



Jell-O Wrestling Celebrates 28 Years!

by Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

Title Sponsor

The Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction will be held on Saturday May 9, 2015 at The Slaughterhouse, located at 1102 West Grant Road, just near the I-10 entrance. Jell-O Wrestling,



presented this year by Title Sponsor FreedomSmoke USA, has been raising money in support of the programs and services of SAAF for 28 years and 1,000s have enjoyed this unique and crazy event over the past 3 decades.



While Jell-O always offers up a wide array of wonderful moments, one of the highlights of this year's event will undoubtedly be long-time Jell-O Wrestling Hostess Lucinda Holliday taking to the Jell-O, herself, for the first time ever! A staunch supporter of SAAF for many years, Holliday has committed to raise \$10,000 in Wrestler Sponsorships for her match. Believe us; you will not want to miss out on witnessing this sure-to-be-classic moment in Jell-O history.

You can sponsor a Wrestler, purchase tickets or VIP packages, and get more information online at www.jello-wrestling.org.

Purchase Jell-O VIP packages through May 1 online and get 5 raffle tickets, one admission ticket, and one drink ticket and save over 20%!

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2015 Raffle Prize: Mariah Carey Live in Las Vegas!

Winning Raffle Ticket Includes:

- Raffle Tickets \$100 Each**
- Two Premium seats to see Mariah at Caesars Palace on July 15th, 2015
 - Two-Night stay at Caesars Palace
 - \$100 Visa Gift Card

SAAF's Mission

To cultivate a healthy, stigma-free society through transformative action.





Photo by Scott Grissel, Creatista

Looking Towards the Future

As we celebrate our 30 year anniversary at the Southern Arizona **AIDS** Foundation (SAAF), we are looking forward to the changes we will make as we step into the future of HIV/**AIDS** work in southern Arizona. SAAF has never been exclusively an **AIDS** Service Organization; with prevention programming around substance use, suicide, and life-skill building (just to name a few) we have always served a wide range of people. Our goal, past, present, and future, has been to eliminate stigma because stigma is at the heart of why people feel they can't get tested, treated, or even discuss HIV/**AIDS**.

Stigma is at the root of why LGBT people feel shame around their identity. In my opinion, stigma and shame endangers and even kills people. This is why we recently chose to change our mission to reflect our goal of cultivating a healthy and stigma-free society through transformative action. We envision a healthy community, free of stigma, and we are looking forward to someday achieving that goal through our multi-service programming. We will honor the grassroots activism of People with **AIDS** Coalition of Tucson (PACT for Life), Shanti Foundation, and the Tucson **AIDS** Project (TAP) by serving people living with HIV/**AIDS** and preventing the spread of new HIV infections while continuing to build on programs and services that support our community at large.

Thank you for supporting SAAF as we grow and change to meet the needs of, and work to end stigma in, our community!

Wendell Hicks
Executive Director

OUR MISSION:

To cultivate a healthy, stigma-free society through transformative action.

International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is Sunday May 17

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development



The International **AIDS** Candlelight Memorial is one of the world's oldest and largest grassroots mobilization campaigns for HIV awareness. Started in 1983, the International **AIDS** Candlelight Memorial takes place every third Sunday in May and is led by a coalition of some 1,200 community organizations in 115 countries.

The International **AIDS** Candlelight Memorial is much more than just a memorial. The International **AIDS** Candlelight Memorial serves as a community mobilization campaign to raise social consciousness about HIV and **AIDS**. With 33 million people living with HIV today, the International **AIDS** Candlelight Memorial serves as an important intervention for global solidarity, breaking down barriers of stigma and discrimination, and giving hope to new generations.

The local Memorial event will take place on Sunday May 17 at Himmel Park (near Speedway & Tucson Blvd) beginning at 6:00pm. The event will include music, reading of the names of people who we have lost to HIV & **AIDS**, and a "candle lighting". This is a free event and open to everyone.

