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# The SAAF CONNECTION

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2017

Volume 4, Issue 3



## SAAF Offers a Farmers' Market Experience for Clients

by Erik Simonson, Support Services Manager

SAAF's Food Pantry provides a monthly "Harvest Day" event for clients on the last Wednesday of every month, all year long.

Harvest Day is a collaborative effort with Sprouts Farmers Market where over 100 bags are filled with an abundance of fresh

fruits and vegetables. The bags are assembled with the support of volunteers and SAAF staff members to be shared with those in need of nutritional support.

During the holiday months, "Harvest Days" transforms into a festive celebration of the season with an offering of Sprouts produce

along with additional items that include turkey, ham, stuffing, green beans, corn, and cranberry sauce along with delicious pies and cookies.

Harvest Days has recently expanded to "Summertime Harvest Days" which includes the Sprouts fresh fruits and seasonal vegetables as well as a bounty of summertime favorites, all delicious reminders of a classic County Fair, including pink lemonade, hamburger and hotdog buns, barbeque sauces, pasta salads, sliced peaches, peanuts, cashews, almonds, and old-fashioned strawberry shortcake.

The SAAF Food Pantry receives more than 1,000 pounds of donated canned goods from community contributions each year. These generous in kind gifts allow us to provide even greater support and to reach those in need of assistance in meeting their nutritional goals and overall improvements to their health.

# 2017-2018 SAAF Board of Directors

## GOVERNING BOARD

Juliet Yardy, *President*

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## OUR MISSION:

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

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To be added to or deleted from the mailing list or to make  
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# More Amazing Things Coming Soon!

By Wendell Hicks, Executive Director

These past 12 months have been truly amazing for SAAF.

Over the past year, we have been able to significantly expand our housing services, necessitating the rental of a 2nd building on South Park Avenue where a dozen staff members work on our Housing First initiative. Housing First is a homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing people experiencing homelessness with permanent housing as quickly as possible and then providing voluntary supportive services as needed. This approach prioritizes client choice in both housing selection and in service participation. I am so proud of the work that SAAF does through our housing programs, whether it be at one of our 7 SAAF-owned and operated properties or one of the many subsidized units we provide to clients throughout the community. SAAF's compassionate approach and understanding that stable housing is a must for everyone we serve is just one of many reasons that I love coming to work here every day.

We are now also wrapping up the fundraising campaign for the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th. When we began this journey in March 2016, I must admit I was a little overwhelmed by our \$2 million fundraising goal. I soon found out I had nothing to be concerned about as our community stepped up in a HUGE way, helping us raise nearly \$1.9 million, to date. Renovations will start this month and I can't wait to invite you to the grand opening later this year. Stay tuned...



Photo by Scott Griessel, Creative

Finally, we are about to see the fruition of a project several years in the making. Working with the City of Tucson, City Councilmember Karin Uhlich, and our good friends at the Fourth Avenue Merchants Association (FAMA), we will be painting the Avenue red...and blue, and green, and...! The 4 crosswalks at the corner of 4th Avenue & 6th Street will be painted in rainbow colors, mirroring ones in major cities like Vancouver, San Francisco, Washington DC, Philadelphia, and Atlanta. Now that is some great company for Tucson to be keeping! The crosswalks will send a strong message to our community about what we value and prove that diversity and individualism are nurtured and thrive in a place like Tucson.

This October will mark a decade since I became a part of this wonderful place and seeing all of the amazing things we are able to accomplish together, I only wish I had gotten here sooner. While I will always love my home in east Texas, it is Tucson that continues to amaze and inspire me. Can't wait to see what the next decade will bring for all of us!

