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## What's Inside:

30th Anniversary  
Reno Gannon Memorial

# Jell-O wrestling

Extravaganza and Benefit Auction

Saturday May 6, 2017

**Page 1**  
SAAF 2017 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

**Page 2**  
Why Our Work Matters

**Page 4**  
Jell-O Wrestling Celebrates 30 Years!

**Page 5**  
Möda Provöcateür Raises \$80,000+!

**Page 6**  
LGBTQ Initiatives Going Strong

**Page 8**  
National HIV Testing Day June 27

**Page 9**  
Foundations for SAAF's Mission

**Page 10**  
National Transgender HIV Testing Day April 18

**Page 11**  
Why Give? How to Give More?

**Page 12**  
PrEP: The Other Blue Pill

# The SAAF CONNECTION

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION

**SPRING 2017**

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## SAAF 2017 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

By Sallie Muse, Volunteer Resources 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 during National Volunteer Week, on Thursday April 27, 2017, from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. at the Historic Y. Dinner will be catered by Carte Blanche catering, served by SAAF employees, and followed by an awards ceremony where we will present honors in 21 categories.

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.

View the list of this year's honorees on page 3.

You can RSVP to Sallie Muse, Volunteer Resources Coordinator, at (520) 547-6174 or [smuse@saaf.org](mailto:smuse@saaf.org).

Continued to page 3

# 2017 SAAF Board of Directors

## GOVERNING BOARD

Juliet Yardy, *President*  
Trish Kordas, *1st Vice President*  
Carla Johnson, *2nd Vice President*  
Kevin McCoy, *Secretary/Treasurer*

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Alejandra Gerardo	Fred Ronstadt
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Jose "Manny" Maldonado	Gwen Valentine
Pam Meichel	Wendell Hicks, <i>ex-officio</i>

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danny Blake	Anne Maley-Schaffner
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Jim Click	Pat Pettis
Tom Donohue	Steve Quinlan
Steve Gottlieb	Robert E. Walkup
Jim Kolbe	Andrew Weil
Czarina Lopez	

## POSTHUMOUS HONORARY BOARD

Tommy Gin  
George Miller  
Cele Peterson  
Esther Tang

## OUR MISSION:

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

To comment on the content of The SAAF Connection,  
email [donations@saaf.org](mailto:donations@saaf.org).

To be added to or deleted from the mailing list or to make  
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## Why Our Work Matters

By Wendell Hicks, Executive Director



Photo by Scott Griessel, Creatista

Ever since last year's election, I've been doing a lot of thinking about why we do the sort of work we do. Oftentimes, our work consists of helping the most marginalized individuals to have a voice in a world that often does not want to hear them. So many of the people we help have been abandoned...abandoned by family, friends, and loved ones, just when they need them most. Stigma is a powerful thing and can be absolutely crippling for someone who doesn't feel they have a voice.

time we spend trying to make someone the "other" instead of looking inwardly and facing our own demons. What's worse is that we are perpetrating a crime against our very own US constitution which tells us that all are created equal and that everyone deserves basic human rights. What right could be more basic than the biological need to use the restroom that you are most comfortable with? And yet, we spend so much time debating and discussing this while real people suffer and die because of stigma, hate, and indifference.



Lately, so much of the news in our field has been centered around the struggles of transgender individuals and whether they have the basic right to use the restroom that most accurately corresponds with their gender identity. It reminds me how much

As of mid-March, 7 US citizens were killed this year alone because of their gender identity. That is more than one death every other week of some brave, beautiful soul who chose to stop hiding and reveal their true selves.

## We should never forget:

- Ciara McElveen
- Chyna Gibson
- Jaquarrius Holland
- Keke Collier (Tiara Richmond)
- Mesha Caldwell
- Jamie Lee Wounded Arrow
- Jojo Striker

Why do we do the work we do? Because of these 7 people and the many more who struggle every day in a world that can be incredibly unwelcoming and downright cruel. We do it because it is the right thing to do, the only thing to do. We do it to give a voice to the silent.

All of us who work at SAAF, volunteer for SAAF, and support SAAF with our treasure are a part of this and while we have accomplished so much, together, there is still much work to be done.

Thank you for being a partner with me and SAAF in this difficult work. Thank you for working so hard to save the lives of others, strangers you may never even meet. Only together can we make a difference and we will. We do it for people like Ciara, Chyna, Jaquarrius, Keke, Mesha, Jamie Lee, and Jojo. We do it because far too often we have found ourselves cast as the "other" and know how horrible that can feel. We do it because it allows us to express our humanity and kindness. We do it to create a better community and world for all of us.

As always, thank you for being a partner in this good fight.

