

Getting On With Your Life



Pamela S. Cross, MPH,
Executive Director

Oklahoma City Office:

Joan R. Foreman,
W OK Coordinator
Wesley T. Wise,
Executive Assistant
Jean Felix,
Secretary

1601 N. Drexel Boulevard
Okla. City OK 73107-4728
405.947.3434 fax 405.947.6868

Outside the Metro area:
1.800.324.RAIN (7246)

Eastern OK Office:

Kathleen R. Bird,
Eastern OK Coordinator
Stephen Davis,
Administrative Assistant
Cora Westman,
Volunteer Coordinator
HIV Resource Consortium
3507 E. Admiral Place
Tulsa OK 74115-8211
918.834.4195
fax 918.834.4196

Southwest OK Office:

Saundra Powell,
SW OK Associate Coordinator
Centenary
United Methodist Church
704 SW "D" Avenue
Lawton OK 73501
580.351.AIDS

Community Education Office:

Dannette Russell Geren,
Education Coordinator
Loeffler-Allen Building
221 E. Dewey
Sapulpa OK 74067
918.224.4433
e-mail: rainokla@ionet.net
RAIN Oklahoma is a Member of:
AIDS National Interfaith Network
(ANIN)
National Minority AIDS Council
(NMAC)
Wesley T. Wise, Editor

The Director's Desk

Getting on with your life: Going back to work, going back to school" was the title of a workshop that several RAIN clients, volunteers and staff recently attended in Tulsa. The most exciting and helpful part of the workshop for me was learning how many resources are available to assist someone who feels ready to try going back to work or school. Here are some of those resources - Client Assistance Program, (405)521-3756, a statewide program providing information and advocacy regarding individual rights under the Federal Rehabilitation Program, State of Oklahoma Employment Services (see your local office) provides supportive employment services from 40 offices in the state, and the State of Oklahoma Rehabilitation Services, (405) 951-3477 or (918) 581-2372, helps persons with disabilities receive training and support to re-enter the work force.

The National AIDS Fund has gathered helpful information, with assistance from the Social Security Administration, and written a publication called *HIV/AIDS and Social Security Disability Insurance: Guidelines for Returning to Work*. It is available by calling 202-408-4848 or accessing the Fund's web page at aidsfund.org. It contains clear and up-to-date information on how disability cases are reviewed, Trial Work Periods, income limits (caps), health insurance, and other issues.

Three basic questions to ask yourself are: ▶ Has my viral load been non-detectable for 6-12 months or longer? ▶ Have I been on the same drug regimen for 6-12 months or longer with little or no side

effects? ▶ Have I been free from opportunistic infections or recurrence of opportunistic infections for 6-12 months or longer? Answering no to one or more questions *might* mean that you may not be ready right now. Please talk with your physician.

For anyone with a disability who wants to return to school or start to school, the action plan suggested is to talk with your doctor to make sure it is feasible, talk to the Social Security Administration to indicate your interest, visit with vocational rehab to formulate a plan, and then check with the disabilities coordinator at the school that

appeals to you. In education, very few people need to know about your disability, only those involved in accommodations.

There continues to be much anxiety over the new

treatments for HIV/AIDS and whether their effectiveness would actually cause some individuals to lose their benefits. Many people are afraid to think seriously about returning to work or school for fear of losing all benefits, especially prescription assistance. It was clear to me at this workshop that there are people in these agencies who are knowledgeable and who care. They are looking forward to helping people who are living with HIV/AIDS go to work or to school when the time is right!

Pamela S. Cross, Executive Director

OKC & Tulsa Open Houses
to be held on
World AIDS Day Dec. 1st
Stories on Page Three





Calendar

November

- 17 - SW OK Team Rep meeting, Polo Restaurant, Ardmore, 6:30 to 8:00 pm
 17/24 - W. OK RAIN Team training, 9:30 - 4:30 pm (both Sat's.), St. Patrick's Catholic Church, OKC
 22 - Fall Peace Festival, Civic Center, Hall of Mirrors, OKC, 10 am - 5:00 pm
 26 - Rep Meetings; W OK Team Rep Meeting at UM Church of the Servant, OKC, 7 to 9 pm
 27/28 - RAIN offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- 01 - RAIN OKC Open House, 10 am to 6 pm; RAIN Tulsa Open House 3:00 pm - 5:45 pm; World AIDS Day Observance; Memorial Services at St. Patrick's,
 06 - AIDS Memorial Quilt Panel Workshop, 9:30 am to 6:00 pm, Episcopal Church Center Conference Room, 924 N. Robinson, OKC (232-4820)
 13 - OKC Metro Men's Chorus Christmas Concert, 1st Unitarian Church, OKC, 8:00 pm
 22 - Team Rep meeting, Southern Hills Baptist Church, OKC, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
 24 - Hanukkah
 25 - Christmas Day - RAIN offices closed