Yours, as always,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendell Hicks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wendell

# Foundations for SAAF's Mission-Youth Helping Youth

By Tony Bruno, SAAF Grants Coordinator

Imagine a society that values young people for their present worth, not their future value. Envision communities where young people routinely make informed decisions of consequence that address issues such as race, gender, stigma and anti- violence – in short, decisions in aid of the greater good. This vision is a reality; it exists in Tucson through the efforts of the following private youth based funders:



## **Congregation Or Chadash - Noah Cohen Memorial Youth Philanthropy Fund**

The *Noah Cohen Memorial Youth Philanthropy Fund* was created by the 7th Grade class at Congregation Or Chadash in September 2005. Each academic year, the student board chooses an issue/area upon which to focus their efforts while educating themselves about the value of directed philanthropy and giving. The 7th Grade Philanthropy grants are supported by donations from Congregation Or Chadash's students, families, and student-led fundraising efforts. Final funding decisions are made by all members of the Congregation Or Chadash 7th Grade Clas-



## **Women's Foundation – Unidas Fund**

"Unidas" is the feminization of the Spanish word for "United." Unidas is an award-winning leadership and philanthropy program for high school aged young women from across Tucson. The Unidas program offers the girls a glimpse into the world of opportunity and inequality, giving them a chance to make a difference in other people's lives. Youth learn about leadership and how to make philanthropic decisions that make an impact in the community.

We are grateful to both Congregation Or Chadash and Unidas for their recent support of Project ALLY (Arizona Life Links for Youth), a suicide prevention program that aims to reduce the number of attempted and completed suicides by LGBTQ youth.

While Project ALLY is supported in numerous ways, these 2 funders are significant because they represent youth in our community taking care of their peers and they represent the philanthropists of the future who will create a better community for all of us.



## **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



## AIDSWALK TUCSON

Sunday  
October 15, 2017

Joel D. Valdez Main Library  
Downtown Tucson

7:00 am Registration Opens  
9:00 am Walk Begins

# AIDS WALK TUCSON

## Why We Walk

By Lindsey Jones, Associate Director of Development

People walk in AIDSWALKs around the world for many different reasons. AIDSWALKs in the United States began in the late 1980s as a way to raise money, raise awareness, and in memory of those who'd passed away from AIDS.

Presented by



Red Ribbon Sponsor



Grand Sponsor



AIDSWALK began before protease inhibitors, anti-viral medications, and government grants. Most AIDS Service Organization(ASO)s were small bands of community members who came together in all-volunteer groups to do something, anything, to help. Many of these volunteer groups worked out of people's homes and out of meeting rooms in churches, synagogues, and small businesses.

Today, we have ASOs with volunteers and paid staff; life-saving medications are now available; comprehensive care services and prevention programs reach thousands of people; HIV rates have decreased in some demographics; HIV is now considered a manageable disease; and people are living longer. Tremendous progress has been achieved over these many years.



**REGISTER TODAY...**

**COME WALK WITH US!**

**BECAUSE  
1 IN 8 PEOPLE  
LIVING WITH HIV DON'T KNOW  
THEY HAVE IT.**

Photography by Scott Griessel, Creatista

## So why do we keep walking?

- Because every month, 1,000 young people are infected with HIV and over 76,400 young people are currently living with HIV across the country;
- Because today's young people are the first generation who have never known a world without HIV and AIDS;
- Because 87% of HIV cases among young men ages 13 – 24 are among young men of color;
- Because in the United States, 1 in 4 new HIV infections is among youth ages 13 to 24;
- Because stigma is still a leading cause of why people do not get tested and/or seek treatment;
- Because cultural homophobia still leads to stigma and shame;
- Because 1 in 8 people living with HIV don't know they have it and may unintentionally pass it to others and not seek timely treatment;
- Because too many people still don't have access to the facts about HIV they need to stay safe and seek treatment.



Walk with us on October 15 because you, too, want to make a difference and take a stand against stigma, right here in southern Arizona.



[FACEBOOK.COM/AIDSWALKTUCSON](https://www.facebook.com/aidswalktucson)

[AIDSWALKTUCSON.ORG](https://www.aidswalktucson.org)



Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



**OPENING  
SUMMER 2017**



**THERE IS STILL TIME TO SUPPORT THE THORNHILL LOPEZ CENTER ON 4TH WITH YOUR GIFT!**

We have raised more than \$1.87 million towards our goal but need YOU to get all the way to \$2 million, our goal.

