

Möda Provöcateūr 2013: We Take Care of Our Own

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

Join us on Sunday March 3, 2013 at the Tucson Convention Center Grand Ballroom for the 10th Annual Möda Provöcateūr, a hair and fashion extravaganza benefiting SAAF.

This year's theme is "We Take Care of Our Own" and participating salons and boutiques are pulling out all the stops to celebrate Möda's Diamond Anniversary. In addition to the wild hair and fashion you have come to expect, this year's event will also feature a raffle with dozens of exciting prizes; Project Moda: showcasing up-and-comers on the fashion scene; amazing performances; and a few surprises.

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**we take
care
of our
own**

Early bird rates are effective through February 8 and tickets for Möda Provöcateūr are limited so go to www.saafmoda.org to order yours today.

mödaprovöcateūr

Reflections on 2012 – Wishes for 2013



Photo by Scott Griessel, Creatista

Instead of sharing just my reflections on 2012, I decided to do something a little different. I asked some of my colleagues, co-workers and Board members to share with me what they have been grateful for during the past year and their wishes for SAAF in the coming year.

Without fail, everyone expressed gratitude for being able to work at SAAF. Several people mentioned they were grateful to be a part of the “SAAF family”. **Mariano** talked about how the strong relationships with co-workers help all of us provide a “better level of care and services.”

Monique acknowledged that “we can always count on SAAF’s staff and community volunteers to come through and help out at fundraising events like **AIDSWALK** and **Möda Provöcateür**.” **Todd** told me “even when it gets hard at times, SAAF is a family and continues to be a family.” He expressed his appreciation for the front office team including staff and volunteers. “Their role is really important; they are the first people clients meet or talk to and they keep the rest of the agency running smoothly.”

Sue and I worked together for many years at an **AIDS** service organization in East Texas where she was a prevention counselor. Sue came to SAAF in March 2009 and told me she couldn’t imagine working anywhere else. We share a common perspective. “This community has so much compared to where we came from.” Sue is truly grateful that after the grant funding her position with **HIP/AZ** ended that funds were available so she could continue to provide prevention counseling services for **HIV** positive people. “I get teary just thinking about it.”

T Loving recognized the importance of these “desperately needed services” and the people who provide them. “It is not just about keeping staff in the SAAF family. These people reach individuals who are disconnected and unaware how to access services they need to prevent **HIV**.”

Katrina appreciated “the opportunity to provide **HIV** testing services to women affected by domestic violence who received services at **Emerge**. These women would likely never have been tested without this collaboration.”

Angel, Katrina, and Luis are all grateful for prevention programs including lifesaving harm reduction services for people who inject drugs. They recognized that “treating people with dignity and respect, providing them the resources and information they need to stay healthy is what harm reduction is all about.”

Luis is grateful and proud that SAAF was only one of ten organizations in the country to receive a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide rapid **Hepatitis C** testing services to people who inject drugs. “No one else is doing this in the community and there is a big need.” Luis was also grateful that “we were able to expand hours to provide increased **HIV** testing at SAAF.”

Board members **Mimi Petro** and **Steve Gottlieb** wanted to recognize SAAF’s staff. Mimi knows “they really came together during a really tough year with the budget cuts. They really think outside the box to make sure clients get what they need.” Steve concurred, “SAAF’s staff has incredible imagination and creativity. Even with all the budget cuts and changes, morale stays positive.”

Tabitha admired the dedication of her co-workers for “confronting the budget cuts with creativity and humor by donning high-heels and wigs as SAAF Stars.”

Monique seconded that. She is thankful that “**Lucinda Holliday** gave SAAF’s staff a fun way to get involved with fundraising” and gave snaps to SAAF’s fledgling drag kings and queens (including yours truly as **Frida Lei**) who risked sprained ankles and bruised egos to raise nearly \$10,000 for **Share Bears** and the **Change Later** group.

Erin, Laura and **Maritza** all appreciate what their jobs give back to them. Erin is grateful to “work in a place where I have the opportunity to learn and grow as well as contribute.” Maritza is grateful to be “a part of SAAF and help our clients. I am thankful and take pride in providing services that help people living with **HIV/AIDS**.” Laura enjoys having “a fulfilling, rewarding job and challenging work. It’s not just a job. We provide unbelievable services to clients that have a real impact and make a difference.”

