

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

2012 SAAF Fundraising Events

Jell-O Wrestling
Saturday May 12, 2012
Kennedy Fiesta Park
www.jello-wrestling.org

AIDSWALK Tucson
Sunday October 14, 2012
Downtown Tucson
www.aidswalktucson.com

**24th Annual Jerome Beillard
Festival for Life**
Saturday November 10, 2012
Tucson Chinese Cultural Center
www.festivalforlife.org

It's Jell-O Wrestling Time

By Monique Vallery, Events Coordinator



The 25th Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction will be held on Saturday May 12, 2012 at Kennedy Fiesta Park in Tucson. This year's event will be a celebration of the past and present. There will be great food, beverages, wrestling, auction, kings, queens, and everything in-between. We also have an amazing Raffle – two tickets to see Madonna in concert on October 16, 2012 at the US Airways Center in Phoenix, Arizona. Only 3,500 tickets will be sold, so your chances of winning are great.

To learn more about this year's Jell-O Wrestling event, to purchase tickets, and see what all of the buzz is about, visit us at www.jello-wrestling.org.



National HIV Testing Day – June 27, 2012

By Luis Ortega, Director of Prevention



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Wednesday June 27, 2012 is the 17th annual National HIV Testing Day.

In 1995 the National Association of People Living with AIDS (NAPWA) designated this day to promote HIV Testing. Every year 48,000 people are diagnosed with HIV and even more are living with HIV and don't know it.

During last year's National event, SAAF, in partnership with COPE Community Services, Inc. and the Pima County Health Department, tested over 100 people. This year the same partnership will provide free HIV testing throughout Tucson. For more information visit www.sAAF.org or www.hivtest.org

HIV Testing is available at SAAF four days a week by appointment or walk-in:
Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 8:00 pm. To make an appointment, call 520-628-SAAF (7223).

SAAF 2012 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

By Courtney Kelly, Volunteer Coordinator

SAAF once again shined the spotlight on its wonderful volunteers. Our annual Volunteer Appreciation event was held Thursday April 12, 2012 at the Historic Y, 300 East University Boulevard. Dinner was catered by Café a la Cart/Carte Blanche Catering, and followed an awards ceremony in which we presented awards in 20 categories.



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.



Photo by David Barger, Cox Media

Leaving a Legacy – Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

By Wendell Hicks

In March, SAAF and the rest of our community recognized Write A Will month. This is a month each year set aside to remind people about the importance of writing a will and having estate plans in place. This effort is supported nationally by *Leave a Legacy*, an unprecedented collaborative effort to encourage people from all walks of life to make a bequest or planned gift to their favorite charitable or non-profit organization. Leave a Legacy works hand in hand with non-profits including social service and arts organizations, churches, hospitals, educational institutions and other philanthropic groups to encourage this activity. SAAF is always proud to be a part of Leave a Legacy and at our Write A Will workshop, seventeen people were in attendance to learn more about taking control of their future through estate and legacy planning from longtime SAAF donor and volunteer, Attorney Doug Newman.

What does it mean to leave a legacy? It means many things to different people. Over my 20 years working in the non-profit world, I have seen a number of examples. But the common denominator is that everyone who works for non-profits is indebted to the generous men and women who have profoundly affected the lives of those who came after them.

Jon D. Phetteplace was one such giant. Jon was a respected composer and photographer from California. He called Tucson home from 1988 until his death in the early 1990s. When he died, he left a vast archive of musical compositions, recordings, and photographs. Many are now housed at the Mandeville Special Collections Library at the University of California, San Diego. In addition, Jon left a substantial gift to establish the Jon D. Phetteplace Endowment at SAAF. For over a decade, this endowment has been used to provide hundreds of community members with vital care services. It is unlikely Jon knew all the good his gift would do for the SAAF community. However, Jon's foresight was a gift of faith that has had a lasting impact.

