

Pregnant and Positive



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RAIN Oklahoma is a Member of:
AIDS National Interfaith Network
(ANIN)
National Minority AIDS Council
(NMAC)

Wesley T. Wise, Editor

The Director's Desk

No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of the child," said Emma Goldman. Some of us don't have close contact with children and may not experience what Ms. Goldman wrote. I recently was blessed with two opportunities.

My mother and I attended a relative's 60th birthday party and were able to see three new members of the family, ages two months to five months! Everyone was so drawn to the babies that the birthday celebrant was almost overlooked. A new generation has begun - with names like Zane, Dylan and Cameron.

The next morning, my mother and I sat in a doctor's waiting room, anxious for the doctor's comments on the success of her surgery. A precious baby girl looked at each person there and gave each a gift - a smile. I was thrilled when she held her arms out to me and her mother actually let me hold her. My own baby turned 21 recently and grandchildren are not yet in sight, but for a few moments I held a child and felt the hopes and the dreams and the love that each child represents. It was a powerful moment.

I admit I struggle with the reproductive rights of women living with HIV/AIDS. It is apparent that many of us have conflicting feelings- we listen to women facing the decision to have children after their lives have changed dramatically with the news that they are HIV positive. Some women first learn this when they are receiving prenatal care - what decision is right then?

We know that nine of ten babies



born to HIV positive mothers will not be infected with the virus if the mother receives AZT during pregnancy and delivery and if the baby receives it after delivery for a period of time. Studies are currently looking at the impact of triple combination therapy on mother-to-child transmission.

Family, friends and RAIN team members may have difficulty understanding a woman's decision to get pregnant or continue a pregnancy if she is HIV positive. This is when we all must remind ourselves what the H in HIV represents - HUMAN. When someone learns that they are HIV positive, it doesn't mean that she or he stops being human. Women who are HIV positive continue to have the hopes and dreams that other women have and experiencing the joys and the challenges of mothering are often among those hopes and dreams. Let us be kind.

Pamela S. Cross, Executive Director

Is Your Faith Positive?

An HIV/AIDS conference for faith communities will be held Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18. A variety of workshops designed for clergy and staff, lay persons, youth, and persons impacted by HIV/AIDS are being offered, as well as exhibits by HIV/AIDS resource organizations. To register call (405) 947-3434.



Calendar

APRIL

- 16:** Women at Risk documentary, All Souls Unitarian, Tulsa, 5:15 pm
17 - 18: Is Your Faith Positive? HIV/AIDS conference, OKC
21: Eastern OK RAIN Volunteer Appreciation dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church

MAY

- 8 & 9:** Eastern OK RAIN Team training, Rogers Heights Christian Church, Tulsa

JUNE

- 1 - 25:** Summer RAIN, Session I
4, 6 & 7: Hope Candlelight Tour of Homes, Tulsa
14 - 16: State HIV Conference, DoubleTree Warren Place, Tulsa
25 - 27: Follies Revue
29 - July 23; Summer RAIN, Session II

RAIN Update

In February, **24** presentations were made to **1,074** people. From February 1990 through February 1998, **1,236** programs were presented to **51,250** persons.

Sixty-nine RAIN teams consisting of approximately 800 volunteers have served **420** HIV-infected men, women, children, their families and care givers. **Fifty-six** clients are currently being served.

RAIN volunteers logged **1,220** hours in February. Since 1990, they have given **133,652 hours** - this equates to one person working **40 hours per week for over 64 years!** At \$10.00 per hour, that work would have cost **\$1,331,200.00.**

For a Good Time Call RAIN

Join in the celebration of **Party With a Purpose!**



RAIN invites you to participate with us in "Party With a Purpose", a diverse medley of party hosts, guests, and themes. Each party has a common purpose - to have fun and raise funds for our program. As many parties as possible will be held on a common day - Saturday, August 8th.

Our goals for this event are:

- To celebrate the work of our RAIN Teams in the 405 and 580 area codes in Oklahoma
- To promote awareness about the need to respond with compassion to those members of our communities living with HIV/AIDS
- To raise money for RAIN to support our operating costs to recruit, train, link, support and sustain RAIN Teams.

For more information call us at (405) 947-3434 or 1-800-324-RAIN.

Wish List

Tulsa Office:

Desks, desk chairs, regular chairs, shelves, sofa/love seat, area rugs, filing cabinets, table, one air conditioning unit, stands for small refrigerator and microwave.

OKC Office: Canopy for front door.



Smothermon Honored

MC Smothermon has been honored as a "Keeper of the Dream", an award given in conjunction with the annual celebration of Martin Luther King Day. MC was given the award during an Oklahoma City ceremony on January 10, and was recognized for her work as founder and first executive director of Oklahoma's chapter of RAIN.