Until the stigma ends,



Wendell

# SAAF 2017 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

By Sallie Muse, Volunteer Resources Coordinator

Continued from page 1

## This Year's Honorees:

Administration: *Pam Meichel*  
Business Leadership: *Cox Communications*  
Care Services: *Debbie Froeschke*  
Development: *Mathias Gibbens*  
Education: *Anne Golibersuch*  
Jean Cicci Peer Counseling: *James Barral*  
Jerôme Beillard Self-Empowerment: *Kalman Fisher*  
Longtime Volunteer: *Robert Bell*  
Media Leadership: *Desert Leaf*  
New Volunteer: *Manney Bustos*  
Youth Prevention Contribution: *Emma Adams*  
Outstanding Prevention Contributor: *Gus Aguilar*  
Original Contribution: *Pam Varner & Ariel Varner and Jeana Butler*

Reception: *Shawn Tucker*  
Volunteer Resources: *Manny Maldonado*  
Group Volunteer Effort: *Intuit*  
Food Programs: *Greg Melheim*  
Events: *Kerry Stratford*  
Outstanding Prevention Collaborator: *Teresa Driver*  
Outstanding Care Services Collaborator: *Nicolosi & Fitch*

## Volunteer of the Year Nominees\*

*Gloria Fernandez*  
*Mathias Gibbens*  
*Mark Mendelson*  
*Jaime Tadeo*

\*Winner to be announced at the event



## SAAF CARE SERVICES

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



Photos by Scott Grissel, Creatista

**30<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary**  
**Reno Gannon  
Memorial**

# Jell-O wrestling

*Extravaganza and  
Benefit Auction*

Saturday May 6, 2017



## See Ricky Martin live in concert in Las Vegas!

The 2017 Raffle Prize is two tickets to see Ricky Martin live in concert at the Monte Carlo in Las Vegas on July 2 plus a 2-night stay at the Monte Carlo and a \$100 Visa gift card. Tickets are just \$1 each and no more than 3,000 will be sold. You also need not be present at the drawing, taking place at the event, to win.



## Jell-O Wrestling Celebrates 30 Years of Fun in the Sun

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

The Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction will be held on Saturday May 6 at its home on 4th Avenue!

Jell-O Wrestling has been raising money in support of the programs and services of SAAF for 3 decades now and 1,000s have enjoyed this unique and crazy event.

This year's event is sure to be bigger and better than ever and 4th Avenue is the perfect location for SAAF's longest-running fundraising event.

You can sponsor a Wrestler, purchase tickets or VIP packages, and get more information online at [www.jello-wrestling.org](http://www.jello-wrestling.org).

Title Sponsor:



Tickets:

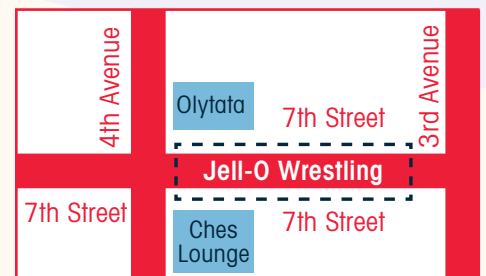
\$20/Before April 17  
\$25/After April 17

Schedule:

Gates Open: 4:00pm  
Wrestling Starts: 4:30pm

Location:

4th Avenue and 7th Street



More than 200 models took to the runway and wowed the audience of nearly 800 attendees.



## FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### 30TH ANNUAL RENO GANNON MEMORIAL JELL-O WRESTLING

Saturday May 6, 2017  
4th Avenue & 7th Street  
[www.jello-wrestling.org](http://www.jello-wrestling.org)

### AIDSWALK TUCSON

Sunday October 15, 2017  
Downtown Tucson  
[www.aidswalktucson.com](http://www.aidswalktucson.com)

### 29TH ANNUAL JERÔME BEILLARD FESTIVAL FOR LIFE

Saturday November 18, 2017  
Desert Diamond Casino  
7350 South Nogales Highway  
[www.festivalforlife.org](http://www.festivalforlife.org)

# Möda Provöcateūr Raises \$80,000+, Wows 100s!

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

## mödaprovöcateūr

This year's Möda was a huge hit, raising more than \$80,000! Participating salons and boutiques pulled out all the stops, once again, and more than 200 models took to the runway and wowed the audience of nearly 800 attendees.

Highlights of this year's event included longtime SAAF volunteer Lupita Murillo being awarded with the Cele Peterson award; the crowning of this year's Project Möda designer; and BreakOut Studios' amazing dance.

This year's Möda Provöcateūr was presented by Primo Sponsor Civano Coffee House; Venerato Sponsor Southwestern Utility Management and Tesoro Sponsor Waba.



Thanks to everyone who came out and helped make this year's event one of the most successful ever! We'll look forward to seeing you again on Sunday March 4, 2018 as we celebrate 15 years of style, fashion, and compassion in support of the care services, prevention programs, and LGBTQ initiatives of SAAF.

