



## A Big Dream Comes True

By Wendell Hicks

*“When you want something all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.”*

~Melchizedek in Paolo Coelho's *The Alchemist*

I am always telling my colleagues and SAAF's staff to dream big. Conceiving a clear vision of what you want is the first step. But in order to make it a reality, the next step is having a plan, a way to focus that vision into a firm intention.

In 2008, SAAF conducted an intensive strategic planning process. Unlike other organizations who make plans from the top down, SAAF included people from every level in the organization – staff, managers, directors and Board members. One of the goals in the completed 2009 – 2011 Strategic Plan was expanding the scope of service including research into options for property development. The reason for this was to address the waiting list for SAAF's housing, especially two and three-bedroom units for families.

The intention became developing a new supportive housing community for people with HIV/AIDS and other disabilities. The key to manifesting any vision or intention is to keep focused on the end result and see it through even in the face of obstacles.

Although the first property identified seemed to be ideal, the seller was not willing to work with SAAF on the price. Moving forward, through a relationship with long-time donors Pat and Chuck Pettis, SAAF found another vacant parcel in South Tucson and a seller willing to work with us as we applied for funding. Ironically, my partner Kevin told me he knew exactly where the property was located. He told me he used to live in the nearby Bravo Park neighborhood and that he and his friends walked through and played on that lot.

With the property identified, the project got an official name: Park Avenue Casitas.

SAAF went on to work with the architect Corky Poster of Poster Frost Mirto. He interviewed clients living in SAAF's Stephenson Place and housing staff asking how they would improve their current units and also what features they wished they could have. Corky's creative concept included green building and sustainable design such as covered parking with solar panels that would provide energy for the units. He also incorporated a dog park and playground.

An application was submitted to HUD (U.S. Housing and Urban Development) for Section 811 funding. It was very disappointing that it was declined. In fact, in 2011, HUD did not fund any proposed projects in Arizona.

Undaunted, SAAF continued to move forward. I reached out to my colleague, Michael McDonald, the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Tucson. Initially, he indicated that Habitat's mission was specifically home ownership for low-income individuals. But through continuing dialogue and a shared vision to increase all types of housing opportunities in the community, the Park Avenue Casitas project evolved into something even greater than originally intended.

SAAF joined with Habitat for Humanity Tucson and Primavera Foundation on an expanded vision of a multifamily housing community that addresses and prevents homelessness by providing affordable rental housing for people living with HIV/AIDS, grandparents raising their grandchildren, and veterans, and provides home-ownership opportunities for low-income families. It was this creative partnership and unique vision that served to attract the funders willing to invest in the Park Avenue Casitas.

In January 2013, SAAF purchased the 1.5 acre property at Park Avenue and South Fremont.

I am deeply grateful and want to thank the following organizations and individuals who made this big dream a reality:

Pat and Chuck Pettis have been in on this almost from the start and contributed financial and moral support.

Michael McDonald at Habitat for Humanity Tucson made the first financial contribution to purchase the Park Avenue property and for shared his knowledge and resources.

Nikki Halle and Jennifer Teufel embraced the dream and provided a very generous gift made by the Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation's H2H (Homeless 2 Homeowner) grant program.

Linda and Jennifer Lohse expressed great enthusiasm for this project and literally moved mountains to facilitate the remaining funding needed through the Tucson Foundation to facilitate the land purchase.

Barbara McGill at Long Realty has been passionately committed to this project from the very beginning, working diligently to see it through to fruition.

I look forward to sharing the next milestones in this exciting collaboration... Stay tuned.

With warmest regards,

*Wendell Hicks*

Wendell Hicks  
Executive Director

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SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS  
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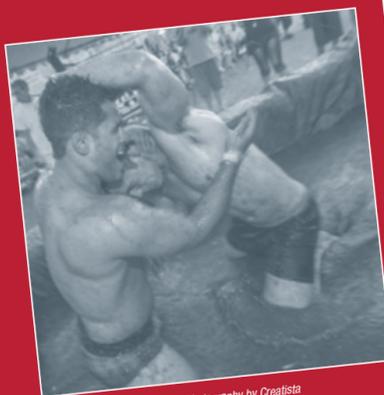
# CONNECTION

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Jell-O Photography by Creatista

## Jell-O Wrestling is Coming!

By Monique Vallery, Associate Director of Development



The 26th Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction, sponsored by IBT's, will be held on Saturday April 27, 2013 at its new home, the Slaughterhouse, located at 1102 West Grant Road. This year's event will be a celebration of the past and present. There will be great food, beverages, wrestling, auction, queens, and everything in between.