In May, SAAF celebrates the 25th anniversary of Jell-O Wrestling. In 1987, men and women were dying from AIDS at an alarming rate. The United States' government response to the epidemic was paltry, at best. Men and women had to act on their own to help their fellow brothers and sisters. In response, in the late 1980s, a group of Tucson men established Jell-O Wrestling to raise money to care for HIV & AIDS patients. Reno Gannon, Michael Bennett, Bruce Peg, and Peter Sittig established the event when Reno came to them with the idea after

having seen a similar fundraiser while on vacation. Reno passed away from AIDS complications after the first event. Two years later, the remaining founders held the second match in Reno's memory. Since 1987, Jell-O Wrestling has raised more than half a million dollars for SAAF programs and services. Reno did not know what a profound effect his idea would have a quarter century later. His enthusiasm and passion has made a long-lasting difference for the SAAF community.

Paolo Presta Gunton came to work for SAAF in 2006. He was an HIV Prevention Specialist with the innovative HIV Intervention and Prevention Arizona (HIP/AZ) program. This statewide plan puts HIV prevention tools in the hands of individuals who are living with HIV/AIDS. Paolo was dedicated and passionate about his work. He was one of those people who lit up a room, and won over most everyone he met. Paolo met his partner, David Gunton, while working for SAAF. In 2009 they moved to Canada, David's birthplace. Paolo passed away last year. Since then, many who knew Paolo have met to reminisce and share stories about his life. Since his death, community members have been working on a scholarship fund in his memory. The fund will help LGBT youth interested in social work or social justice issues. Paolo's legacy will live on.

Remembering the lives of these men, and the lives of many others we have lost over the decades is bittersweet. I miss those who are gone. But I am consoled knowing that they have been the impetus for our helping others.

A person's legacy may not be clear at death. It may take years or decades to realize what a lasting impact each of us has had. But, it is comforting to know that with dedication and a desire to create a better world, we are all creating a legacy that will outlive us. What will yours be?

With warmest regards,

Wendell Hicks
Executive Director

Foundations for SAAF's Mission

By Evelyn Rens, SAAF Grants Coordinator

Through the generosity of many corporate and private foundations, SAAF has been able to support programs and services to improve human potential, and the health and quality-of-life for people living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV. Thank you to the following foundations:

Nordstrom "racks" up support for the Complementary Therapies Program with grants totaling more than \$198,000. Its most recent gift enables people living with HIV and AIDS to benefit from life-enhancing wellness and alternative health care services such as: naturopathy, acupuncture and bodywork, and access to pharmaceutical-grade vitamins and nutritional supplements from SAAF's Travis Wright Memorial Buyers' Club.

Nordstrom's funding comes from a partnership with MAC Cosmetics. Every cent from sales of the VIVA GLAM line of lipsticks and "lipglasses" helps those living with HIV/AIDS worldwide. This year Musicians Nicki Minaj and Ricky Martin are its celebrity spokespersons. The two have teamed up to promote the signature VIVA GLAM products in order to raise \$250 million by July 2012, and increase awareness about HIV/AIDS.

Union Pacific Foundation presented a check to SAAF at a ceremony on March 22, 2012. This grant funds SAAF's Food Program for people living with HIV/AIDS. With its gift, Union Pacific helps SAAF provide more than 49,900 meals annually to more than 500 participants and their households.

The Comer Foundation made a critically needed grant to SAAF that enabled us to maintain the services of the Alternatives Syringe Access Program despite recent changes in federal policy. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes that syringe exchange programs reduce the incidence of HIV and viral hepatitis among injection drug users. Alternatives is a comprehensive program that provides additional harm-reduction resources and programming, including peer education training and referrals for drug treatment with partnering agencies.

The Comer Foundation
NORDSTROM



(l-r) SAAF Executive Director Wendell Hicks, Union Pacific Director of Media Relations Zoe Richmond, and SAAF Director of Development Ethan Smith Cox receive a grant from Union Pacific to fund SAAF's Food Programs which feed 100s each year

Volunteer Training

Get involved with SAAF. Join us for an upcoming volunteer orientation. This is the first step for anyone wanting to volunteer*.

