Celebrations

By Wendell Hicks

Photo by David Berger, Cox Media

It is always a pleasure to share good news. The grand opening of The Medicine Shoppe is no exception. The Travis Wright Memorial Buyers' Club's moved into its new home in The Medicine Shoppe in time to mark the pharmacy's opening. On January 15, 2011, friends, SAAF employees, and volunteers celebrated this new business venture which will benefit SAAF's clients.

SAAF's Buyers' Club is one of three such clubs in the United States serving people living with HIV/AIDS. The Buyers' Club sells pharmaceutical-grade vitamins and supplements and is open to the public. Up until this year, SAAF only broke even on its sales of supplements. Through the partnership with The Medicine Shoppe, we hope to greatly expand our efforts with the Buyers' Club and generate additional revenue for SAAF's programs and services.

This could not have happened without timely input by trustees and advisors from the Lovell Foundation. In 2008, they suggested that SAAF should consider generating funds for the Complementary Therapies Program by expanding services provided through the Buyer's Club. In response, in our 2009 – 2011 Strategic Plan, SAAF added the goal of developing new revenue streams through earned-income ventures..

Longtime SAAF volunteers Deb Van Sant and Greg Rogan made this goal a reality. Deb, a registered pharmacist, and Greg, a pharmacy technician, had dreamed of opening an independent pharmacy providing "old-fashioned" customer service. They approached me with an idea: together we could forge a win-win partnership with our Buyers' Club operating out of their pharmacy.

The Medicine Shoppe is located just north of SAAF's offices, in the same business complex, at 305 S. Euclid Avenue. Deb and Greg donated 250 square feet of their pharmacy to house the Buyers' Club, doubling the size of its operation. SAAF benefits from the Medicine Shoppe's advertising, increased visibility, traffic, and customers; and expanded hours (from noon to 5:00 pm to 9:00 am to 6:00 pm). In addition, Deb and Greg plan to offer mail order services. Since the move, the Buyers' Club has realized a 13% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2010.

Although this venture is in its start-up phase, the Lovell Foundation has made a generous grant to fund the Complementary Therapies Program in 2011. The long-term goal is for the proceeds from the Buyers' Club supplement sales to fund the Complementary Therapies Program, in part, or entirely.

Deb and Greg are just two of the many SAAF volunteers who exceed expectations. April is National Volunteer Appreciation month, an opportunity to celebrate "people in action" and recognize individuals and groups for their gifts of time and talent. On Saturday, April 9, 2011, SAAF teams up with TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) and Wingspan to host a joint volunteer recognition event and picnic at Himmel Park. We want this to be a special day, and thanks to a generous contribution from Raytheon's GLBTA (Gay, Lesbian. Bisexual, Transgender and Allies), we can honor our volunteers in style. Whether you volunteer for SAAF, TIHAN or Wingspan, please save the date and join us at Himmel Park.

For more information, contact SAAF Volunteer Coordinator Marc Canales at 520-628-7223 or mcanales@saaf.org.

Wendell Hicks,
SAAF Executive Director

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

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SAAF
SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION

375 S. Euclid Ave.
Tucson, Arizona
85719

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

YOUR GIFT IN ACTION

Below are just a few of the ways in which SAAF utilizes funds to support people in Southern Arizona.

$5

Can help to cover 1 Food for Life meal delivered to a homebound client. Last year, SAAF delivered more than 15,000 meals in Southern Arizona.

$10

Can help to cover the cost of 1 HIV test kit with supplies. If the test has a positive result, this cost goes up to $200. This does not cover the administrative costs to conduct the test.

$15

Can help to support a family that receives a monthly supplemental food bag which includes 2 lbs. of meat, 1/4 lb. butter, 1 lb. cheese, and 1 loaf of bread. Last year more than 1,500 supplemental food bags were given out.

