper. In addition to RAIN, she works with the Hope Center, Breakfast on Boulevard, AARP, the Crop Walk, and mission trips with the Oklahoma United Methodist Conference.....Mary Catherine was recently awarded the LeRoy Bridges Scholarship at Oklahoma City University.....

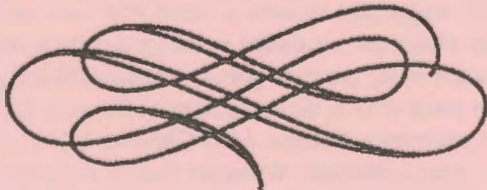
Give the RAINbow Power Team Volunteers (Elian Brown, Steve Daniels, Beverly Scott, Tom Schweiger, Fred Maier, Jim Lyon, Ron Heatly, Richard Clifton, Katy Kennedy, Maggie Clemento, Pat Gibbons) a BIG pat on the back. Under the able direction of Larry

Hamilton they folded, stapled, sorted, and mailed our January newsletter in ONE day!....

Truman Geren has been at the forefront of service and response in Oklahoma for several years, working primarily within the Native American community. His unexpected death on February 20th gave us all cause for grief and a deep sense of loss. Serving as Case Manager for the Ahalaya Project and as a member of the RAIN Board of Directors, Truman touched many lives and will be sorely missed.....

MC Smothermon, Terry Williams, Joan Foreman, and Tommy Chesbro are among the top ten Certified AIDS Educators in numbers of HIV/AIDS programs presented in 1993, according to the Oklahoma State Department of Health.....Thanks to Dennis Neill and John Southard who consistently offer warm hospitality and a comfy bed to Mary Catherine when she is on RAIN business in the Tulsa area.....

Our sympathy is extended to Charlotte Teel, OKC Village United Methodist RAIN Team, on the death of her cousin.....Melvin Bailey, RAIN Board Member, on the death of his mother.....Bob Dawson, OKC Village United Methodist RAIN Team, on the death of his son.....



Frances Cumberledge, Stephen and Carolyn Bednar, Vincent and Marrison Lane; JOHN HOCKING by Beverly Hofstetter, Kathy L. Poore; RANDY WRIGHT by Jeffrey Gaughan, Rocky Moody; PATTY MORELAND MEIS by Bob and Norma Borders; LYNN CHURCH by Arvon and Marilyn Staats; MARK MAIER by Fred and Martine Maier; ICIE MOODY by Dale and Rita Cox; ROBERT BELL, GREG MOUNCASTLE, TIMOTHY BEBEE, AND WILLIAM BATES by Skip and Mary Catherine Smothermon; RON CROOK AND MEL SHEPPARD by Kathy L. Poore; JAMES KNOTT by Jane Hall Rodkin; RANDY SHILTS by Phyllis M. Graham; BARTON SAMUEL LEVY by Sylvia Marks-Barnett

IN HONOR OF:

JOHN SMITH by Kerri Williams; MICHAEL HALL by Richard and Karen Covington; SKIP SMOTHERMON by John E. Wagner; LARRY HAMILTON, JOAN FOREMAN AND WES WISE by Tom Schweiger; BILLIE HURST by Dot Moore; JOE RACKLEY by Mary Catherine Smothermon; CHARLES FAUDREE by Michael and Lillian Stepp.

GRANTS:

Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association; First Presbyterian Church of Edmond.

Yes, I want to be a RAIN supporter. Enclosed is my contribution:

\$_____ My gift is in memory of _____. Please notify the family: _____

My gift is in honor of _____. Please notify the honoree, whose address is: _____

I understand RAIN Oklahoma is a non-profit organization and my contribution is tax-deductible. My cancelled check will serve as my receipt. (Please check here if you prefer to remain anonymous and do not want to receive RAIN newsletters and mailings.)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Please make check payable to:

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Oklahoma City OK 73102-5814

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2312 NW 39th St
Oklahoma City OK 73112

Episcopal Church Center
924 N. Robinson • Oklahoma City, OK 73102-5814



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The RAINbow

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