Orientations take place from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at the SAAF office building, 375 South Euclid Avenue, Tucson, on:

- Tuesday, April 17, 2012
- Tuesday, May 8, 2012
- Tuesday, June 19, 2012

To sign up for Volunteer Orientation, contact Courtney Kelly, SAAF volunteer coordinator, at (520) 628-7223 or ckelly@saaf.org.

*(*No orientation is necessary for volunteers at fundraising events and Walk-in Wednesdays.)*



Baker's Mobile Aire and Lennox Industries helped SAAF raise the 20% match required by the Governor's Office to apply for the energy efficiency grant. Whenever possible, please support the businesses that support SAAF.
Thank you.

SAAF is Chilling Out... and Saving Energy

By Evelyn Rens, SAAF Grants Coordinator

If you ever visit, volunteer or work in the SAAF office building during the heat of summer, you'll appreciate this announcement. SAAF received an energy-efficiency grant to replace six aging air conditioning units. The Governor's Office of Energy Policy (formerly the Arizona Department of Commerce) offered this funding to help non-profit organizations improve energy-efficiency on commercial buildings they already own. SAAF purchased its 15,263 square foot office building in June 1999. Even then the air conditioning units were ten years old. Over the last five years, four out of ten building units had to be replaced and two needed repairs. (In 2010 The Arizona Department of Commerce also funded two solar energy projects on SAAF housing properties.)

Baker's Mobile Aire helped SAAF secure discounted pricing on six new Lennox Emergence models and contributed a portion of their labor. Last year, electric costs for cooling alone totaled more than \$16,000. We expect to realize a 30% energy savings on electricity and a 40% savings on gas. Within eight to nine years, the energy savings alone will pay for all six units. With the Energy Star rating, SAAF is also eligible to apply for a \$3,000 rebate from Tucson Electric Power Company.

Since 2006, SAAF has been implementing energy saving measures on all of its properties. Lighting fixtures in the offices were converted to environmentally friendly T8 28-watt lamps. We recently applied for a grant to install a solar energy system atop the office building. This would generate huge savings on electric bills. Wish us luck.



(l-r) Tatiana Bueras, Stacey Luethje, and Vera Bowlby

Staff Spotlight – Boomerangers

By Ethan Smith Cox, Development Director

A whopping 11 percent of SAAF employees are affectionately referred to as “Boomerangers” – current staff who once worked at SAAF, left for other opportunities, then returned. We thought it would be fun to highlight these individuals, find out why they left, what brought them back, and why they love working at SAAF.

Maritza Galaz

I started working at SAAF as a Bilingual Receptionist in January 2000 until June 2000, when my title changed to Office Assistant. I did this until April 2002 when I was hired as a Client Services Outreach Specialist. In February 2003 I became a Case Manager, a position I held until October of that year.

In October 2003 I went to work as a Continuity Care Coordinator for El Rio Special Immunology Associates, a close collaborator with SAAF. During my two months there, I worked for Dr. Lois Estok.

I came back to SAAF in December 2003 as a Case Manager and held that position until June 2007 when I was offered a Senior Case Manager position that I held until March 2009. In March 2009, I became the Senior Housing Case Manager and hold that position today.

I returned to SAAF because I was truly homesick. Although I enjoyed working at El Rio it was not the same as SAAF. I like working at SAAF for many reasons: I love the clients and being able to help them, and my job is very rewarding despite being sometimes difficult and stressful. SAAF is my home away from home.

Ethan Smith Cox

In June 2002, I began working at SAAF as the Volunteer Coordinator, a position I held until early 2004. In 2004/2005, I was Development Associate for six months, then Events Coordinator for ten months.

I left SAAF in June 2005 to be Assistant Director of Development with the Arizona Opera. SAAF was my first true fundraising job and I wanted to see what other development programs there were outside of SAAF. Over the next 5-1/2 years, I held development positions at Arizona Opera, the University of Arizona College of Engineering, and the Tucson Symphony Orchestra. I returned to SAAF in November 2010 as Development Director.

