



PRESENTS

AIDS WALK ARIZONA TUCSON

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SAAF's Mission

To create and sustain
a healthier community
through a compassionate,
comprehensive response
to HIV/AIDS.



AIDSWALK Tucson is Sunday October 12

by Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

We hope you can join us on Sunday October 12
for **AIDSWALK Tucson**. The event will kick off at Jácome



Plaza in front of the Main Library and the Walk & Run route will take you through the heart of the city! This year's event is once again in collaboration with Tucson Meet Yourself and we hope you will join us for **AIDSWALK**, starting at 7:00am, and stay for the final day of the Tucson Meet Yourself festival.

To learn more about this year's event, to register to walk, or to sponsor one of this year's many Walkers, visit www.aidswalktucson.com. We'll see you there!



Photo by Scott Grissel, Creatista

Walking in Another's Shoes

Where I grew up in rural East Texas we didn't have public transportation. That is still true today. So ever since I've lived in Tucson these past 7 years, I've always wondered when I pass people sitting at a bus stop – in all kinds of weather – what it must be like to have to rely on public transportation. I've seen them as they sit under bus shelters in blistering heat over 100 degrees or waiting uncovered when it rained. I've seen people with bags of groceries, mothers with strollers and toddlers, elderly people with walkers. I realized how privileged I was to have my first car when I was age 16.

Many of the people served by the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), about 40% at least, rely on some type of alternate transportation other than their own car. Some get around on Sun Tran, the public bus service, others walk or ride bicycles or a combination of all three. A few may take a taxi or ask friends and family for rides. Disabled persons may arrive by Sun Van or another transit service for people with disabilities.

What is it like to walk in another person's shoes? I decided to find out.

For the month of September, I challenged myself to give up driving my trusty 2005 Toyota Tacoma truck and committed to using alternative transportation to get around, no exceptions. This includes going to and

from work, off-site meetings, shopping, and appointments. Several people said to me, "Why don't you wait until October. The monsoon rains will have stopped and it will be cooler." Well I know that some of the people SAAF serves do not have the luxury of deciding whether or not to ride in hot weather or the rain.

JP, SAAF's IT technician who is an avid cyclist, helped me tune up my bicycle. Just the first few days were eye-opening. The new streetcar is two miles from my house. So I've been riding my bicycle to the nearest stop. When I went to purchase a SunGo card for the month, I had to ask a more experienced rider for help. The bus schedule is quite complex. I learned quickly that to fulfill my daily obligations requires a lot of planning around transportation.

I decided to take this challenge a step further, asking SAAF's employees to join me. Many did. I shouldn't have been surprised that a number already do use alternative transportation on a daily basis: riding bicycles to work, taking the bus, or bumming rides from friends. I am offering you a challenge. Don't worry: it's not to give up your car for a month.

Won't you join me in "walking in another's shoes" at the 2014 AIDS WALK? This is one day in the year where we can walk in solidarity to support those living with HIV/AIDS, to remember those lost to AIDS and to continue our efforts to prevent new HIV infections. This special event will take place in conjunction with Tucson Meet Yourself at the main library downtown.

(continued on page 3)

Walking in Another's Shoes (continued from page 2)

Many people living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS rely on SAAF for their food, transportation and housing. You can help SAAF meet our \$180,500 goal so we can help them in the coming year. I've set up my fundraising page on FirstGiving. Please visit it and give generously. Or even better, create your own FirstGiving page by visiting www.aidswalktucson.org and ask your friends to support AIDS WALK.

For the first time ever in the history of Arizona there will be AIDS WALKS in southern, central and northern Arizona. SAAF has teamed up with Aunt Rita's Foundation and Northland Cares, giving our organizations the unprecedented opportunity to raise awareness about the impact of HIV/AIDS on people in our communities and statewide.

SAAF's AIDS WALK is held on Sunday, October 12.

For the first time in northern Arizona, an AIDS WALK will take place on Saturday October 19 in Prescott, Arizona to benefit Northland Cares.

Aunt Rita's Foundation holds their AIDS WALK in the Phoenix area on Sunday October 26.

Please be assured: 100% of ALL funds raised for AIDS WALK Tucson stay here in our community to support people living with HIV/AIDS served by SAAF.