January

- 26 - Team Rep meeting, Our Lady's Cathedral Mercy Center, OKC

February

- 02 - Quartlery AIDS Task Force meeting, Okla. Blood Institute, OKC, 12 noon - 1:30 pm
 16 - SW OK Team Rep Meeting
 23 - W OK Team Rep meeting, Our Lady's Cathedral, OKC, 7-9 pm

Mea Culpa!

In our last issue, I stated that our 1997 holiday ornaments had arrived. Well, they were supposed to have arrived by the time the newsletter went to print. They actually arrived on October 22nd! My apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused. Ornament quantities are limited, so order now!
 - Editor



DONATIONS

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

(In alphabetical order)

Charlotte Alexandre ▶ Perry Dillon ▶ Charles Faudree ▶ Darren Hildebrand ▶ Doris & George Yocham.

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Roy & Aline Brown ▶ Robert & Dolores Browning ▶ Barbara & Jackie Cooper ▶ First Presbyterian Church - Edmond ▶ Billie Hurst-Gasaway ▶ Jeffrey Gaughan ▶ Terry Knapp ▶ Warren & Margaret May ▶ Carol Woods.

MEMORIALS

Bill Allen by Catherine Reed; Virginia Hendrix; SHS Class of 76 ▶ Doris Anderson by Barbara & Kathy Ward ▶ Angus, beloved companion by Steave Harlon & Wes Wise ▶ Damon Bosse by Terry Knapp ▶ Richard Brassfield by Phyllis Brassfield ▶ Mike Hardway by Roy & Myrna Scott ▶ John Hocking by Terry Knapp ▶ Paul Kerby by Susan Ross ▶ Michael May by Warren & Margaret May ▶ Chuck Meers by Anonymous ▶ Ken Miller by Rob Riggs ▶ Dorcy Sargent on his Birthday 9/24 by Ruth Kingsley ▶ Francis Selby by Michael O. Brown ▶ Scott Spaulding by Ralph & Lena Lawson ▶ James Michael Wilson by Betty & James Wilson.

ORGANIZATIONS

1st United Methodist Church of Perkins ▶ Kirkpatrick Family Fund, OKC ▶ OK Conference of The United Methodist Church, OKC ▶ Roger Heights Christian Church, Tulsa ▶ Tulsa Area United Way ▶ United Life Church, OKC.

INKIND

Stephen Daniels, OKC office paint ▶ Darrell Fischer, microwave oven ▶ KCCU/Cameron Univ., Lawton, Public Service Announcements ▶ Angie Kelley, Dan Logsdon, MC Smothermon, phone cards ▶ Robert Wagner, office supplies ▶ The Hon. Richard Woolery, bookshelf for Sapulpa office ▶ Steave Harlon, chair, OKC office.

FUNDRAISERS

August 16: Opera by the Slice, Tulsa ▶ August 29: Picnic & Auction at Tom & Yvonne Allen's home, Sapulpa ▶ September 5: Club Kaos, OKC ▶ September 12: Audra Sommer's Auction at the Silver Star Saloon, Tulsa ▶ October 4: Reception/fundraiser at Mary Ruth Bussey's home, Norman ▶ October 19: Ernestine Dillard's Concert, Tulsa ▶ October 21 & 28: Strike Pot bowling fundraiser, OKC

HIV/AIDS ACTION INITIATIVE

Oklahoma City Community Foundation

A Special Thank You

Special thanks go to Rick Lantroop & Jeff Zielny for constructing the RAIN quilt panel presented to the Names Project in Tulsa in October: Audra Summers & all performers involved in the RAIN benefit at Tulsa's Silver Star (thanks Steve & John): Tom & Yvonne Allen and committee for the Sapulpa Fund Raiser in August: Mary Ruth Bussey & committee for the Norman Fund Raiser at her home: Ernestine Dillard & All Souls Unitarian Church & their RAIN Teams for the benefit concert: Robert Wagner & Jimmy Beets for painting & remodeling OKC office; Jimmy Beets for A/C service.

Meet the RAIN Board of Directors

Mrs. Yvonne Allen
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RAIN OKC and Tulsa Offices Schedule Open Houses on World AIDS Day

The Executive/Western Region office in Oklahoma City and the Eastern Oklahoma Region office in Tulsa will host Open Houses on Monday, December 1, 1997.