For more information about the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and commemorations being held around the world, visit www.candlelightmemorial.org.



Arizona Gives Day is Tuesday April 7

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

2014 marked the second annual Arizona Gives Day and last year's day of giving raised more than \$1.4 million for 100s of Arizona non-profits. SAAF was one of the day's top non-profits raising more than \$10,000 from 80 donations. In fact, we were so successful that we also won a \$1,000 prize!

SAAF is very excited about this year's Arizona Gives Day and we have set a rather lofty goal of beating 2014 and raising \$12,000! We have already lined up \$4,000 in match gifts (see listing below) and we need your help to ensure we meet these matches. Every gift counts on Arizona Gives Day so please consider giving whatever you can. Even a gift of \$10 or \$20 can make a huge difference. Plus, SAAF will once again be eligible for several cash prizes so your gift may be doubled plus some!

For more information about this year's Arizona Gives Day and to make a donation, visit our website at saaf.org.

Thank You to this year's Arizona Gives Day Match Donors!

Arizona Gives Day Match Gifts

- Laura Alexander & Jenny Carrillo/Alexander Carrillo Consulting \$500
- Chad Froeschke/WhiteSpace Design \$500
- Steve Gottlieb & Pam Meichel \$500
- Kristie Graham \$1,000
- Anne Maley-Schaffner & Tim Schaffner \$500
- Kevin McCoy & Juan C. Lopez \$500
- Alan Taylor & Michael Steinberg \$500



Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development and Wendell Hicks, Executive Director of SAAF, receiving a \$1,000 prize check from Arizona Gives Day in 2014.

SAAF was one of the day's top non-profits raising more than \$10,000 from 80 donations. In fact, we were so successful that we also won a \$1,000 prize!



mödaprovöcateūr

Möda Provöcateūr 2015 Raises Unprecedented \$88,000!

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

This year's Möda was the most successful ever, raising more than \$88,000! Participating salons and boutiques pulled out all the stops, once again, and more than 250 models took to the runway and wowed the audience of nearly 1,000 attendees. This year's Möda Provöcateūr was presented by Arizona Lottery, Freedom Smoke USA, Macy's Foundation, Waba, and Udall Law Firm.

Local salons and boutiques came out in full force to show off all of their talents for an unforgettable evening. Some of the highlights of the evening included:

- 625 Models, Stylists, Hairdressers, and Volunteers
- 950 Attendees
- The 2015 Cele Peterson award presented to Lisa Gebbia, longtime Möda committee member
- Incredible performances from Artifact Dance Project and BreakOut Studios
- Project Möda, which featured stunning creations by more than 45 up and coming designers
- Our amazing hostess, Lupita Murillo

Thanks to everyone who came out and helped make this year's event the most successful ever!

2015 Fundraising Events

Jell-O Wrestling

Saturday May 9, 2015
The Slaughterhouse
1102 West Grant Road
www.jello-wrestling.org

AIDSWALK Tucson

Sunday October 11, 2015
Downtown Tucson
www.aidswalktucson.com

SAAF 2015 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

By Michael Webb, Volunteer Coordinator

SAAF will once again shine the spotlight on our wonderful volunteers at our annual Volunteer Appreciation event. This year's event will take place on Thursday April 16 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Historic Y. Dinner will be catered by Carte Blanche and served by SAAF employees followed by an awards ceremony where we will present awards in 19 categories.