I have always loved SAAF. Before being employed here I was a volunteer for the Tucson AIDS Project, one of the 3 organizations that merged in 1997 to create SAAF. When I left, I missed its inspirational mission and the wonderful people. I always knew I would return someday.

SAAF is very unique, even in the non-profit community. Never before have I worked with such a dedicated group with such a focus on the mission. SAAF is an uplifting place to be and I consider my co-workers not just friends, but family, as clichéd and corny as that sounds.

Stacey Luethje

I worked for SAAF as the Support Services Associate for a year and a half, from February 2008 to August 2009. Then my hours were cut due to funding and I found a position at the University of Arizona that offered more hours.

My experience working at the University was not as I had hoped. I also become pregnant during that time with my daughter Tula. After she was born, Erin Butler, then SAAF’s Support Services Coordinator, called to ask if I would fill in while some key program staff were out of town. That was July 2010.

By August, I was offered a part-time job working with the Project Action program as an Intake Specialist. Tula came to work with me every day, which was such a blessing. In February 2011, I became a Support Specialist full-time. When funding for that program was running out, I applied for and secured a job as a Case Manager, a position I hold today.

I love working at SAAF because I have tremendous support from my co-workers including, Beth Carey, Mary Beth Jantzen, and Laura Henry. Because they have been so kind and respectful of me, I want to return and work hard every day. I am so grateful to be back at SAAF.

Vera Bowlby

The first time I worked for SAAF was as the Peer Counseling Coordinator from August 2006 to July 2008, at which time I moved to Atlanta for my husband’s business opportunity. While there I had a management position with a company that provides comprehensive assistance and training to the Tech Support and Sales Department for Model Master, a CAD/CAM software design and machinery company primarily servicing the Jewelry industry.

In January 2009 I returned to the same position at SAAF, Peer Counseling Coordinator. In September 2009, SAAF was awarded a grant to start a new Program called Project Action/HPRP. I applied and in October was hired as the Resource Specialist for Project Action. I am still in that position today.

For the two years prior to working at SAAF, I was a volunteer Peer Counselor. I met SAAF when I came for a tour. I immediately fell in love with the agency and decided to attend the trainings to get to know it better. I knew I had found a place where I could serve others.

At that time I had never worked in a non-profit or social service environment. I became aware of how unique SAAF is as soon as I started volunteering as a Peer Counselor. People here are very dedicated to the work they do and to the mission. I am proud to be a part of this big family that works for the wellbeing of our HIV/AIDS community.

Waco Starr

I was hired in January 2005 as an Outreach Worker with the Pulse for Life prevention program. This program addressed drug and harm reduction with a concentration on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections. I was soon promoted to Program Manager where I worked through November 2006, when I was laid off due to a funding cut. That day was one of the most challenging of my life. Over the two years I worked at SAAF, I met some amazing people and decided I never wanted to work anywhere else.

Following my layoff, I checked for new openings at SAAF weekly. After a few months, I stopped looking and realized that I may never be able to return to the best place I had ever worked. However, in May 2007, my chance came. I applied for and received the Health Educator position for the new MSHAPE (Men’s Sexual Health and Personal Empowerment) Program. I was rehired in June, seven months after I had left.

I held that position for three years, when I was promoted to Senior Health Education Specialist. My responsibilities changed. I was now seeing clients and participants who were HIV positive, and others whose risky behavior made them high risks for HIV infection. In June, I will have been working here for five years.

One has to have a strong personality and a good heart to work at SAAF. Our staff is like no other. Everyone cares for the clients and for each other. The issues that we face are tough and sometimes hard to hear. But in the end, we all know that it is for an amazing cause and for an amazing organization.

Tatiana Bueras

My first job at SAAF was as Receptionist, from November 2006 to March 2007, when I left due to my son’s health. I returned to the same position in June 2009. Since November 2010, I have been a Case Manager.