If you want to be a part of SAAF's oldest event, please contact Monique Vallery at [mvallery@saaf.org](mailto:mvallery@saaf.org) or visit us online at [www.jello-wrestling.org](http://www.jello-wrestling.org).

Purchase Jell-O VIP packages through April 15 online and get 5 raffle tickets, one admission ticket, and one drink ticket and save over 20%!

THE  
SAAF

April, May, June  
Spring 2013  
Tucson, Arizona

# CONNECTION

The Newsletter of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

Volume 1, Issue 3

## SAAF 2013 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

By RJ Wilkinson, Volunteer Coordinator

SAAF will once again shine the spotlight on our wonderful volunteers at our annual Volunteer Appreciation event. This year's event will take place on Thursday April 11 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Historic Y. Dinner will be catered by Carte Blanche and served by SAAF employees, followed by an awards ceremony where we will present awards in 20 categories.



### This year's Honorees:

- Administration: Josh Guzman
- Business Leadership: Speedway Veterinary Hospital
- Care Services: Ken Harrell
- Development: Claire Ortloff & Cindy Joy
- Education: Elizabeth Scruggs
- Jean Cicci Peer Counseling: Ken Harrell
- Self-Empowerment: Gwen Valentine
- Longtime Volunteer: Jim Wymore and Gary Phelan
- Media Leadership: Alphagraphics
- New Volunteer: Jennifer Coldren
- Youth Prevention: Miguel Moreno
- Original Contribution: Gloria Vasquez-Harvey, DJ Dailous, and Barbara McGill
- Prevention: Mary Moreno and Scott McManus
- Volunteer Resources: Larry Lautzenheiser
- Group Effort: Bears of the Old Pueblo
- Food Programs: Jesse Moreno
- Events: Curt Beall
- Prevention Collaborator: Tucson Unified School District Nurses

### SAAF Staff Volunteer Nominees

Johnny Barker  
Maritza Galaz  
Laura Henry  
Waco Starr

### Volunteer of the Year Nominees

Curt Beall  
Peter Bleasby  
Tom Martin  
Larry Moore/Lucinda Holliday  
Mary Moreno  
Gary Phelan

RSVP to Fred Rodriguez, Development Associate, at (520) 628-SAAF (7223) or [fr Rodriguez@saaf.org](mailto:fr Rodriguez@saaf.org).

### In This Issue:

- SAAF 2013 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Page 1
- A Big Dream Comes True Page 2
- Staff Spotlight - T Loving Page 3
- Foundations For SAAF's Mission Page 4
- National HIV Testing Day Page 4
- Möda Prövcateür Page 4
- SAAF's Complementary Therapies Program Page 5
- Jell-O Wrestling is Coming! Page 6

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.

## \$1 Raffle



## Beyoncé Live in Las Vegas!

### Includes:

- Two Concert Floor Seats at the MGM Grand on June 29, 2013;
- Two Night Stay at the MGM Grand;
- \$100 Visa gift card!



T Loving

## Staff Spotlight- T Loving

By Ethan Smith Cox, Development Director

T Loving has worked at SAAF for 3 1/2 years now as a Prevention Program Manager. T oversees 3 programs, ALLY (Arizona's Life Links for Youth) a Suicide Prevention program focused on reducing the rates of suicide among youth ages 14-24 in Arizona with particular focus on reducing rates among LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, & Intersexed) youth. HYPE (HIV Youth Peer Empowerment), a program focusing on reducing the rates of HIV and STI (sexually transmitted infections) among youth ages 13-21 in Arizona and Voz, a program that focuses on reducing substance use/ abuse rates among youth ages 13-21 in Pima County, with particular focus on reducing rates among youth of color and LGBTQI youth. While each of the three programs are different, each program does focus on providing knowledge, building life skills such as effective communication, understanding risk and protective factors, and enhancing critical thinking, decision making, and refusal skills for self-efficacy, and building resiliency. Additionally, each program utilizes a combination of outreach, community education sessions, facilitated classroom lessons, experiential learning activities, and peer led projects to cultivate growth and knowledge. Each of these programs collaborate with numerous organizations, schools, youth service providers, individuals, and coalitions within AZ in order to enhance the provision of service and support to the communities we serve.