**Give today at [www.centeron4th.org](http://www.centeron4th.org)**

OutinAZ.com is a community resource guide that connects the LGBTQ community to the businesses and services that we need and use.



## **Out Brunch a Big Success... LGBTQ Initiatives at SAAF Going Strong!**

By Adam Ragan, Associate Director of LGBTQ Initiatives

When I started as the Associate Director of LGBTQ Initiatives, we had four objectives in mind for what this position should achieve in its first year. Through dedicated hard work, I am proud to report to you that we have achieved these four objectives and beyond. What an exciting time to be a part of our community. There was a common bond in all four of the objectives: bringing our community together.

Here are some highlights of 3 of these 4 initiatives.



**1. OUTINAZ.COM IS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE THAT CONNECTS THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY TO THE BUSINESSES AND SERVICES THAT WE NEED AND USE.**

We developed the site, in conjunction with the LGBT & S Alliance Fund, a fund of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, so that our community can connect in real time to a business or a group. Listing is super easy, free, and takes less than two minutes! Because so much of our world happens on our phones, OutinAZ is optimized for mobile use.

Perhaps the most exciting feature is the ability to leave reviews so that others in our community can know what makes a listing so special.



On June 10, more than 350 members of our community gathered together for Out Brunch 2017.



# Out BRUNCH 2017

## 2. FIRST OUT BRUNCH A BIG SUCCESS.

On June 10, more than 350 members of our community gathered together to celebrate our pride, share some laughs, and raise some funds for SAAF's LGBTQ initiatives and programs. I'm happy to report that all expectations were surpassed. Tempest DuJour delighted the audience as Mistress of Ceremonies; Bryan Safi & Erin Gibson from TV's *Throwing Shade* gave us a side-splitting comedy routine — not to mention a VIP Meet & Greet before the event and; we heard from two amazing Eon participants about why their programs are so very vital to our community. We raised over \$55,000 at the Out Brunch thanks to very generous donors like you who stepped up to ensure our LGBTQ programs & initiatives are here to stay.

What was most exciting, however, at the Out Brunch was the unveiling of two exciting initiatives that we will take on in the coming year. This summer, thanks to unanimous support from the Tucson City Council, we are going to install rainbow crosswalks at 6th Street and 4th Avenue. In partnership with the Fourth Avenue Merchants Association and Speedy Striping, these crosswalks will serve as a point of pride for the LGBTQ community to remind us that ALL are welcome in Tucson.

Check our Facebook page for updates on this project!

SAAF is also creating a scholarship to help youth pay for school, work on an art project, or connect our LGBTQ community which will be presented annually at the Brunch. In the coming months, we will work with the community to make sure this scholarship best reflects the work we want to encourage in our youth.

## 3. ANOTHER INITIATIVE WE'VE BEEN WORKING HARD ON IS RECONVENING THE LGBTQ ROUNDTABLE.

This is a group that meets quarterly with one representative from each LGBTQ-serving agency or group. Our membership parameters are clear: if your group or agency serves the LGBTQ community, you're welcome to join our table. Our purpose is simple: we coordinate, cooperate, and collaborate so that we can better serve the entire LGBTQ community. We're currently working on a community response plan so that, should disaster strike, we here in southern Arizona are prepared.



## LGBTQ INITIATIVES

*After such a successful year serving the LGBTQ community, we are looking forward to bigger challenges that move us all forward. This next year is going to be one of big achievements and big community.*

— Adam Ragan, Associate Director of LGBTQ Initiatives



## YOUTH LIFE PROJECT

*"We will aim to create a safe environment for all students at City High School by challenging sexism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, ableism, racism, heterosexism, and any other way discrimination can be experienced."*

– Students of Youth Life Project, City High School spring 2017

We are very proud of their dedication and hard work to create safer environments for their peers and for their perseverance, passion, and positive attitude!



