

Person of the Week

Feb 8, 2010

Charlie Wilson

How has this person provided service to the LGBTQ community?

Charlie Wilson first volunteered with RCC at Brotherhood Skillz, where he taught fellow LGBTQ young men pet grooming and caring skills. He also volunteered at our 2nd Pride Picnic where he helped set up booths, welcomed guests and prepared food for over 300 community members.

Recently, Charlie has been a mainstay at RCC. Since December, Charlie has been greeting community members, answering phones and assisting with our Senior Luncheons and weekly Food Pantry. Most notably, he's been essential in the remodeling of our kitchen and the selection and transporting of new office furniture for RCC's staff and volunteers.

Background:

After speaking with Charlie, one could get the idea that he's always called the San Francisco Bay Area his home. He speaks glowingly about the culture, people, weather and neighborhoods and has the penchant for the most "Bay Area" of activities: gardening and cooking.

However, Charlie was born and raised in the Southeast and lived with mainly with his grandparents in Georgia and Florida where, during his teenage years, he learned the secrets to boarding horses and island fishing. From his grandfather, he also learned carpentry skills which he uses to this day.

In his 20's with just a suitcase in tow, Charlie moved to the Bay Area and with Southern charm, immediately made friends and settled into an apartment in the Castro District. There, he worked at local shops, used his wood working skills to set up a small room renovating business, enjoyed the vibrant gay scene and met Kevin, his partner of eleven years.

After settling in Martinez with Kevin, Charlie established his woodworking business and began selling his crafts to individual clients and various stores. His skills have been particularly useful at RCC where he has painted, constructed shelves, installed cabinets and more.

In his rare free time, Charlie likes to spend his time biking at gardening, cooking with vegetarian cuisine (portabello mushrooms are his specialty) and traveling around the world. So far, Kevin and Charlie have visited Greece, Istanbul, Italy, Mexico, Turkey and are currently planning a trip to Ecuador this summer

Three words that describe Charlie: Big Hearted Guy!



(Photo: Charlie and Kevin)



(Photo: Charlie's handmade box)