T states, "I love working at SAAF because SAAF just simply gets it. This organization is full of the most amazing people—people who are dedicated to providing the highest quality of support and services to their communities. I feel like SAAF, as an organization, and the individuals who work here are not afraid to stand for what they believe in and not afraid to go to bat for those they serve. People who work at SAAF don't come here every day just because it's their job—they come here because they are compassionate warriors who will not stand idly by waiting for change".

When asked about the challenges in her position, T responded, "The biggest challenges for me in my current position are the barriers around providing effective and comprehensive prevention and harm reduction education for youth. There is a rumor going around that if we talk with you about sex, drugs, and suicide—that will make you want to do these things. Additionally, many people simply do not believe that harm reduction is an applicable method for individuals and feel even more strongly about it in regards to youth. So, we often find ourselves in a difficult situation. Sites, groups, and individuals will invite us in to provide training and education but then we are told that we can't talk about x, y, or z due to policies and procedures of a site and or rules and regulations set forth on the state level. Imagine trying to provide effective sexual health education and being told you can't talk about sex. However, it should be known that we have been blessed to partner with some of the most amazing sites, educational institutions, individuals, and organizations ever to exist. They are folks who understand that the most detrimental thing for an individual is a lack of knowledge".

T has been in the non-profit community for over a decade now, holding positions with Wingspan, Arizona Opera, and the Invisible Theatre in addition to her current work at SAAF. T is also the proud mother of 2 cats, Jahmal and Gregory Lamar as well as two grandpuppies, Flower and Bean. Flower is a beautiful and loving black lab mix with floppy ears who loves to hold hands and Bean is super sweet yellow lab-pit mix with a pouty pink bottom lip who keeps everyone in line.

When asked for some fun facts about herself, T mentions that she grew up in a town with a population of 850 people and is obsessed with the television drama Spartacus.

T likes to relax by: Taking moments throughout the day to chat & laugh with clients and program participants; 30-second dance parties (in my desk chair, in the hallway, in my living room, in a store, in my mind); Re-reading through her collection of queer fiction and watching Spartacus.

*"I love working at SAAF because SAAF just simply gets it. This organization is full of the most amazing people—people who are dedicated to providing the highest quality of support and services to their communities."*

*-T Loving*

## Volunteer Training

Get involved with SAAF. Join us for an upcoming volunteer orientation, the first step for anyone wanting to volunteer at SAAF.\*

Orientations take place from 5:30 - 8:30pm at the SAAF office building located at 375 South Euclid Avenue

Tuesday, April 16, 2013  
Tuesday, May 21, 2013  
Tuesday, June 18, 2013

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

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

## 2013 SAAF Fundraising Events

**Jell-O Wrestling**  
Saturday April 27, 2013  
The Slaughterhouse-  
1102 West Grant Road  
www.jello-wrestling.org

**AIDSWALK Tucson**  
Sunday October 13, 2013  
Downtown Tucson  
www.aidswalktucson.com

## Foundations for SAAF's Mission

By Evelyn Rens, SAAF Grants Coordinator

In January 2013, SAAF purchased a one and a half acre parcel of land in South Tucson for an exciting new housing community – the Park Avenue Casitas. We proudly recognize the following organizations and individuals for their gifts which enabled the land purchase

A special thanks to Linda and Jennifer Lohse at Tucson Foundations for their interest and responsiveness.

A special thanks to Nikki Halle and Jennifer Teufel for facilitating a very generous gift made by the Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation's H2H (Homeless 2 Homeowner) grant program.

A special thanks to Michael McDonald, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity of Tucson for embracing the vision and for Habitat's financial contribution.

Pat and Chuck Pettis introduced SAAF to the seller of the land that was purchased and made a generous contribution.

