

## Volunteer Highlight:



**Saturday, November 11, 2023**

The Gay Gatsby Bingo  
Gay Bingo Charlotte  
Charlotte Convention Center  
[gaybingoctl.org](http://gaybingoctl.org)

**Friday, December 1, 2023**

World AIDS Day Luncheon  
Omni Hotel, Charlotte  
[worldaidsdayctl.org](http://worldaidsdayctl.org)

## Jim Marsh



Back in the fall 2022, Chelsea Gulden, RAIN's President & CEO appeared on the local NPR affiliate WFAE's Mike Collins Show. Jim Marsh was listening that day and recognized a blast from his past. He knew that there could only be one Chelsea Gulden in the world. Jim called the radio station and asked them to give Chelsea his name and number. As they say, the rest is history.

Jim was born and raised outside of Philadelphia and in New Jersey. Jim went off to college and tells great stories about "being a child of the 60s". He graduated with a degree in business and accounting and eventually migrated into computer programming. It was in New Jersey that he went to church with the Gulden's and knew Chelsea as a youngster. During this time, Jim introduced the first policy change in his church to allow their clergy to perform same sex marriages. This was in 1980.

Beginning in 2005, Jim worked for Bank of America until his retirement in December 2019. Between 2005 and 2013, he traveled back and forth between New Jersey and Charlotte before coming to Charlotte "on a business trip and didn't go back". (Well, he did go back once to get his cat, Pumpkin.)

In October 2022, Jim reconnected with Chelsea and said he wanted to volunteer at a place where he could "add value". He wanted to "help a person I can see" knowing that this "mutually adds value to me".

Jim became RAIN's front desk volunteer immediately and comes every afternoon for four hours. Since then, he has contributed over 350 volunteer hours to RAIN. Jim is the calm, compassionate presence at the front desk that greets visitors and clients. His quick sense of humor keeps everyone on their toes. Jim is always willing to help with whatever task is needed, whether it is fixing hot noodles for clients or counting and stapling bingo sheets. Jim says "I love it. Its low pressure and it's a mutual blending of co-support". He says that his mother taught him – from a very young age – the importance of human rights and respect for all people. Jim says "I love the people".

**Thank you, Jim, for all you do for us. And we love you too.**



601 E. 5th Street, Suite 470 | Charlotte, NC 28202

## 2023 RAIN Board of Directors

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## Our Mission

RAIN empowers persons  
living with HIV and those  
at risk to be healthy  
and stigma free.



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## CAN WE END HIV IN CHARLOTTE?



**RAIN**  
Live Fully. With or without HIV.



# Can We Really End HIV?

in Charlotte?



**Medicaid expansion is moving through the NC legislature with a great deal of optimism for success. This could give insurance to more than a quarter million people who are uninsured in NC.**

RAIN is committed to end HIV in the Charlotte area and feels as though 2023 is the year to make large strides in this effort. Recently, RAIN launched a safe space for young men of color providing HIV testing, referral to medical care, workforce development, mental health counseling, food and hygiene pantry, laundry services, and showers. This space is exciting for RAIN and the community.

The arrival of RAIN's new mobile unit is rapidly approaching. The vehicle will have two rooms for HIV/STI testing and consultation. This offers staff members the ability to physically meet people where they are and bring services to them. The mobile unit is only the beginning of services RAIN will provide in the community. We are continuing to create opportunities for groups most impacted by HIV and the co-occurring factors such as poverty, homelessness, and healthcare inequality to connect with RAIN.

Medicaid expansion is moving through the NC legislature with a great deal of optimism for success. This could give insurance to more than a quarter million people who are uninsured in NC. RAIN has valued comprehensive insurance for many years. Once the Affordable Care Act was passed, RAIN's Health Insurance program began enrolling people and assisting with premiums. This program is still one of RAIN's largest programs, reaching more than 300 people each year.

Ending HIV is going to take the entire community. Collaboration with other organizations in Charlotte are a cornerstone of RAIN's strategies to meet the vision. These collaborative efforts include you! You can help by talking about HIV with friends and family to decrease the stigma, attending and raising money for AIDS Walk Charlotte, becoming a monthly donor, volunteering, and encouraging people to get tested for HIV and/or get in medical treatment. There was an old saying "it takes a village" and you are part of RAIN's village. **Thank you.**

**Chelsea Gulden, MSW**  
President & CEO, RAIN



## AIDS Walk 2023

### Let's Get Ready to Stomp it Out

Who's ready to stomp out stigma and join us for AIDS WALK Charlotte 2023?

AIDS WALK Charlotte continues to be the largest HIV awareness and fundraising event in the Carolinas; and, on Saturday, May 6, will celebrate 27 years of bringing our community together. This year's theme is "Stomp out Stigma". When you register, fundraise and walk, you are doing just that!

Every dollar raised stays in our city and helps RAIN achieve its vision of ending HIV in our community. Since 1997, AIDS WALK Charlotte has raised over \$3.3 million to support the programs and services RAIN provides to neighbors and friends.

The walk isn't only RAIN's largest fundraiser but also its largest community awareness event. When participants hit the streets of Uptown Charlotte, they gather together to advocate for all people with HIV and those at risk; and acknowledge how HIV affects everyone regardless of race, gender and sexual orientation. Advocates express Charlotte's compassion for those that lack full access to resources, health and wellness, and who suffer from HIV stigma yet today.



## STOMP OUT STIGMA



**AIDS Walk Charlotte's fundraising goal this year is \$175,000. Your support will make it happen! Please join RAIN's staff, board and community by registering at [aidswalkcilt.org](https://aidswalkcilt.org).**

## RAIN 101

RAIN's programs and services continue to evolve and grow in response to the needs of the community. Here is an up-to-date description of the services that are now available through RAIN. All programs are available in English and Spanish.



**Medical Case Management (MCM)** provides linkage and retention in HIV medical care, access to support services and community referrals to address barriers.



**PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis)** provides referrals to health care and offers support service for individuals at risk for exposure to HIV.



**Empowering Positive Youth (EPY)** is a program for youth living with HIV between the ages of 13 – 24 that provides access to health care, HIV education and support services.



**The Drop** is a community-based safe space for young black men who have sex with men and living with HIV where case management and other programs are available.



**Mental Health Services** offer counseling on-site or via tele-health for clients to address issues that impact individuals living with HIV provided by a Licensed Therapist.



**HIV /STD Testing** is available in the RAIN office, at community locations, and soon in the new mobile unit expected to arrive in early 2023.



**Health Insurance Assistance Program** provides guidance and enrollment for uninsured individuals living with HIV in health care plans that meet their unique health needs.



**EASE (Enhancing Wellness through Affirming Services and Education)** is a substance abuse service that includes group and individual therapy.



**Early Invention Services** offers linkage to medical care and retention support for individuals who are newly diagnosed with HIV and those who are out of care.



**The Havens** is a 25-unit affordable housing complex dedicated to serving individuals living with HIV and disabilities.



### Spare Change?

Round up your purchases and donate the change to RAIN. Check it out at [carolinarain.org/#donate](https://carolinarain.org/#donate).



### Learn more:

If you are interested in knowing more about these programs, please contact RAIN at [info@carolinarain.org](mailto:info@carolinarain.org) or 704-372-7246.