I'd be grateful if you joined me in walking in another's shoes at the 2014 AIDS WALK!



Wendell Hicks
Executive Director



Wendell on his bicycle. Photo courtesy of Danny Catt

2014/2015 Fundraising Events

AIDS WALK Tucson

Sunday October 12, 2014
Downtown Tucson

www.aidswalktucson.com

The 26th Annual Jerôme Beillard Festival for Life

Saturday November 8, 2014
Tucson Chinese Cultural Center
www.festivalforlife.org

Bowling for Tommy

Saturday January 24, 2015
Bedroxx
4385 West Ina Road

Möda Provöcateūr

Sunday March 1, 2015
Tucson Convention Center
Grand Ballroom
www.saafmoda.org

Jell-O Wrestling

Saturday May 9, 2015
The Slaughterhouse
1102 West Grant Road
www.jello-wrestling.org

SAAF nominated for a Copper Cactus Award



By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

SAAF is very excited to announce that we are one of 16 non-profit organizations nominated for this year's Copper Cactus Awards!

SAAF was nominated in the Tucson Electric Power Charitable Non-Profit Business category which honors outstanding charitable non-profits for their exceptional leadership, company culture, business growth and innovation.

SAAF is joined by several other notable non-profits including: Desert Museum, Ben's Bells, Interfaith Community Services, & the YMCA.

The Copper Cactus Award winners will be announced at a ceremony on October 30 and we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Jeffrey Scott Brown for nominating SAAF for this prestigious honor.



Festival design created by local artist Mark A. Molina

This year, we are excited to feature an original piece of artwork by local artist Mark A. Molina on all of our Festival for Life marketing materials.

Molina, who is also a Festival Committee member, created several designs and this was the one chosen by the Committee.

The original will be up for bids at Festival along with other stunning creations by Molina.



National Latino AIDS Awareness Day Community Dinner & Conversation

Wednesday, October 15

El Casino Ballroom
437 E. 26th Street

5:30pm Reception
6:30pm Dinner & Program

To RSVP, call (520) 724-8763.

Festival for Life is November 8

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

26th Annual Jérôme Beillard Festival for Life



The 26th Annual Jérôme Beillard Festival for Life, occurring on Saturday November 8 at the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center, is just around the corner and we hope you can join us for THE live and silent auction event of the season.

This year's event, presented by title sponsor Long Realty Cares Foundation, will feature works from prominent artists including: David Adix, Sarafina Luz, Lynn Taber, Gail Marcus-Orlen, as well as many more. There will also be jewelry, holiday trees, gift baskets, and once-in-a-lifetime experiences including excursions to Tahiti, San Diego, and more, up for bids in our live and silent auctions. Entertainment will be provided by Richard Noel.

Mark your calendars now and join us for a wonderful evening on November 8. For more information, to purchase tickets, and to preview some of the offerings visit www.festivalforlife.org.

SAAF, Community Partners Tackle Latino HIV Infection in Southern Arizona



by Andrés Cano, National Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Committee Chair

In Pima County, 1 in 4 new cases of HIV come from individuals who identify as Latino. Beyond the statistics, the saddening reality is that a majority of Latino families simply don't talk openly about sexuality, substance use, and the unwarranted stigma associated with HIV/AIDS. That's why we're working harder than ever to more effectively reach Latinos who are at risk of becoming infected with a sexually-transmitted infection or HIV.

Our 'Moments that Matter' campaign encourages Latinos to reflect on their commitment to family and friendship—and in turn, get them to honor their loved ones by taking ownership of their sexual health.

With your help and support, we will launch a targeted Spanish media campaign, expand our health resource fairs, and work with new community partners to break the silence about HIV/AIDS in Latino families.

To learn more about our advocacy, please join us at our free, main event on National Latino AIDS Awareness Day—the perfect starting point to our new, year-round awareness effort.

The mission of the National Latino AIDS Awareness Day Committee is to live in a world where Latinos talk openly about their sexual health with their families and partners. Community partners include the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, Pima County, Pima Community College, Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, League of United Latin American Citizens, and COPE Community Services, Inc.