I came back because I missed the warmth and friendliness of SAAF staff and volunteers. After my son’s health got better, I worked in retail for about a year, and was miserable. I knew there was only one place where I would love to

work again . . . SAAF, and that was where I started my job search. I had high hopes that the Receptionist position would be open, and it was. To my surprise, I got the job for a second time, and have been back almost three years.

Many of my previous jobs were ordinary and left me feeling purposeless. But when I started working at SAAF, I immediately fell in love with the place. What makes it so wonderful? The special people who maintain their commitment and passion to help others. For me, SAAF staff is my family.

Gloria Vallejos

I first worked at SAAF from 2002-2007 as the Executive Assistant to then Executive Director Anne Maley. When Anne decided to leave, I felt that it would be best for the new Executive Director to hire his own Assistant and I went to work for Tucson City Councilmember Karin Uhlich.

I returned to SAAF in 2011 in the Administrative Assistant position working for Wendell Hicks, SAAF’s current Executive Director. Wendell and I had been in touch over the years and at lunch one day, I mentioned I was leaving my current job and hoping to find something where I could work 3 days a week. As fate would have it, Wendell was in search of a part-time assistant!

I had never worked for a non-profit before Anne hired me. I had just moved to Tucson from Denver and thought I might have skills that could be utilized at a non-profit. The thought of contributing to the greater good intrigued me and the experience added something that was missing from my life. I was given appreciation, genuine and heart-felt appreciation for my contributions to SAAF and that did wonders for my work relationships and created mutual trust and respect that improved productivity and morale. My experience previous to SAAF had been in the for-profit world – “continuous improvement focused” identifying inefficiencies in the system, structure and people and work to fix them – at SAAF it was more appreciating employees to create a happier workforce because what they do is rewarding but comes with a lot of stress. Given the opportunity to return to that “culture” was a no-brainer. I am fortunate to be back.



(l-r) Maritza Galaz, Waco Starr, Gloria Vallejos, and Ethan Smith Cox

Boomerangers photography by Alethea Do

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.

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, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Wednesday

9:00 am to 8:00 pm

2012 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Continued from page 1

By Courtney Kelly, Volunteer Coordinator

SAAF could not carry out its work without the commitment of our family 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, we appreciate the efforts of everyone who has helped make a difference for SAAF and the people we serve.

In 2011, volunteers gave a total of 27,323 hours to SAAF. This amounts to \$595,368 in value based on the Federal Government's determination that each volunteer hour equals \$21.79/hour.



2012 Volunteer Appreciation Awards

Award	Awardee
Administration .....	.Mimi Petro
Business Leadership .....	.Mike Kramkowski <i>IBT's/Woody's</i>
Care Services .....	.Phil Bossenbroek
Development .....	.Karly Fields
Education .....	.Miguel Moreno
Jean Cicci Peer Counseling .....	.John Jackson
Self-Empowerment .....	.Ken Harrell
Longtime Volunteer .....	.Joe Roos
Media Leadership .....	.Tucson Lifestyle Magazine
New Volunteer .....	.Victor Valdivia, Ken Coppola
Youth Prevention .....	.Juan Quevedo, Alejandro Gallego
Prevention .....	.Jason Witcher
Volunteer Resources .....	.Tom Martin
Group Effort .....	.ALLY Youth
Food Programs .....	.Patty Klein
Events .....	.Christin Gilmer
Prevention Collaborator .....	.Edge High School, Tucson Indian Center Allison Meyer <i>The Apothecary Shop</i>
Original Contribution	

SAAF Staff Volunteer Nominees

Eve Block
Cesar Egurrola
Laura Henry
Waco Starr
Monique Vallery - Winner

Volunteer of the Year Nominees

Peter Blasby
Phil Bossenbroek
Scott Griessel - Winner
Tom Martin

Möda Provöcateūr 2012 Raises over \$63,000

By Ethan Smith Cox, Development Director

More than 800 people celebrated the 9th Annual Möda Provöcateūr, presented by Title Sponsor Udall Law Firm, on Sunday March 4, at the Tucson Convention Center Grand Ballroom. If you weren't there, you missed one incredible show.