## Youth Life Project-Providing Life Skills for Youth

By Jai Smith, Youth Life Project Program Manager

The Youth Life Project (YLP) is a multifaceted sexual and dating violence prevention program offering life-skills education for youth ages 13-24, capacity building training for service providers, and community mobilization of local resources and service organizations to support systemic sexual violence prevention.

Through educational classes, YLP focuses on increasing participant awareness of what constitutes healthy and abusive dating relationships as well as the causes and consequences of dating abuse by targeting attitudes and behaviors associated with dating abuse and sexual violence. Participants learn the skills necessary to developing healthy dating relationships, including positive communication, sexual risk reduction, safer-sex information, anger management,

and conflict resolution, as well as learning how to help themselves or friends in abusive dating relationships. Part of the program is to support cultural change within a school by having the students develop an art project focused around what they learned in the class.

This spring, the YLP staff worked very hard to expand to new schools and provide more students with the opportunity to learn about healthy relationships, affirmative consent, and how to prevent sexual violence with a partner. Through these new connections, YLP has been able to connect student leaders with community level programming and events including being actively involved in Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, Take Back The Night, and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. In April and May, students worked on art projects aimed at reducing perpetration of sexual violence. These messages ranged from small-scale projects to school-wide art installations.





## VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

### Get involved with SAAF!

Join us for an upcoming volunteer orientation, the first step for anyone wanting to volunteer at SAAF.\* Orientations take place at the SAAF office building located at 375 South Euclid Avenue.

Here is a listing of upcoming orientations.

**Saturday July 15, 2017**  
**10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Tuesday August 15, 2017**  
**5:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

**Saturday September 12, 2017**  
**5:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

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

To sign up for Volunteer Orientation, contact Sallie Muse, SAAF's Volunteer Coordinator, at (520) 547-6174 or [smuse@saaf.org](mailto:smuse@saaf.org) or visit [saaf.org/volunteer/overview](http://saaf.org/volunteer/overview).

One school-wide message came from the students at City High School, a new site for SAAF Youth Programs, where the students worked with staff and administration to create a mural aimed at believing survivors of sexual violence and a commitment statement dedicated to preventing sexual violence. The students then decided to take it a step further and used the mural and statement as a cover for "Content Notice!", the first publication of a student created sexual violence prevention zine from the Youth Life Project.

The students of YLP have worked very hard to center youth voice in sexual violence prevention in our classes and in our community. We are very proud of their dedication and hard work to create safer environments for their peers and for their perseverance, passion, and positive attitude!

To see more photos and to learn more about the Youth Life Project and other youth prevention programs at SAAF please visit [www.facebook.com/SAAFYouthPreventionPrograms](http://www.facebook.com/SAAFYouthPreventionPrograms) or [www.saaf.org/hiv-prevention-and-testing/prevention-programs](http://www.saaf.org/hiv-prevention-and-testing/prevention-programs).



This year's event raised more than \$XX for the programs and services of SAAF and we could not have done it without your support!

## TO YOUR HEALTH

### Travis Wright Memorial Buyers' Club

Purchase vitamins and supplements for HIV/AIDS care and general health at the lowest possible cost.

The Buyers' Club is now online at [tucsonbuyersclub.org](http://tucsonbuyersclub.org). Or, you can visit the store at the SAAF offices, located at 375 South Euclid Avenue, Monday through Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm.



Photography by Scott Griesel, Creatista

## Jell-O Wrestling made a splash on 4th Avenue!

By Lindsey Jones, Associate Director of Development

The 30th Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction, presented by new title sponsor Civano Coffee House, was held on May 6, 2017 off of Historic 4th Avenue. This year's event raised more than \$35,000 for the programs and services of SAAF and we could not have done it without your support!

Highlights of this year's event included wrestling matches featuring Batman vs. Superman, Calvin vs. Hobbes, Eve & Eve (take on Adam & Eve!) and longtime Jell-O hostess Ms. Lucinda Holliday took to the ring again to wow the fans! We also continued to see the giving and generosity of so many people throughout the event with challenge gifts and auction bids.