Foundation Spotlight

By Evelyn Rens, SAAF Grants Coordinator

MAC AIDS Fund makes giving glamorous as well as generous. SAAF is grateful for two grants from MAC AIDS Fund.



A *Team Grant* was made possible through volunteer efforts of local MAC Cosmetics artists and representatives who gave generously of their talent and 56 hours of their time backstage at the 11th Annual Möda Provöcateür Style and Fashion Show. With the \$3,000 *Team Grant*, Möda raised over \$67,000 to benefit people living with HIV/AIDS in southern Arizona!

Just before press time, SAAF received more good news! MAC AIDS Fund awarded SAAF a \$25,000 Community Program Grant for Food and Nutrition Services.

SAAF is proud to recognize the Walmart Foundation for their generous support of the Food Program.



This is the first grant SAAF has received through the Arizona State Giving Program. Walmart shares SAAF's goals to address and prevent hunger in Arizona communities. This grant will enable SAAF to provide nutrition services, supplemental protein foods, fresh produce, and staples to 500 households, serving at least 48,000 meals in the coming year. Nutrition education will also be provided to Food Program recipients through this grant.

Thank you, Walmart!

Compassion is at the heart of SAAF's mission. We rely on the compassion of philanthropists with corporate and private foundations to support programs and services that improve the health and quality of life for people living with, affected by or at risk for HIV/AIDS.

The Coronet Café holds a fundraiser for SAAF

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

On Tuesday July 15, SAAF Executive Director Wendell Hicks & KVOA's Lupita Murillo were guest Startenders at the new restaurant, the Coronet, located at 402 East 9th Street (in the Coronado Hotel, just at the corner of 9th street & 4th Avenue).

For 2 hours, Wendell & Lupita manned the bar of the Coronet and personally served SAAF donors & Coronet Customers. All tips were donated back to SAAF in addition to receiving 20% of all food sales that evening.

We want to extend a huge "Thank You" to Sally & Gregor, owners of the Coronet, for their amazing support of SAAF!

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



Coronet Café co-owner Sally Kane (r) with SAAF Development Director Ethan Smith Cox

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 5:30pm - 8:30pm at the SAAF office building located at 375 South Euclid Avenue.

Tuesday October 21, 2014
Tuesday November 18, 2014
Tuesday December 16, 2014

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

To sign up for Volunteer Orientation, contact Michael Webb, SAAF Volunteer Coordinator, at (520) 547-6101 or mwebb@saaf.org



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
9:00am to 6:00pm

You Make the Holidays Bright

By Neil MacDonald, Statewide Insurance Programs Coordinator



Ho-ho-holy moly! The summer is winding down, we're drying out from the monsoons, and the holidays are just around the corner. This means that Family Day and the Poz Café Holiday Dinner Party are almost here and we are getting ready to celebrate with our clients!

Family Day is a heartwarming event where SAAF, in collaboration with the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN), gives our clients who are parents the opportunity to select holiday gifts for their children and

their children the opportunity to select gifts for them. This year, it will be held on December 13 and will include craft activities, a light lunch, and pictures with Santa. We expect to brighten the holidays of more than 100 children this year.

As in years past, we anticipate having challenges collecting enough gifts for teen boys, a substantial portion of the youth we serve. If you would like to donate those gifts or gift cards so we can shop for them, please contact Neil MacDonald at (520) 547-6136 or nmacdonald@saaf.org.

The Poz Café Holiday Dinner Party, hosted by TIHAN in collaboration with SAAF, gives our clients the opportunity to get together and celebrate the holidays as the community we are. This year's themed gathering will be held on December 18 and will feature dinner, dancing, and a raffle.

If you are a client and wish to participate in either of these events, please contact your Case Manager at SAAF for Family Day or TIHAN at (520) 299-6647 for the Poz Café Holiday Dinner Party. We'll see you there!