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Gaby shared a very touching personal story: “This work, serving people living with HIV, is close to my heart. My brother passed away from AIDS. I really appreciated the support he received from the AIDS service organization where we lived. My brother was an activist. He did so much for the gay community. I wanted to do something in his memory. When I got to Tucson, SAAF is the first place I came to apply for work. I have a wonderful job and SAAF is a blessing.”

It is truly amazing and heartwarming to work at an agency where people see their job as more than a paycheck. Like others, it is truly an honor and a privilege to serve and to give back through my work.

When asking people to share their wishes for SAAF in 2013, I invited them not to hold back but to express their fondest hopes and dream big.

“...treating people with dignity and respect, providing them the resources and information they need to stay healthy is what harm reduction is all about.”

— SAAF Co-workers,
Angel, Katrina, and Luis

Every single person in the Prevention Department mentioned finding funding to have a prevention program for all gay, bisexual and transgender men. T noted “there was the loss of a really pivotal connection from SAAF that is affecting the entire community.” I am with them.

One of our wishes already came true. **Cox Communications** provided generous support making Luis’s wish to purchase a mobile unit come true. Luis shared that “having the mobile unit will allow us to expand HIV testing services, to increase outreach activities to gay men and youth and enhance SAAF’s capability to reach isolated rural areas in southern Arizona.”

Felipe and **Vera** wanted more safe housing opportunities for clients. Vera points out that “people living with HIV who do not have housing do not follow through with their medical appointments and treatment.

In order for people to engage in treatment they have to have stable housing.” Felipe says that “there can be up to a six month waiting list for housing. I would always like to be able to house anyone when they’re in need without having to place them on a waiting list.”

Laura’s wish is that the Share Bear fund would maintain a healthy balance so “we provide more support services for clients that are not covered by other funding.” Share Bears covers items such as eyeglasses or vehicle repairs for clients who can’t take the bus to medical appointments and are not eligible for Sun Van, but cannot afford repairs or new tires. These things improve quality of life.

I think **Ethan** echoed a sentiment everyone at SAAF embraces: that in 2013 none of the people SAAF serves would be in need.

SAAF board member **Steve Gottlieb** didn’t hesitate to dream big. “I want SAAF to have a \$5 million endowment.” He knows this would enable SAAF to provide services without worrying about shrinking government funding. I hope his wish comes true.

If you are receiving this newsletter, then you are in some way a part of the SAAF family too. On behalf of everyone at SAAF, we wish you health, joy, peace and prosperity in this New Year!

Wendell Hicks

Wendell Hicks, Executive Director

Support Groups

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)

2nd Thursday Each Month

Friends and Family Support Group
5:30 pm - 6:45 pm @ SAAF

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



“Because of the help I receive through the Complementary Therapies Program, I am able to manage my life a little better than if I wasn’t on any program. I am able to help others in the same situation because of this. I am thankful for this program and the people that operate it. Because of them, we in our community are able to function closer to normal.”

— SAAF Client

Photos by Scott Griessel, Creatista

AIDSWALK 2012 – A Big Success

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development



This year's AIDSWALK saw over 3,000 walkers and pets as well as 500 volunteers in its new location in Downtown Tucson. Held on Sunday October 14, supporters of SAAF came out to help open panels of the quilts that are a part of the National AIDS Memorial Project, get free HIV testing, and participate in the Walk. This year's event was in collaboration with the annual Tucson Meet Yourself (TMY) festival which allowed SAAF to save more than 15% on expenses while reaching out to the more than 100,000 attendees at TMY.

SAAF would like to say a BIG "Thank You" to our Title Sponsor, Desert Diamond Casino and Entertainment, as well as the TMY Board of Directors led by Mia Hansen and Maribel Alvarez, and everyone who made this year's event such a great success, raising more than \$138,000 for the programs and services of SAAF.

A Special "Congratulations" to this year's Top Fundraisers. We couldn't have done it without you!

- Top Individual Fundraiser - Adult:**Michael Steinberg
- Top Individual Fundraiser - Youth:**Anna Jean White
- Top School Team K-12:**Saguaro Cougars
- Top College/University Team:**Delta Lambda Phi-Omega Chapter
- Top Friends/Family/Pets Team:**Fight for Life
- Top Corporate Team:**Raytheon
- Top Small Business Team:**Loop Jean Company

We'll look forward to seeing you on Sunday October 13, 2013 for the 25th Annual AIDSWALK!



