

## Trends Present Challenges to RAIN

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

Wesley T. Wise, Editor

Through December 1997, 641,086 persons with AIDS have been reported to the CDC. From 1995 to 1996, for the first time in the epidemic, the occurrence of AIDS-defining opportunistic illnesses decreased 7% and deaths among persons with AIDS decreased 25%. These declines were largely due to combination antiretroviral therapy, including protease inhibitors. Prenatal HIV testing and use of AZT reduced perinatal transmission. These treatment advances have altered the natural history of HIV infection and contributed to an increase in the number of persons living with HIV/AIDS. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 1997; 9(No.2).

In 1995, for the first time the number of Blacks living with AIDS equaled the number of Whites living with AIDS, despite their smaller proportion of the US population. In 1996, Blacks diagnosed with AIDS surpassed Whites. They died with AIDS at higher rates also. These trends I already knew; what I did not know was the huge disparity between Whites and Blacks under the age of five who are HIV positive. My concern over the adult trends turned to a feeling of near despair when I saw the table on HIV infection cases by age and race/ethnicity reported by states with confidential HIV infection reporting. Cases in Whites under age five number 283; cases in Blacks under age five number 866. My heart aches and I believe God weeps.

Funding for treatment and care of PLWAs has increased and that is vitally important. Funding for HIV prevention has increased little and we are seeing the results - the faces of AIDS change but there continue to be new faces every day. Political, religious and economic pressures enter the debate and those who ultimately suffer are those whose voices are not heard and who must feel their lives are expendable.

RAIN is three meetings into a nine meeting strategic planning process that includes volunteers, clients, staff, board and resource people. We've looked at program strengths and weaknesses, changing client needs, volunteer skills, communication challenges, staff, board, and funding strengths and weaknesses. Please keep RAIN in your thoughts and prayers as we strive to live out our vision: "To expand services geographically, increase diversity throughout the organization, explore flexible models of service, continue to increase community awareness of HIV/AIDS, and develop effective educational processes for RAIN clients, volunteers, staff and board."



Pamela S. Cross,  
Executive Director



## News From Around the State

### NEWS FROM THE WEST

RAIN welcomes Debi Morris, who joined our staff on June 10 as South Central Associate Coordinator. Debi's office is in Ardmore. She will work with RAIN Teams and clients in an eight-county area.

Thanks go to Rev. Cynthia Johnson, Pastor, First Unitarian Church in OKC for hosting RAIN Volunteer Training in June, and to members of the Varsity RAIN Team who provided meals and hospitality; Team Rep Chris George, and Nathaniel Batchelder, Richard Cates, Scot Harvey, Devin McAnally, and Jerome Simpson.

We have scheduled Volunteer Training for August 14 & 15 at Wesley United Methodist Church in Shawnee, and October 2 & 3 at St. Monica Catholic Church in Edmond. Interested persons can call the OKC RAIN office.

- Joan R. Foreman

### NEWS FROM SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA

There are some exciting things going on here. I love working with kids and I'm getting the opportunity to do that this summer. The Comanche Tribe substance abuse program is holding a six-week day camp in June and July and they've asked me to do several sessions on HIV prevention and self-esteem building. The kids are 8 - 13 years old and full of energy.

RAIN has also been asked to help in planning and implementing a Native American HIV/AIDS conference to be held September 14, 15 and 16 at Cameron University in Lawton. Health professionals from the AIDS Training Center

in Houston will be doing several workshops on treatment and care. There will also be workshops targeting the community in prevention, care and traditional treatments. Although it's being sponsored by the Lawton Indian Hospital, everyone is welcome to attend. It's going to be a great project for RAIN to be associated with.

- Victor Cutnose

### NEWS FROM SOUTH CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

RAIN's newest office opened June 10 in Ardmore. I attended RAIN Training at the Unitarian Church in June. What a wonderful, giving group of people there!

The Statewide HIV Conference was a knowledge-filled experience. Thanks to all who made me feel so welcome. I am looking forward to meeting current RAIN Team members as well as developing RAIN's presence in South Central Oklahoma.

My top priority will be locating PLWAs who want our assistance. I'm also hoping to schedule a meeting soon for our currently active teams in Ardmore and Calera-Colbert. Be watching for many new and exiting things to begin happening in this region. Please call with any ideas you may have regarding RAIN.

Until There's a Cure,  
- Debi K.C. Morris

### WISH LIST

**Tulsa Office:** Two small trash cans, paper shredder, paper cutter. **OKC Office:** Paper shredder. **Ardmore Office:** Computer, printer, fax/copier, filing cabinets. **All Offices:** Small set of tools.

### POSITIONS OPEN

Two part-time Associate Coordinator positions are now open in Eastern Oklahoma, one based in Sapulpa, and the other based in Tulsa.

Major responsibilities of these positions include volunteer recruitment & training, client intakes, on-going support of RAIN teams, and community educational programs. Both positions will work with RAIN Staff in Tulsa to meet the needs for HIV/AIDS education and care in a multiple-county area.

The successful candidates will be highly motivated and sensitive to the needs of individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. Knowledge and experience in HIV/AIDS education, working with volunteers, and working within faith communities is preferred. Dependable transportation is essential. Other needed skills include public speaking ability, good written/oral communication skills, and self-direction. Certification or willingness to seek certification as an HIV educator is required.