We also drew the name of this year's raffle grand prize winner of 2 nights in Vegas and 2 tickets to see Ricky Martin live. Congratulations to Charles Neff – we hope he has an amazing time this summer. Many thanks to Dr. Kayla Boyer and Speedway Veterinary Hospital for her continued support as the Jell-O Raffle Sponsor.



*Extravaganza and Benefit Auction*

Title Sponsor:

Raffle Sponsor:



We'll see you next year for another great day of Jell-O!



# Why Give? How to Give More? Part 2

By Tom Buchanan, SAAF supporter

*In the spring SAAF Connection, Tom Buchanan, longtime SAAF supporter, discussed some of the ways that you can make a significant contribution to SAAF through the donation of stocks and securities. In the second and final part of his article, he discusses bequests and beneficiary designations as another way to support SAAF through your estate plans.*

My husband Robert Bell and I feel great about giving to SAAF - we only wish we could do more. I've got some thoughts on that, but first - why is giving to SAAF so important?

I'm 65 years old, and been HIV+ more than half my life. I assumed I only had a few years to live. However, after my 40th birthday I realized I might be around for a while and I'd better get serious about saving for retirement. One constant through this entire saga has been SAAF and organizations like it, helping to fight stigma and increase the health and happiness of all of us, especially LGBT people and people at risk of HIV infection. In organizations like SAAF I've found home: I've been a client, I've worked, I've volunteered, and I've given. Though I'm enjoying wonderful health, I know that if it were not for organizations like SAAF I might not be here today. I know with certainty that the quality of my life would have suffered greatly without the support I've received. SAAF gives me a sense of joy, a sense of hope, and a sense of community.



For over 9 years Robert has volunteered at the Eon youth program and still comes home every Tuesday night on fire. He loves working with young people, helping them stay safe, take care of themselves, and visualize their own best future. So while we give to other organizations, SAAF is one on which we both wholeheartedly agree and love to support.

Your reasons for giving to SAAF are unique to you. But whatever your reasons, my guess is that you, too, wish you could do more. Here are a few simple ways that may help you do just that.

## Bequests

Whatever your financial resources, you need a will. And remembering SAAF in your will is another easy, painless way to ensure SAAF's future. You may name SAAF as the beneficiary of a percentage of your estate, of a set dollar amount, or of a particular asset. Your estate may be entitled to a tax deduction for the full value of your bequest. Another possibility is to name SAAF as a contingent beneficiary of assets in the event the person you named as the primary beneficiary has pre-deceased you.

When you make or amend your will, be sure to state that your bequest is being made to Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

(SAAF), a not-for-profit tax-exempt organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Arizona, located at 375 S. Euclid Ave, Tucson, AZ 85719.

## Beneficiary Designation

Estates are not always transferred through a will. Living trusts, qualified retirement plans, and the proceeds from life insurance policies can be transferred through beneficiary designation. You may name SAAF as a beneficiary of any of these assets or as a contingent beneficiary in the event that the person you named as primary beneficiary is no longer living at the time of your death. So if you have life insurance policy, an IRA, or even a simple bank account, you might want to look into naming safe as the beneficiary or contingent.

So by all means, give what you can. But as you give, look at ways you can give more to SAAF now and in the distant future. When you think about all your assets, you may be surprised to find you have the capacity to do more than you ever imagined.



Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

375 S. Euclid Ave.  
Tucson, Arizona 85719

# The SAAF CONNECTION

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## 2017/2018 Fundraising Events

### AIDSWALK Tucson

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

### The 29th Annual Jerome Beillard Festival for Life

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

### Bowling for Tommy

Saturday January 20, 2018  
Fiesta Bowl- 501 West River Road

### Möda Provöcateūr

Sunday March 4, 2018  
Tucson Convention Center Grand Ballroom  
[www.saafmoda.org](http://www.saafmoda.org)

### Jell-O Wrestling

Spring 2018  
4th Avenue  
[www.jello-wrestling.org](http://www.jello-wrestling.org)

### Out Brunch

June 2018  
[www.outbrunchaz.org](http://www.outbrunchaz.org)