The Open Houses coincide with World AIDS Day observances.

The Oklahoma City office will be receiving guests from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm, while the Tulsa office will welcome visitors from 3:00 pm until 5:45 pm.

The new OKC office is located at 1601 N. Drexel Boulevard (at the corner of NW 15th & Drexel, across from Homeland). The new Tulsa office is located at 3507 E. Admiral Place.

In OKC, the Candlelight Memorial service begins at 7:00 pm at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Tulsa's Candlelight March and Memorial service begins at 6:00 pm with the march from Southminster Presbyterian church; services begin at 7:00 pm at All Souls Unitarian Church.

RAIN 1997 Holiday Ornament



RAIN's second annual Holiday Ornament beautifully captures a symbol of peace, the white dove holding two long-stemmed calla lilies. Intertwined with the dove is a red ribbon representing the international symbol of AIDS awareness.

This collector's edition ornament is crafted in solid brass with 24 kt. Gold finish and brightly colored enamels.

Proceeds from ornament sales help RAIN Oklahoma continue its mission of education and service. The price is only \$15.00 (tax incl). Quantities are limited. VISA & MasterCard accepted. To order, call 405.947.3434. Outside the OKC metro area call 800.324.7246.

Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997

According to the newsletter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives (NSFRE), the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, signed into law on August 5, 1997, contains 800 provisions altering the tax code. Among the changes:

► **Gifts of Stock to Private**

Foundations: The Act provides a full, fair market value deduction for gifts of stock through June 30, 1998 and retroactive to June 1, 1997.

► **Mileage Rate for Volunteers:**

The Act increases the rate at which volunteers may be reimbursed for mileage from 12 cents to 14 cents per mile.



In Memoriam

OKC Village United Methodist Church
Paul

Enid Central Christian Church
Jane

Calera/Colbert United Methodist Parish
Robert

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.

Adverse Drug Reactions?

The Poison Control Center has doctors, pharmacists, and/or nurses on staff 24 hours a day and will take calls concerning adverse drug reactions if you are unable to reach your physician.

Call 1-800-POISON-1.

Peer Educator Training Slated

Seven students from Kellyville High School in Creek County were trained as Peer Educators during the fall break by Dannette Russell Geren, RAIN's Education Coordinator based in Creek County. These students made their first presentation to the 9th & 12th grade classmates at their school. One new Peer Educator from Sapulpa High School also completed the training.

Another training is scheduled in December for additional students of Sapulpa High.

RAIN Update

In October, 19 presentations were made to 877 people. From February 1990 through October 1997, 1,186 programs were presented to 48,822 persons.

Seventy-three RAIN teams consisting of nearly 1,000 volunteers have served 410 HIV-infected men, women, children, their families and care givers. Sixty-two clients are currently being served.

RAIN volunteers logged 826 hours in October. Since 1990, they have given 129,600 hours - this equates to one person working 40 hours per week for 62.3 years! At \$10.00 per hour, that work would have cost \$1,296,000.00.

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.)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Please make checks payable to:
 RAIN Oklahoma, 1601 N. Drexel Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73107
 VISA & MasterCard accepted!

Shopping for the perfect Holiday Gift? Let RAIN make it easy for you!

Let RAIN take the drudgery out of your holiday shopping. A **RAIN Oklahoma® Limited Edition Collectable Holiday Ornament** makes the perfect gift - and sales proceeds help RAIN continue its program of education and service. Choose the Holiday Wreath decorated with red AIDS awareness ribbons with a golden candle glowing in the center. Or select the Dove of Peace perched on white calla lilies, intertwined with the symbolic red ribbon. Either 24 kt. gold-finished ornament will make a lovely addition to anyone's holiday decor, reflecting hope and compassion - so appropriate for this Season.

To make it even easier for you, **RAIN will gift-wrap and mail** your selection to the recipient. The Wreath ornaments

are only \$10.00 each, and the Dove ornaments are only \$15.00. Just add \$3.00 per ornament for gift-wrapping and mailing, and your shopping is complete! Your friends will be sure to want both ornaments to start their collection.

Just call or visit your local RAIN office, or e-mail us (rainokla@ionet.net) and place your order by December 15th. The ornaments will be shipped from the Executive office and reach their destination prior to the holidays.

Quantities are limited, and time is running out, so order now! We gladly accept VISA & MasterCard.

And have a wonderful Holiday Season!

ORGN
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 Oklahoma City OK 73112

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 1601 N. Drexel Boulevard
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