Interested persons should send a resume and cover letter to: RAIN Oklahoma, 409 S. Pittsburg, Tulsa, OK 74112.

### AIDS WALK DATES SET

**AIDS Walk '98 in Oklahoma City has been slated for Sunday, October 25. The annual Tulsa event has been scheduled for Saturday, September 12. For more information, call the respective RAIN office.**



## DONATIONS

### INDIVIDUALS

Mr. & Mrs. A L Atkinson, Jr • Phil & Lois Ball • Gina L Bradford • Nettie Caldwell • Patricia Capra • Karen Lynne & Gerald Carson • Carolyn Craven • James & Virginia Griffin • Devin McAnally • Thomas & Joyce McCollom • Nick & Connie Miller • Cindy & Jerry Paradise • Melinda Johnson Ryan • Emily Alexander Shurley • Nancy Swab Vaughan • Garline Wheatley • Robert & Patricia Wright •

### MONTHLY SUPPORTERS

Bert Wendel Ballou • Robert & Dolores Browning • 1st Presbyterian Church of Edmond • Billie Hurst Gasaway • Warren & Margaret May • Carol Woods • Jeffrey Gaughan.

### MEMORIALS

William Souter Allen by Jeanne DeVilliers; John & Sally Bingman • Elisha Anderson by Jody Casey Martin • Johnny Anderson by Susan Ross • Stephen Hardway by Polly Houston; John Doneti & Terry Dennison; Kenneth & Nancy Malone; Sebra Lukenbaugh - Quality Pets, Inc; Nancy S Murray; Twyla Connelly & Deeann Blackwell; Roy & Myrna Scott; Pat & Wayne Meeks • Randy Hurst & JB Chenoweth by Billie Hurst Gasaway • Paul Kirk by Bob Hill • Lacy Litrell by Brenda & Michael Dougan • Wade Massenburg by Brenda & Michael Dougan • Michael May by Warren & Margaret May • John Oldham by Donald & Eris Oldham • Nick Porter by Garline Wheatley • Bob Rowe on his Birthday 6/17 by Jean

Rowe • Edward Wilkonson by Yvonne Allen • James Michael Wilson by Betty C Wilson • Lee Wise by Vivian Hall; Betty Mann; Steve Daniels.

### HONORARIUMS

Charles Faudree on his 60th Birthday by Barbara & Dave Sylvan • Terry Knapp, MEd, on his graduation from UCO by MC Smothermon.

### ORGANIZATIONS

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, Inc, NYC • Episcopal Church Women Diocese of Oklahoma • James N McCoy Foundation, Wichita Falls TX • Mayflower Congregational Church, OKC • Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church • Security National Bank, Sapulpa • Video Industry AIDS Action Committee, Inc, Los Angeles.

### FUND RAISERS

OKClassic Mardi Gras Party • OKClassic Bowling Tournament • Polo Grill Academy Awards Dinner Fundraiser, Tulsa.

### HIV/AIDS ACTION INITIATIVE

OKC Community Foundation

### IN-KIND DONATIONS

Public Service Announcements by KCCU - Cameron University, Lawton • Ads by Tom Neill-Tulsa Family News • 12' x 9' Carpet Remnant by Susan Kennedy, MD • Window unit air conditioner, Framed Posters, Potted Plant, Microwave, Name Tag Holders by Kathy Bird • Office supplies by Jeannine Iles, ONEOK-Tulsa • Office Furniture by L & M Office Furniture • Educational Video by Robert Wagner • File cabinet, bookshelf & chairs by TanData Corp.

## CONNECTING HEARTS and HANDS

### INDIVIDUALS

Rosa Harris Pollock • Kersey Winfree, MD • GR Kravis II.

### MEMORIALS

William Allen by Tadaaki & Susan Hatta • Paul Bradhorst by Theresa London • Craig Draper by Ellsworth Draper • Charles Ellis by Anne Kozak • Stephen Hardway by Eursey Lenoir • Ken Miller by Rob Riggs.

### HONORARIUMS

Warren & Eddie Jones by Lucalia Hinson • Eursey Lenoir by Terry Dennison & John Doneti.

## PARTY AUGUST 8TH!

Have you ever wanted to do something philanthropic and have fun at the same time? RAIN is putting together the first ever RAIN Party with a Purpose. This is designed as a series of fund raising parties to be held simultaneously in the 405 and 580 area code regions of Oklahoma on Sat. Aug. 8 at 8:00 pm.

Just decide what kind of party to have and we'll provide you with invitations and party planning assistance. Then just have fun! There's no minimum donation requirement so your guests can contribute whatever they'd like.

At the end of the evening Party Central (OKC Office) will add up the party donations and call you back with the grand total! This event is held not only to raise money to support our RAIN Teams, but to also bring greater awareness of the need for compassionate response to HIV/AIDS.

If you're interested in having a Party with a Purpose or would like more information, call the OKC RAIN Office at (405) 947-3434

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**JOIN US AT "PARTY CENTRAL" AUGUST 8 AT 8:00 PM FOR LIVE MUSIC BY THE  
AARON CROSS QUARTET - AT THE OKC RAIN OFFICE - 1601 N. DREXEL!**

**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

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City, State, Zip

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Phone

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