This year's honorees are:

Reception	<i>Debbie Froeschke</i>
Business Leadership	<i>Walgreens</i>
Care Services	<i>Jim Wymore</i>
Development	<i>Laura Alexander</i>
Education	<i>Manny Maldonado</i>
Jean Cicci Peer Counseling	<i>Darin Carnie</i>
Jerôme Beillard Self-Empowerment	<i>Robert Knight</i>
Longtime Volunteer	<i>Lupita Murillo</i>
Media Leadership	<i>WhiteSpace Design</i>
New Volunteer	<i>Noel De Tierra</i>
Youth Prevention Services	<i>Lanay Lindsay</i>
Original Contribution	<i>University of Arizona Museum of Art "Mapping Queer"</i>
Outstanding Prevention Contribution	<i>Eon Youth Lounge Volunteers</i>
Volunteer Resources	<i>Matthew Stoker</i>
Group Volunteer Effort	<i>Old Pueblo Community Service "Street Count" & International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO)</i>
Food Programs	<i>Dean Taylor</i>
Events	<i>Jeff Bowlin</i>
Outstanding Prevention Collaborator	<i>Kate Straub</i>

Volunteer of the Year Nominees*

Curt Beall
Jeff Bowlin
Debbie Froeschke
Matt McLean
Matthew Stoker

**Winner to be announced at awards ceremony*

SAAF would not be able to do any of the work we do without the commitment of our hundreds of hard-working and passionate volunteers. While we take this time to highlight some of the volunteers who make SAAF such a special place, we hope that all volunteers will come out and be a part of this event as we show our appreciation.

If you are interested in attending, RSVP to Fred Rodriguez, Development Associate, at (520) 547-6099 or fr Rodriguez@saaf.org



Volunteer Training

Get involved with SAAF.

Join us for an upcoming volunteer orientation, the first step for anyone wanting to volunteer at SAAF.* Orientations take place from 5:30pm - 8:30pm at the SAAF office building located at 375 South Euclid Avenue.

Tuesday April 21, 2015
Tuesday May 19, 2015
Saturday June 20, 2015 -
(10:00am - 1:00pm)

**No orientation is necessary for those volunteering for fundraising events and Walk-in Wednesdays.*

To sign up for Volunteer Orientation, contact Michael Webb, SAAF Volunteer Coordinator, at (520) 547-6101 or mwebb@saaf.org

Services Available for People Living with HIV/AIDS Include:

CLINICAL SERVICES

Case Management
Peer Counseling

SUPPORT SERVICES

Complementary Therapies
Dental Care
Food Programs
Holiday Project
Medical Benefits Cost Sharing Assistance for those enrolled in statewide ADAP Assist
Medications Assistance
Support Groups
Transportation
Wellness and Buyers' Club
Other Personal Support Services

HOUSING SERVICES

Housing Units Owned by SAAF
Community-Based Subsidized Housing
Emergency Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Assistance
Move-in Deposits

PREVENTION SERVICES

Risk-Reduction Counseling

Travis Wright Memorial Buyers' Club

Purchase vitamins and supplements for HIV/AIDS care and general health at the lowest possible cost. Located at The Medicine Shoppe 305 S. Euclid Ave, next to SAAF

Monday-Friday
9:00am to 6:00pm

Foundations for SAAF's New Mission

By Evelyn Rens, SAAF Grants Coordinator

In March 2015, SAAF's Board of Directors adopted a new, broader mission statement that better reflects our organization's expanding focus. We appreciate the support provided by corporate and private foundations that enable SAAF to cultivate a healthy and stigma-free society through transformative action.

Due to persistent stigmatization, people who inject drugs often do not receive the care and services they need. SAAF's Alternatives Program engages in transformative action by providing syringe-access services that help to prevent the spread of HIV, Hepatitis C and other blood-borne infections. It also serves as the gateway to wrap-around services such as HIV and Hepatitis-C testing, basic needs and referrals for services such as medical care and substance abuse treatment.



The **Comer Family Foundation** and **AIDS United Syringe Access Fund** support harm reduction and fund the distribution of syringe-access supplies to the people SAAF serves.



Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS deserves a standing ovation for their outstanding fundraising efforts. Special shows like *Broadway Bares* and contributions collected from audiences by cast and crew from Broadway, Off-Broadway and national touring shows help to support SAAF's Food Program including home-delivered meals, food pantry, emergency meals, Harvest Days and more! Bravo!



Macy's customers and employees shared the "magic of giving" through their continuing support of SAAF's Voz Youth Prevention Program.