The award, sponsored by *The Ebony Tribune* newspaper of Oklahoma City, is given annually to those who exemplify the spirit of Dr. King by their outstanding contributions to their communities.

Congratulations, MC!



In Memoriam

Muskogee Grace Episcopal Church
Debbie

OKC Our Lady's Cathedral Catholic
Jim

Weatherford Federated Church
David

Tulsa Christ the King Catholic
Bill

Tulsa All Souls Unitarian Team A
Kevin

Sapulpa Good Shepherd Episcopal
James

Edmond 1st Presbyterian
Nick

Norman St Michael's Episcopal
Walter

Sapulpa 1st Presbyterian
Charles

DONATIONS



INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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MONTHLY SUPPORTERS

Robert & Dolores Browning • Jackie & Barbara Cooper • Billie Hurst Gasaway • Jeffrey Gaughan • Terry Knapp • Warren & Margaret May • Carol M. Woods • First Presbyterian Church, Edmond • The Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church

MEMORIALS

William Souter Allen by John & Eleanore Graham • Roy Lee Beck by Gerald & Betty Beck • Tommy Bigbee by Polly Houston • Damon Bosse by Dorothy Messenger, David Kentner • Ollie Buck by Mr & Mrs B.M. Saltzman, John & Allison Greene, Wayne & Yvonne Clementson, Robert & Lynn Bockmeulen, Charlie & Carolyn Selman, Bob & Beth Erickson • Wes Fletcher by Pauline Fletcher • John Hocking & Damon Bosse by Terry Knapp • Mark Houston by Polly Houston • Randy Hurst & J.B. Chenoweth by Billie Hurst-Gasaway • James Knott by Janet Weaver • Darron Lyon by Jim & Sharon Lyon • Mark Maier by Fred & Martine Maier • Stephen May by Warren & Margaret May • Ray McDonald by Ken & Sue Arnn • Larry Novak on the anniversary of his 46th Birth Day by Grace Stockstill • John Oldham by Warren & Margaret May • Mike Pendley on his birthday (Feb 9) by Mike Blalock • Bob Rowe by Anonymous • Cameron Schober by Richard Bivins • Douglas Shutt by Jeanne & Len Williams, Joyce Blackburn, Mr and Mrs Billy Autry, William & Melba Cooledge, Melvin & Virginia Shutt, Thomas & Margaret Ann Harp, Kermit & Sandra Rowe, Kraig & Cheri Rowe, Thurlie Tyner, Melvin & Carol Norton, Greg & Janet Blackburn, Marse Lear, his coworkers at Davis Companies-Los Angeles • David Smith by Charlotte Alexandre • Mark Devin Taylor by Susan Gilley

IN HONOR OF

Sam T. Allen IV by Dan & Lanaya McManus • Tom & Yvonne Allen by Edwin and Betty Allen • Jewell Brashier by David Kentner • Pam Cross by Nettie Caldwell, Janet St George • Steve Daniels & Richard May by Mary Louise Hoven • Stan Fletcher by Marvin Fletcher • Joan Foreman by Harbour Winn III • Dannette Geren by Spring Baptist Church, Sasakwa OK • Betty Mann by Builders Class of Linwood UMC

ORGANIZATIONS

Bartlett Foundation, Creek County • Columbia Hospice • Crowe & Dunlevy Foundation • Daniels & May Designs • Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Shawnee • Halliburton Energy Services (Political Action Committee Matching Gift Program), Duncan • Herman & Mary Wegener Foundation, OKC • Jewish Federation of Tulsa Foundation • Junior Hospitality Club • OK Classic Bowling Assoc. & Gay & Lesbian Bowling Leagues-Tuesday Twisters & Sunday Night Lambda Alternatives • St Monica Parish, Edmond • Tierra Oil Company • Trinity Episcopal Church, Guthrie • United Methodist Women, Elgin

IN-KIND

Public Service Announcements by KCCU Classic FM, Cameron University, Lawton • Office Supplies by Sandra Powell • Computer by Mark Keeling, The Banker's Bank • Office Supplies by Darrell Fischer • 2 SWB Calling Cards by Kent Mauk • RAIN Rubber Stamp by Curtis Oshel & OKC Classic Bowling Association • Printing of 100 RAIN Volunteer Training manuals by Lucent Technologies

FUNDRAISERS

Falsetto's, Tulsa • Christmas Card Sales by Southern Hills Christian Church, Edmond • Christopher Radko Christmas Ornaments, Tulsa • Turnabout Fundraiser, Hi-Lo Club, OKC • Strike Pot Bowling, OKC • OKClassic Bowling Association "Mardi Gras"

HIV/AIDS Action Initiative

AIDS Coalition of Central Oklahoma • Roche Laboratories, Inc • Oklahoma City Community Foundation

RAIN Appreciates Your Support

Individual, church and corporate gifts are essential to RAIN continuing to recruit, train, link, and support RAIN teams with RAIN clients. Please consider making a gift to RAIN today to honor or memorialize a loved one.