Local salons and boutiques came out in full force to put on an unforgettable event.

Some of the highlights of the evening included:

- Presentation of the Cele Peterson award to former Pour Moi Boutique owners Paula Taylor & Erin Burke,
- Incredible performances from BreakOut Studios and Texas-based vocalist Rachel Avonne,
- A \$10,000 audience match gift from an Anonymous donor (We more than achieved the match, raising an additional \$12,000!),
- Project Möda competition featured on the cover of the March 2012 *Tucson Lifestyle Magazine*.

You can still experience the event. View the photos online at www.saafmoda.org.

For a free download of Love is Contagious, the song Rachel Avonne wrote for the event, go to www.reverbnation.com/rachelavonne.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's event such a huge success. We'll see you next March 2013, as Möda celebrates a decade of doing "good" for SAAF.

mödaprovöcateūr



Moda Photography by Creatista

Are you HIV POSITIVE? Do you know someone who is?

By Beth Carey, Director of Care Services



(l-r) SAAF Peer Counselors Johnny Barker and Tim Cruz

Among the integrated services SAAF provides, Peer Counseling is one of the most important for those living with HIV/AIDS. As part of the program, Peer Counseling introduces them, their partners, and family members to SAAF and the local community of HIV care. It provides a safe, welcoming, reassuring environment for people who are newly diagnosed or entering into care here for the first time. The counseling embodies the SAAF philosophy of meeting people where they are by providing a peer-to-peer experience.

Tim Cruz, SAAF's Peer Counseling Coordinator, describes the range of experiences of those coming to SAAF. They include people who find out they are HIV+ after being tested or while hospitalized, are incarcerated and doing their discharge planning, are new to town, or are connecting with SAAF for the first time. "Our role is that connector piece. They see us first. We are someone they know, even if they have never met us."

The Peer Counseling staff and volunteers have many jobs. They conduct intake interviews with new participants, help identify treatment options and providers, find appropriate referrals, provide emotional support, and help facilitate the process so that people can enhance their strengths. Family members and partners may also benefit from Peer Counseling. They can learn more about HIV, their family member's illness, and talk about the death of a loved one.

The members of the SAAF Peer Counseling team live with or are deeply affected by HIV/AIDS. Tim Cruz is the Peer Counseling Coordinator; Johnny Barker, the Peer Counseling Associate; and the four volunteer Peer Counselors are currently Brian, James, John, and Phil. Each of these men delivers the message that one can live a quality life with HIV, you are not alone, there are resources and help available when needed, and together we can work to see things with a new perspective.

Johnny Barker has been on the staff since January 2012 as Peer Counseling Associate. This is a new position created to expand the role of SAAF in the community, as well as to identify people living with HIV/AIDS who are not connected to medical services or to services at SAAF. Reflecting on his work, Johnny says, "We're seeing a lot of people moving into town because they see the quality of HIV care in our community. I am inspired by those I meet and by their stories. I can't believe the diversity. There are no stereotypes for living with HIV. Everyone has a personal story—none of them are the same."

Tim Cruz echoes, "Every day here is a different experience. I am grateful that I am able to witness the journeys people make, and the transitions they go through. I see them move from crisis to acceptance to volunteerism and activism."

People living with or who are deeply affected by HIV/AIDS are invited to consider serving as volunteer Peer Counselors. If you are interested in learning more, contact Tim Cruz at tcruz@saaf.org.

For Phil Bossenbroek, a Peer Counselor since 2002, volunteering provides a chance to thank SAAF. He states: "Peer Counseling is an opportunity for me to meet people, to share with them, learn from them, and perhaps give them some guidance and support in their struggle to understand medications, systems, and the various bureaucracies in the world of HIV. I get inspiration from dealing with my peers."

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Editing: Jill Provan, M.L.S.

Layout and Design: WhiteSpace Design, LLC

Printing: CP Graphics

Printed on Recycled Paper
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