2012/13 Fundraising Events

Bowling for Tommy
Saturday January 19, 2013
Bedroxx, 4385 West Ina Road
www.saaf.org/bowlingfortommy

Möda Provöcateūr
Sunday March 3, 2013
Tucson Convention Center
Grand Ballroom
www.saafmoda.org

Jell-O Wrestling
Saturday April 27, 2013
NEW LOCATION -
The Slaughterhouse
www.jello-wrestling.org

Bowling for Tommy is January 19 at Bedroxx!

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

Save the date for everyone's favorite night of bowling, fun, and fundraising for SAAF! Bowling for Tommy 2013 will take place on Saturday January 19 from 4:00-6:30pm at Bedroxx. Individual bowlers can register for \$30 and lanes of 6 can be purchased for \$180 and include one large pizza and one pitcher of soda as well as shoe rental for 6.

Special Thanks to the 2013 Bowling for Tommy Sponsors: Emcor, Waterfall, Economidis, Caldwell, Hanshaw, & Villamana and Kristie Graham, who have helped make this event possible.

To register, call (520) 628-SAAF (7223) or go online to www.saaf.org/bowlingfortommy.



Jell-O Wrestling is Almost Here... And We Need YOU!

By Monique Vallery, Associate Director of Development

The Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction will be held on Saturday April 27, 2013 at a brand new venue, The Slaughterhouse, located at 1102 West Grant Road, just near the I-10 entrance. This year marks more than a quarter of a century that Jell-O Wrestling has been raising money in support of the programs and services of SAAF and we are planning some big surprises to mark this anniversary in style!



For those of you who may want to wrestle- it is time to put on your wrestling tights and get ready to get sticky! We are looking for 10 teams of two to wrestle at this year's event. Wrestlers raise funds to face-off in a pit of Jell-O, often in extraordinary costumes. Between wrestling matches, our Drag Queen Hostesses run a live auction featuring a variety of unique items selected to please the crowd.

**Want to be a part of SAAF's wildest fundraising event?
Then contact Monique Vallery at mvalley@saaf.org or
visit www.jello-wrestling.org.**



Photos by Scott Griessel, Creatista



2012 Jérôme Beillard Festival for Life

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

The 24th Annual Jérôme Beillard Festival for Life, presented by The Long Realty Cares Foundation at the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center, was a huge success with over 650 people joining us to raise more than \$105,000 for SAAF!

Musician Richard Noel entertained the crowd as the silent auction kicked into high gear with over 500 items on display. Wendell Hicks, SAAF's Executive Director, started the live auction with a warm welcome and introduced Lupita Murillo (KVOA TV) and Bobby Rich (Mix FM Radio), our evening's emcees. Lupita was honored by Wendell for her 15 years as a Festival emcee with an artist-commissioned framed paper prayer.

The live auction included incredible items including trips to San Diego & Mexico as well as jewelry, artwork, and sculpture, which helped raise a quick \$22,700! As anyone who witnessed the live auction can tell you, it was one of the most exciting in recent memory.

This amazing event is made possible by the hundreds of items donated by local artists, businesses, framers, and individuals. The variety and quality of work is amazing. Our Festival Committee works throughout the year to ensure that Festival for Life continues to be a showcase for all of the wonderful artists and businesses in our community. **It also takes over 100 volunteers to help put this event together and we thank them for their contribution.**



Photos by Leslie Leathers

Volunteers Making a Difference

With the gracious help of volunteers, SAAF's two big fall fundraising events, AIDS WALK and Festival for Life, went off without a hitch!

More than 500 volunteers provided 2,200 hours of volunteer time for SAAF's largest fundraising event, AIDS WALK. In November, more than 100 volunteers helped with Festival for Life, SAAF's annual live and silent auction. Without the help of these volunteers, neither of these events would have been possible. Volunteers also played a crucial role at this year's World AIDS Day held at Hotel Congress on December 1st.

Thanks to everyone who came out and made such a big difference in all of SAAF's fundraising efforts.



Get involved with SAAF.

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

Volunteer Orientation

Tuesday, January 15
Tuesday, February 19
Tuesday, March 19

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

To sign up for Volunteer Orientation, contact RJ Wilkinson, SAAF Volunteer Coordinator, at (520) 628-7223 or rjwilkinson@saaf.org

Foundations for SAAF's Mission

By Evelyn Rens, Grants Coordinator

Through the commitment and generosity of corporate and private foundations, SAAF is able to provide programs and services that improve the health and quality of life for people living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV/AIDS.