CONNECTION

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Make a Difference: Volunteer at SAAF

By Anna Griessel, Support Services Manager

SAAF is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers. The Buyers' Club and Food for Life are just two SAAF programs in which you can make a difference. Have a positive impact in the community while having fun; donate your time to SAAF.

Buyers' Club Volunteers

If you like helping others in a retail environment, being a volunteer at the Travis Wright Memorial Buyers' Club might be the perfect volunteer opportunity for you. At the Buyers' Club, SAAF clients and the community can purchase pharmaceutical-grade supplements at great prices. The Buyers' Club is located in The Medicine Shoppe, next to SAAF. Volunteer opportunities are available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from noon to 5:00 pm.

Food for Life Drivers

Monday through Thursday, 52 weeks a year, SAAF sends three drivers into the community to deliver fresh, healthy meals to its homebound clients. The Food for Life program thrives thanks to the many volunteers who prepare and deliver the meals. If you have your own vehicle and can spare two hours in the morning, one day a week, this might be the opportunity for you.

For more information about these and other volunteer opportunities, please contact Marc Canales, Volunteer Coordinator, at 520-628-7223 or mcanales@saaf.org.

SAAF
SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION

April, May, June
Spring 2011
Tucson, Arizona

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SAAF

Our Mission

The mission of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation is to create and sustain a healthier community through a compassionate, comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS.

CONNECTION

The Newsletter of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

SAAF 2011 Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

SAAF will once again shine a spotlight on all of its wonderful volunteers at its annual volunteer appreciation event, taking place on Saturday, April 9 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm at Himmel Park. This year's picnic is a collaborative event with Wingspan and Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN). SAAF will give out awards to volunteers in 20 categories.

SAAF would not be able to do any of the work we do without the commitment of 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 to be, we hope that all volunteers will come out and be a part of this event as we show our appreciation.

To RSVP for this year's volunteer appreciation picnic, contact Imelda Rodriguez, SAAF Administrative Assistant, at (520) 628-7223 or irodriguez@saaf.org. We'll look forward to seeing everyone on April 9!

2011 Volunteer Appreciation Awardees

Category	Name of Awardee
Administration	Conrad Moseley
Business Leadership	Long Realty
Care Services	Jim Wymore
Development	CJ Minott
Education	Andy Little
Jean Cicci Peer Counseling	Phil Bossenbroek
Jerome Beillard Self-Empowerment	Juan Chavira
Longtime Volunteer	Claire Ortloff
Media Leadership	AdVision
New Volunteer	Wes Tolliver
Youth Prevention Services	Michael Felton
Original Contribution	The Medicine Shoppe and Lucinda Holliday
Outstanding Prevention Contribution	Sky Lopez
Volunteer Resources	Curt Beall
Group Volunteer Effort	MSHAPE Volunteers
Reception	Juan Chavira
Food Programs	Marsha & Kal Fisher
Events	Cindy Joy
Outstanding Prevention Collaborator	Old Pueblo Community Services
Staff Volunteer Nominees *(Winner will be announced at Volunteer Appreciation Picnic)*	Vera Bowlby, Erin Butler, Tim Cruz, Ruth Hillman, Linda Hampton, Neil MacDonald
Volunteer of the Year Nominees *(Winner will be announced at Volunteer Appreciation Picnic)*	Peter Bleasby, June Briggs, Juan Chavira, Rob Gonzalez, Scott McManus

Special Thanks to Raytheon GLBTA for their underwriting of this year's collaborative event.

Tour SAAF

Learn more about SAAF's programs, talk to program staff, and see how your gift is making a difference.

For a personal or group tour of SAAF, contact Ethan Smith Cox, SAAF Development Director at 520-628-7223 or ecox@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
- Medications Assistance
- Support Groups
- Telephone Assistance
- Transportation

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

New SAAF Program Empowering Youth

By T. Loving, Voz/ALLY Program Manager

SAAF is pleased to announce that Project ALLY (Arizona's Life Links for Youth) has joined the youth programming division of SAAF's prevention department. In collaboration with Wingspan's Eon Youth Lounge, SAAF will utilize the Project ALLY grant for youth leadership development to reduce the rate of attempted and completed suicides among Arizona's youth. This project focuses on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth, ages 14 to 24, in Pima and surrounding counties.