Thanks to Barbara McGill at Long Realty for putting in many hours to negotiate the contract and secure the land.

Park Avenue Casitas is a collaborative project between SAAF, Habitat for Humanity Tucson and Primavera Foundation. This housing community serves to address and prevent homelessness by providing affordable housing for people living with HIV/AIDS, grandparents raising their grandchildren, veterans and home-ownership opportunities for low-income families.



## Möda Provöcateūr 2013 Raises over \$65,000!

By Ethan Smith Cox, Development Director

Möda Provöcateūr, presented by Title Sponsor Udall Law Firm and Co-Title Sponsor Arizona Lottery, took place on Sunday March 3 at the Tucson Convention Center Grand Ballroom and did we ever pull out all the stops to celebrate the 10th anniversary in style! More than 700 people were in attendance this year and if you were not 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 Tucson Lifestyle Magazine
- A special award to Kevin Casey, Moda co-creator
- Incredible performances from BreakOut Studios, & Atifac Dance Project
- A \$10,000 audience match gift from a generous donor. We achieved the match, raising an additional \$10,000+!
- The hilarious hi-jinx of Ajia Simone
- And our ever-gracious host, Chuck George

Experience the event for yourself. Photos are available on Facebook and video from the event can be found at www.tmediapromotion.com. Special thanks to Scott Griessel of Creatista for the amazing photos and Bill Travis at T Media for filming and posting the show online.

Thanks to everyone who came out and helped make this year's event such a huge success.

## National HIV Testing Day is June 27

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

Thursday June 27, 2013 marks the 18th annual National HIV Testing Day.

In 1995 the National Association of People Living with AIDS (NAPWA) founded 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 Testing Day, 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 five days a week by appointment or walk-in: Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 am to 1:00pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00pm to 8:00 pm, and Fridays from 10:00am to 4:00pm. For appointments, call 520-628-SAAF (7223).

## SAAF's Complementary Therapies Program

By Anna Griessel, Support Services Manager



*"I've been fortunate to be using Comp Therapies for years. I know it is one of the reasons I still have a good quality of life."*

- Current SAAF client

SAAF is proud to offer clients a Complementary Therapies Program. Simply stated, complementary therapies are those medical practices used in conjunction with HIV therapy that fall outside conventional Western medicine. SAAF's Complementary Therapies Program provides access to a Naturopathic Physician and therapies including acupuncture, massage, chiropractic care, as well as nutritional supplements purchased through the Travis Wright Memorial Buyers' Club located at The Medicine Shoppe.

Complementary therapies are often used to ease the side effects associated with taking HIV medications and to promote stress relief and general wellness. Some of the benefits that participants in the program report are more energy, less pain, improved mental health, return of sense of smell (via acupuncture), and more flexibility. These small changes drastically improve the quality of life for those living with HIV/AIDS.

SAAF's Complementary Therapies program is open to registered clients of SAAF who meet medical and financial guidelines and who are referred by their physicians. Each participant is given a monthly budget based on their financial need. They choose their mix of services based on their health needs and a recommended protocol from the Naturopath.

Over the years, as public funding for Complementary Therapies has ceased, SAAF has been able to maintain the program with previous support from the David C. and Lura M. Lovell Foundation and generous annual support from the Armstrong McDonald Foundation and from Nordstrom through their sales of Viva Glam lipsticks from MAC Cosmetics.

A very special thank you goes out to the practitioners that work with our Complementary Therapies Program to provide exceptional services to SAAF clients:

**Naturopathic Physicians**  
Beth Poindexter, ND MPH  
Lance Morris, NMD,FANCFM

**Massage Therapists**  
Bill Kruse, LMT  
Torrance Lowe, LMT  
Marco Prado, Shiatsu  
Tania Rhodes, LMT

**Chiropractic Care**  
Cheryll Straub, DC  
Daryl Shipley, DC  
Timothy Citro, DC

**Acupuncture Practitioners**  
Alice Adams, R.N., M.Ac., L.Ac.  
Lesley Romero, L.Ac.  
Maryann Tully, L.Ac., Dip. Ac.  
Catherine J. Lumenello, L.Ac.

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