Gift Suggestions for the SAAF/TIHAN Family Day celebration

CHILDREN 6 MONTHS TO 11 YEARS

- Skateboards
- Scooters
- Action Figures
- Dolls
- Radio Controlled Vehicles
- Jewelry
- Building Blocks
- Sports Equipment/Balls
- Books
- Board/Card Games
- Stuffed Animals
- Backpacks/School Supplies
- Rubber Band Bracelet Kits
- Lego Blocks
- Science Experiment Kits

TEENAGERS 12 TO 17 YEARS

- Gift Cards (\$25 increments- especially Target, Best Buy, and Bookman's)
- Clothing, Jackets
- Books
- Purses
- Sports Equipment/Balls
- Diaries/Journals
- Board/Card Games

ADULTS 18 YEARS AND UP

- Gift Cards (\$25 increments)
- Books/DVDs
- Small Appliances
- Movie/Zoo/Attraction/etc.
- Tickets

Gift items & cash donations will be collected between now and Monday, December 2, 2014. Interested in giving to the Holiday Project? Then please contact Neil MacDonald at (520) 547-6136 or by email at nmacdonald@saaf.org. SAAF can help with picking up gifts and donations.



“SAAF is an amazing place to work. The people here are wonderful, the volunteers are amazing, and the work we do is phenomenal. To me, the reason for all of that, and the real reason I love it here, is that we are truly empowered.”

Staff Spotlight-Claire Swinford

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

Claire Swinford is the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Associate at SAAF and has been employed in that position since February of this year. Before working for SAAF, Claire was a longtime volunteer, helping out with fundraising events and as part of the Syringe Access Program (SAP) volunteer team.

When asked about her position as ADAP Associate and what that means, Claire says, “ADAP is actually an amazing program, but like all things insurance-related, it can sound a little dry in explanation. Our program pays insurance premiums, co-pays, and deductibles for HIV+ clients who meet financial and treatment eligibility requirements. To me, what is really cool about that is the fact that my entire client base consists of people who, prior to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), were effectively uninsurable – they were denied coverage, priced out of coverage, or, at best, had to deal with multi-year ‘pre-existing condition waivers’. These clients now have comprehensive medical insurance, including coverage for HIV related care. Clients are receiving the medical treatment they need, when they need it, from their choice of providers, and they don’t have to worry about premiums and out-of-pocket costs bankrupting them”.

When asked why she enjoys working for SAAF, Claire states, “SAAF is an amazing place to work. The people here are wonderful, the volunteers are amazing, and the work we do is phenomenal. To me, the reason for all of that, and the real reason I love it here, is that we are truly empowered”.

When asked about the challenges in her position, she cites the Affordable Care Act as a sort-of double-edged sword. “The learning curve (with the ACA) is huge, and all of us – clients, medical case managers, state employees, providers, insurance companies, everyone here at SAAF, and in fact, the federal government itself – is trying to learn the specifics of this thing as we go along. Implementation is still very evolutionary; there are still upcoming issues, issues mandated by the law itself. It is constantly improving, but we still deal with a lot of growing pains, and a lot of issues nobody thought about”.

When she is not at work, Claire and her partner, Jill, enjoy spending time with their dog, Abby, a shelter rescue pet. Claire also writes and has appeared in multiple queer/alternative media outlets. She is a storyteller who enjoys performance and you may even catch her at an upcoming Female Story Tellers (FST) event.

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The SAAF Connection is published quarterly by the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

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Layout and Design: WhiteSpace Design, LLC

Printing: Alphagraphics

Printed on Recycled Paper
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*Your gift today to
SAAF's
Food Program
will help someone tomorrow!*

Save the Date! World AIDS Day is December 1

by Moureen Drury, Marketing & Events Coordinator

World AIDS Day, a cultural and educational experience, is sure to be an event that everyone can enjoy. With everything from face painting to rhythm and dancing, World AIDS Day celebrates cultures from all over the world and how people in those cultures are affected by HIV/AIDS. Meet artists, dancers, and musicians who build community while you explore the programs and services of non-profits and for-profit organizations, as well as active businesses that make our community great.

World AIDS Day will be held in the Hotel Congress courtyard on Monday December 1. Please come enjoy the FREE festivities at World AIDS Day, then walk with your community in "Meet Me at Maynards".

Thank you to Hotel Congress for being a supporter of local businesses and non-profits that make our community great! The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, and its programs and services, is a proud sponsor of this year's event.

**For more information, please "like" our page on Facebook
at www.facebook.com/WorldAIDSDay.Tucson.**