Project ALLY LGBTQ and allied youth leaders will receive training based on the Sources of Strength curriculum. This curriculum focuses on increasing the awareness of those risk and protective factors contributing to youth suicide. It also emphasizes the need to break the codes of silence surrounding LGBTQ youth suicide, while not sensationalizing or memorializing youth suicide attempts and/or completions. In addition, youth leaders will be encouraged to utilize the knowledge and skills they have learned with the support of Project ALLY to engage in conversations and provide support to their peers.

Project ALLY is funded by a sub-grant from Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS/BHS) as a part of Arizona's Suicide Prevention Project. The Arizona Suicide Prevention Project, which is a collaborative effort between ADHS/ BHS, Arizona State University Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (ASU SIRC), and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) receives funding through the Garret Lee Smith Memorial Grant.

Suicide Prevention: A Critical Response

By Wendell Hicks, Executive Director

Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death in youth ages 15 to 19 in Arizona. Estimates suggest that 30% of these suicides are LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) youth. The suicide deaths of five gay young men highlighted by the media in 2010 were especially poignant. The stigma of being gay – the fear of being outed and the unrelenting harassment – can overwhelm an adolescent. I know what it is like to live in an intolerant community and to feel isolated with no one to turn to, not knowing who will know how to respond and listen without judging. Through Project ALLY, SAAF will create a visible and accessible support network of trained allies – peers and trusted adults – who will support LGBTQ youth in crisis, get them the help they need, and maybe even save a life.

In addition to the grant from the Arizona Department of Health Services, I would like to thank The Alliance Fund for its recent grant in support of Project ALLY's Gatekeeper Training.

Big Changes for Jell-O Wrestling: New Date, New Location, New Look!

By Monique Vallery, Events Coordinator

The 24th annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction is scheduled for Saturday, May 14, 2011, at Kennedy Fiesta Park. Once again, teams of wrestlers – often dressed in unique costumes – use their brawn and bravado to raise funds for SAAF. Between matches, drag queen hostesses lead the bidding for treasures at our live auction.

In addition to the wrestling you have come to love, this year's event features a post-wrestling concert headlined by Pandora Boxx from RuPaul's Drag Race and RuPaul's Drag U, plus all of your favorite local entertainers.

Tickets are selling fast. Be a part of the excitement. Purchase your tickets soon online at www.jello-wrestling.org or by calling 520-628-7223 x250. Doors open @ 3:00 pm.

Photo by Kevin Thomas Garcia Photography

Jell-O Photography by Creatista

Möda Prŏvocateūr 2011... A Huge Success

By Kelly Wiehe, Events Coordinator

2011 marks the 8th anniversary for Möda Prŏvocateūr. This year's celebration of hair, make-up and fashion was held on Sunday, March 6 in the grand ballroom of the student union on the University of Arizona® campus. The event was sponsored by Udall Law Firm (Primo/Title Sponsor) and CyraCom International (Venerato Sponsor) and was attended by more than 600 people. Together, with your support, we raised more than $62,000!

Over 200 models walked the runway for participating salons: Avalon for Hair Skin and Nails, Aveda Institute Arizona, Ahead of Style, J. Scordato Salon, Mia Bella Salon & Spa, and Style 7 Salon. The evening also included dancing by BreakOut Studios, under the direction of Todd Wilson, and Project Runway Moda. (Project Runway Moda, a local fashion competition, was featured on the cover of the March 2011 issue of Tucson Lifestyle Magazine).

Each year, the Cele Peterson Möda Provŏcateūr Award is presented to an individual or business that provides style and philanthropic support for the Tucson community. This year the award was given to George Fangmann from Franklin's Mens Store.