Connecting Hearts & Hands Fund Drive Update



We are nearly one-third of the way to our goal of raising \$25,000! THANK YOU to all who have given generously to support RAIN's work of recruiting, training, linking and supporting volunteer teams. It's not too late to give to this drive and receive one of the following gifts:

• Red Ribbon Pins for gifts of \$25 - \$49 • RAIN Lapel Pin for gifts of \$50 - \$99

• RAIN Mug for gifts of \$100 - \$249 • 1st and 2nd Edition RAIN Ornaments for gifts of \$250 and above
Be sure to indicate on your check that your gift is for the "Connecting Hearts and Hands" fund drive. With your help, when the fund drive ends on May 31, 1998, we will have surpassed our goal!

Individuals

Yvonne Allen ♥ Janice & Jack Alexander ♥
Ann S. Alspaugh ♥ Lois Ball ♥ Ann Bartlett Burke
♥ Joy & Robert Beckerly ♥ Ina L. Bond ♥ Linda
& Sam Bowman ♥ Don & Virginia Brashear ♥
Priscilla Braun ♥ Ramona Brecht ♥ Betty Brown ♥
Dorcas Bundrick ♥ Kathleen Cairns ♥ Frances
Herndon Chandler ♥ Mrs. A.B. Cleveland ♥ Chris
& Gina Covington ♥ Janet & Patrick Curth ♥
Margaret Dean ♥ Ailene DeBell ♥ Mary Lou
Dodican ♥ Dr. & Mrs. Norman L. Dunitz ♥ Ruth
Foreman ♥ Stan & Beverly Foster ♥ Elsie A.
France ♥ Jennifer & Mark Galvin ♥ Jack Gillett ♥
Fernando Godefroy ♥ Elise Perrault Grant ♥
Leslie Heathman ♥ Robert & Carolyn Helms ♥
Ralph & Patricia Henderson ♥ Darren Hildebrand
♥ Sydney S. Hill ♥ Jane Ho & Franc Skirball ♥
Murlin Hodgell ♥ Mr. & Mrs. KR Hornbrook ♥
Helen Hummel ♥ Elmer & Pat Kamphaus ♥ Diane
R. Kovacs ♥ Patrick D. Little ♥ Lucent
Technologies ♥ Lurline R. Mabrey ♥ John &
Karen Mackey ♥ Jesse & Barbara Manering ♥
Betty Mann ♥ Kent A. Mauk ♥ Warren & Margaret
May ♥ Grady & Joan McCullough ♥ Gerald
McMahon ♥ Daniel Morton ♥ Marilyn Ogilvie ♥
Dan Pulver ♥ Steve & Jackie Rosen ♥ Margaret &
George Selby ♥ Emily Alexander Shurley ♥ Mary
D. Smith ♥ Vivian Valdmanis ♥

Memorials

Duncan Alford by Martha & Tom Alford ♥
William Souter Allen by Bradford Hoopes, DDS;
Anne Segrest McCulloch; Guy Berry; Jeff & Amy
Bell; Deborah Rainey Nelson; and Kevin Connell
♥ Roy Lee Beck by Gerald & Betty Beck ♥ "My
Brother Bill" by Glenda Ross ♥ Rob Borders by
Chris & Elizabeth Borders ♥ Damon Bosse by
Jim McCampbell ♥ Robert Read Browning by
Robert & Dolores Browning ♥ J.B. Chenoweth &
Randy Hurst by Roy & Aline Brown ♥ Lynn
Church by Marilyn & Arvon Staats ♥ Kim J.
Coburn by V.N. Wilde ♥ Wes Fletcher by Pauline

Fletcher ♥ Chelsea Henson by Lana Henson ♥
John Hocking by Steve Womack (Jungle Red) ♥
Mark Houston by Polly Houston ♥ Michael
Wayne Hudson by Peggy Sue Hudson ♥ David
Ince by Maxine Ince ♥ Paul Kerby & Nick Porter
by Eva & Robert Durant ♥ Paul Kirk by Bob Hill ♥
Paul Kirk by Timothy Kubiak & Kenneth Spittler ♥
Rod Kite & Paul Kirk by Joseph Kirk & Daniel
Hardt ♥ James Knott by Martha Knott ♥ Paul &
Duncan Knox by Jean Szostkowski ♥ Chris
Lewis by Anonymous ♥ Jerry Lilly by Robert &
Betty Lackey ♥ Keven Lockyear by Doug &
Myrna Campbell ♥ Vince Mazeo by Mary Harris
♥ Charley (Chay) McDermitt by Opal Jane
McDermitt ♥ Chuck Meers by Curtis Oshel ♥
Jeffrey Penson by Dr. Jeff Beal ♥ Jim Perry,
Mitch Langston & Dusty Leigh by Sharon
DeGraff ♥ Brian Pool by Mary Pool ♥ Nick
Porter by Kay Holladay ♥ Nick Porter by Michael
Harmon ♥ Ron & Norman and so many others
by J.T. Moore ♥ Dorcy Sargent by Jennefer
Branch ♥ Jim Schmitd by Jeanne DeVilliers ♥
Kirt Smothermon by Phil & Debbie Smothermon
♥ James Snider by Pam Berry ♥ Thomas
Stewart by Sue Boyd ♥ Mike "Mickey"
Swepston by Bill Peiffer ♥ John Wesley
Townesley by Larry & Claudia Vandiver ♥ Randy
Tucker by Russell Brumble ♥ John Whittmore by
Peggy Byerly ♥ Buddy R. Williams & Trevis
Brooks by Frances H. Warren ♥ Michael Wilson
by Betty C. Wilson