National HIV Testing Day is Saturday June 27

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

Saturday June 27, 2014 marks the 20th annual National HIV Testing Day.

In recognition of National HIV Testing Day, SAAF will be offering expanded HIV testing hours at our location on South Euclid Avenue on Friday June 26 from 4:00-8:00pm and Saturday June 27 from 9:00am-3:00pm. Regular HIV testing hours are: Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 am to 1:00pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00pm to 8:00 pm, and Fridays from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

For more information visit www.saaf.org or www.hivtest.org. To make an appointment, call 520-628-SAAF (7223). Walk ins are also welcome.

Foundation Spotlight

By Evelyn Rens, SAAF Grants Coordinator



The David and Lura Lovell Foundation envisions a future where “integrative medicine is embraced as good medicine.”

Since 1997, SAAF’s Complementary Therapies Program has provided people living with HIV/AIDS access to alternative health care services – such as acupuncture, naturopathy, and therapeutic massage – that are part of an integrated approach to HIV medical care and contribute to participants’ quality of life. The Travis Wright Memorial Buyers’ Club is a component of the Complementary Therapies Program. The general public and SAAF clients sign up as Buyers’ Club members enabling them to access alternative remedies, pharmaceutical-grade vitamins and nutritional supplements or ‘nutriceuticals’ that support wellness and enhance HIV care at deeply discounted prices.

Through strategic grantmaking and sound advice, staff, advisors and trustees with the David and Lura Lovell Foundation have prompted and funded SAAF’s efforts to sustain the Complementary Therapies Program through revenue generated by the Buyers’ Club. A recent grant will enable SAAF to take the Travis Wright Memorial Buyers’ Club to the next level by adding the capability to accept online orders. This opens the benefits of membership to people living with HIV/AIDS who may not be able to access these health-enhancing resources, especially clients living in rural areas. The quality products offered by the Buyers’ Club would also be able to assist others with chronic health conditions as well as members of the general public who want to maintain good health.

To learn more about the Travis Wright Memorial Buyers’ Club visit SAAF’s website at: www.saaf.org/care-services/travis-wright-memorial-buyers-club.



Nordstrom’s corporate culture promotes community giving and employee wellness.

They believe, “no matter what the season... what we eat, what we do and how we live—gives us all a better sense of balance.”

MAC AIDS FUND At M•A•C AIDS Fund
“every day is World AIDS Day.”

Nordstrom Cares, in partnership with **M•A•C AIDS Fund**, continues to support the health and wellness of people living with HIV/AIDS through grants to fund SAAF’s Complementary Therapies Program. This funding is made possible through M•A•C Cosmetics VIVA GLAM line of lipstick and lipglass, with “100% of the sale price going to fight HIV/AIDS.”

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The SAAF Connection is published quarterly by the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

To be added or deleted from the mailing list or to make address changes, please contact SAAF at (520) 547-6105 or by email at donations@saaf.org.

To comment on the content of The SAAF Connection, email donations@saaf.org

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*Your gift today to
SAAF's
Food Program
will help someone tomorrow!*



Walgreens Red Ribbon Campaign Returns June 1

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development



Last year, SAAF teamed up with Walgreens for the Red Ribbon Campaign. For 6 weeks in 2014, 60 Walgreens throughout southern Arizona sold paper red ribbons at the counter (starting at \$1) to raise funds & awareness for SAAF. That campaign raised more than \$24,000 and we hope you will help us match or beat that goal this year.

The first phase of this year's Red Ribbon Campaign wrapped up in mid-March and raised more than \$15,000! The second and final phase of this year's campaign will run from June 1-15, 2015 and we hope you will support what is becoming a great tradition here at SAAF.

Help us beat last year's total and purchase your red ribbon at Walgreens in June! Ribbons will be on sale at Walgreens across the state with proceeds from areas outside southern Arizona benefiting Aunt Rita's & Northland Cares.