Photography by Creatista

For more photos of the event, go to www.saafmoda.org and www.tucsonlifestyle.com.

Foundations Support SAAF

By Evelyn Rens, Grants Coordinator

The following corporate and private foundations have funded SAAF programs and services in 2010. Their grants support the human potential of and improve the health and quality of life for those living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV. We profoundly appreciate their support.

NORDSTROM MAC

The Complementary Therapies Program provides alternative health care services such as therapeutic massage and acupuncture. Services like these help those living with HIV and AIDS tap the power of their minds and spirits to: aid in healing their bodies, improve immune function, decrease medication side effects, and enhance emotional and physical well-being. Complementary Therapies is supported entirely by generous gifts from: Armstrong McDonald Foundation; The David C. and Lura M. Lovell Foundation; Nordstrom, Inc.; and M•A•C Cosmetics.

The Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation stepped up to the plate again this year, providing funding for SAAF's Food Programs for People Living with HIV/AIDS. Their grant helps fund home-delivered meals through the Food for Life Program and SAAF's on-site Food Pantry, which provides emergency meals and nutritious lunches during weekly support groups.

★macy's

A grant from the Macy's Foundation helps fund Voz, an intensive, asset-building program targeting at-risk youth. Based on the Learning Outward Bound model, Voz features life-skills training and hands-on activities designed to reduce risky behaviors that contribute to HIV and other STDs and substance use, and, also, promote positive peer support networks.

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Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Straight
10 Years
Investing in your community since 2000.

Project ALLY (Arizona Life Links for Youth) seeks to save lives and reduce suicide attempts among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. A grant from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgender Straight Alliance Fund's Queer Youth Initiative helps fund suicide prevention training for peer leaders and trusted adults, so they can recognize suicide warning signs and be prepared to respond to youth in crisis.

HIV Testing

By Luis Ortega, Director of Prevention Services

SAAF provides HIV testing in a variety of settings: on-site at SAAF, at community events, and in seven rural counties (Yuma, La Paz, Gila, Pinal, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz).

In 2010 the HIV Testing Program expanded to include Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties, and a number of community events. Testing in rural communities was provided at substance abuse treatment sites, and community event testing at the University of Arizona and at community colleges in rural Maricopa and Cochise Counties.

Our program provided HIV Testing and Risk Reduction Counseling to over 1,200 people in 2010; 46% of these had never tested. Over 58% of those tested were age 20-39. Nine males tested positive at SAAF and of these nine six were age 19-29. SAAF's testing program is filling in gaps by providing HIV testing and education where resources and opportunities for confidential testing are extremely limited.

HIV Testing is available at SAAF four days a week, by appointment or walk-in:

Mon. and Wed. 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Tues. and Thurs. 1:00 - 8:00 pm.

To make an appointment, call 520-628-7223.

Volunteer Orientation

Volunteer Orientation
Tues. Apr. 12 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Sat. May 21 8:00 am - 11:00 pm
Tues. June 14 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Volunteer Training

HIV Training for Community Education
Sat. May 21 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Community Educator Training
Sat. Apr. 9 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

For more information or to register for training, contact Charles Jefferson, Community Education/Outreach Coordinator at 520-628-7223 or cjefferson@saaf.org.

Travis Wright Memorial Buyers' Club

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

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Wednesday
9:00 am to 8:00 pm

Support Groups

Mondays
P.A.T.H. – Positive Attitudes Towards Health and HIV: Open to anyone living with or concerned about HIV/AIDS
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm @ SAAF

Wednesdays
SAAF Haven Support Group
(lunch included)
11:00 am - 12:30 pm @ SAAF

Thursdays
Heterosexual Support Group
(lunch included)
11:00 am - 12:30 pm @ SAAF
(except for third Thursday of the month)

Support Group schedules may vary. Please call SAAF for more information.