Honorariums

Mary Eve by Scott Bolton ♥ Alisa Hall by John
Hudgens ♥ Jeudi Hamilton by Jackie Gilley ♥
Kathy Leithner by Anonymous ♥ The
Smothermons by Larry & Shannon Freeman ♥
Terry Williams by Ann Jackman

News From Around the State

News from the West

RAIN says "Good-bye!" to Sandra Powell, who resigned her position as SW Associate Coordinator and "Hello!" to Victor Cutnose, who took over the position on Feb 20. We will miss Sandra and appreciate her hard work and all she did to improve the quality of life of PLWAs. We are pleased to add Victor to our staff. He is a member of the Ryan White Title II Advisory Council for the state of OK, a Certified AIDS Educator, and co-founder of SWAN (South West AIDS Network). We also welcome intern Isaac Olorunnisomo, OU graduate student.

We would like to thank Father Stephen Bird, Pastor, St. Patrick Catholic Church in OKC, his staff and the St. Patrick RAIN Team for hosting the World AIDS Day Memorial Service on Dec 1 and RAIN Volunteer Training in January. Thanks also go to Rev Denny Hook, Pastor, First UMC in Ponca City, and his staff for hosting our Feb training and forming the Ponca City RAIN Team. They soon will begin working with their first client.

We are grateful to Rev Carla Gwartney, Pastor, and Jeni Markham-Clewell, Diaconal Minister with Epworth UMC in OKC for hosting RAIN's Annual Pot-Luck Dinner and Volunteer Appreciation Event on Feb 13. Volunteers were presented with RAIN lapel pins.

The OKC AIDS Walk will be held Oct 25 at the Myriad



Gardens. Persons wishing to serve on the Walk Committee may call Co-chair Kay Holladay, Executive Director of CarePoint, at 405-232-AIDS (2437).

- Joan Foreman

News from the Southwest

So many things are happening in the SW area. I'm excited to be a part of RAIN and the ministry we provide to our brothers and sisters living with HIV. Sandra left some big shoes to fill, but I'm sure we'll continue our work in this area. We had our volunteer appreciation potluck on March 24. The turnout was small, but good food and lots of fun was shared. Pam and Joan presented Sandra with a beautiful plaque in appreciation for her years of service to RAIN and the HIV community.

Requests continue to come in for new teams. I can't wait to do my first training. I had the great opportunity to be a counselor at a youth retreat in HIV prevention in the Tulsa area in March. The kids were so energetic they wore me out, but I'm looking forward to returning next year.

- Victor Cutnose

News from the East

In case you haven't heard, we've moved again! Our new home is on the 3rd floor of Rogers Height Christian Church. Cora's AmeriCorp project is becoming a reality. It is an

exciting time as we experiment with new models of volunteering that get teenagers involved. With April being National Volunteer Month, we would like to say thank you to all of the teams and individuals who work so hard to make a difference in the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS.

- Kathy Bird

SUMMER RAIN Brings Hope!

RAIN is excited to be involved with the Tulsa Youth Volunteer Corps in developing a summer community service program for teens 14-18 years of age. Teens make a four week commitment, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Monday - Thursday. Session I will be June 1 - June 25 and Session II will be June 29 - July 23. After completing a week of training, youth will be involved in projects assisting individuals and caregivers affected by HIV/AIDS - yard work, house cleaning, child care, animal care, etc. Interested Tulsa area youth should contact the Tulsa Volunteer Center for information on "Summer RAIN" (918) 585-5551. RAIN-trained adults interested in volunteering with this pilot program should contact the Tulsa RAIN office (918)834-4195. Financial support for this youth program is provided by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation. Thanks!



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The 1998 RAIN Ornaments have been ordered! Call (405) 947-3434 for more information!

Yes, I want to be a RAIN supporter!
Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____.

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 canceled 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.)

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