We would like to recognize the following organizations for their continuing support:

Alliance Fund introduced the Queer Youth Initiative in 2010. This funding supports projects that create equity and enhance the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth. They give special attention to projects that involve youth in decision-making. This year, SAAF was awarded two grants: one for youth-directed efforts of Project ALLY (Arizona Life Links for Youth) the suicide prevention program and one for the Eon Sexual Health Education Program for LGBTQ Youth.



Armstrong McDonald Foundation made a generous grant in support of the Complementary Therapies Program. SAAF is one of the few AIDS service organizations in the country that still provides life enhancing alternative health care services for people living with HIV and AIDS through Armstrong McDonald Foundation's continuing commitment.



Entertainment AIDS Alliance hosts charitable events throughout the year to raise funds that are distributed in the form of emergency assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS in the entertainment industry and to make grants to AIDS service organizations like SAAF.



Cox Charities builds, strengthens, and invests in Arizona's youth. Employee contributions and fundraising efforts are distributed to local non-profits through the United Way in support of youth development programs in Southern Arizona. This year, Cox is supporting Project ALLY.



Everyone at SAAF is excited to receive funding from these new foundation partners:

Banfield Charitable Trust provided a start-up grant for the Pawsitive Friends Pet Food Bank. SAAF's Food Pantry now provides dog and cat food to pet owners living with HIV/AIDS so they can feed their four-legged friends.



RBC Foundation: A special thanks to Richard Schaefer and Randy Cox at RBC Dain Rauscher for writing in support of SAAF's grant request. We received funding for SAAF's Food Program for People Living with HIV/AIDS.



Chase Community Giving invites their customers and the public to vote for their favorite charities on Facebook. This year, agencies also had the option to receive a cash gift without participating in the nationwide voting process. SAAF appreciates receiving this grant.

March is Write A Will month

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development



More than half of all adult Americans do not currently have a will. If you do not have a will at the time of death, the State will make determinations about how your estate is divided up. In Arizona, if you are part of an unmarried, same-sex couple, your surviving partner will receive nothing from your estate without a will.

Take control of your future by attending SAAF's upcoming Write A Will workshop. This workshop is free and will offer great insight into what it takes to secure your future and the future of your loved ones.

Workshop Date
Saturday March 23, 2013
10:00am-11:30am
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation
375 South Euclid Avenue

RSVP to Fred Rodriguez at (520) 628-SAAF (7223) or frodriquez@saaf.org by March 19, 2013

SAAF Board Member Arlette Stevens Honored

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development



Arlette Stevens is a nurse practitioner in Otolaryngology at Southern Arizona VA Health Care System in Tucson and joined the SAAF Board of Directors last year. Arlette was recognized as one of this year's Hispanic 40 Under 40 leaders at a ceremony held at the Biltmore Resort & Spa in Phoenix on October 3. Started in 2007, the 40 Hispanic Leaders Under 40 Awards are sponsored by Univision Radio-Phoenix and Valle del Sol.

In addition to serving on SAAF's Board, Arlette also works a weekend or two each month as a sexual assault nurse examiner at the Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault in Tucson and is involved in the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN), having served as the Valle del Sol chapter secretary and on the national scholarship and nominating committees.

Winning this award is humbling, Stevens said. "I know there were a variety of people who were selected, and I feel good because I'm representing nurses and... the Center Against Sexual Assault and VA. That aspect is very rewarding because I've learned from these organizations... to become a better person and a better nurse practitioner."

SAAF congratulates Arlette on this well-deserved honor.

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

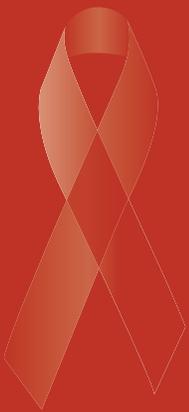


"Ever since my family and I moved into SAAF housing we have been treated with dignity and respect by all staff members and we are very satisfied and happy with our lives."

— Participants in SAAF Housing



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



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
9:00 am to 6:00 pm

SAAF Teams Up with Out in the Desert Film Festival for Free Screening of Positive Youth

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

On Thursday January 24, SAAF and the Out in the
Desert Film Festival will team up to present a free
screening of *Positive Youth*, a documentary focusing
on the lives of 4 young people living with HIV.

This powerful 2012 documentary was an official
selection at the FilmOut-San Diego, Toronto
Inside-Out, and Phoenix Film Festivals.

The screening of this 45 minute film will take
place at Fluxx Studios, located at 414 East 9th
Street, starting at 3:45pm and will be followed
by a Q & A with positive youth in the Tucson
Community.

**Please join us for this powerful and
uplifting story.**

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.