

*Everything in  
this report  
is made possible  
by donors  
like you!*

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*We are thrilled to  
share the impact  
you have made  
through YOUR  
support.*

# The **SAAF** CONNECTION

## Your Impact Report FY 2019-2020



*"The food pantry of SAAF has been a tremendous help to me, especially during the pandemic. Through delivery and a drive-thru, I have been able to receive fresh, healthy foods during a difficult time for me and my family. The variety and quality of the food has truly been a blessing. It has provided a door to try new creative combinations in the kitchen and a framework for overall physical and mental health improvement. I cannot say thank you enough!" — Food For Life Program Participant*

# A Letter from SAAF's Chief Executive Officer

**While I've spent the past 15 years as a family physician treating our community, the impact I feel I'm making for our community has never been greater than since I joined SAAF.**

In my few short months as the CEO of SAAF, I've learned the true impact that SAAF has on our community. From supporting over 1,500 people in Southern Arizona living with HIV/AIDS with health insurance, case management and mental health care, housing, food, and more, to ensuring that LGBTQ+ kids feel less isolated and have a community to call their own... **SAAF means so much to so many in Tucson and throughout Arizona.**

The past year has, no doubt, been a challenge for all of us. COVID has changed how we work, how we learn, and how we interact with each other. For our clients, so many of whom were already on the margins before the pandemic hit our shores, COVID would have been devastating if it weren't for the services SAAF provides. Through social-distanced approaches and our #SAAFTyFirst protocols to keep our staff and clients safe and healthy, SAAF has continued providing in-person and remote care to our clients and participants. This includes Zoom and telephone case management, food and hygiene pick-ups for youth at the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th, on-site syringe access, and delivery of hot meals for those who can't come to us. **Seeing how our community has come together during COVID inspires me to do all I can to make sure SAAF is the best it can be.**

If a global pandemic wasn't enough, we also saw issues of race, gender, and sexuality resurge in 2020. SAAF is proud to serve several underrepresented groups, including people of color, people living with HIV, people with substance abuse disorders, undocumented immigrants, and LGBTQ+ people. SAAF is committed to the important work of diversity, equity, and inclusion both internally and in our community, as we continue to strive towards a more just and stigma-free society.

In 2020, our region's largest school district adopted a sex-ed curriculum that is inclusive of LGBTQ+ students, and teaches everyone who participates the differences among sex, gender, and sexuality. I was proud to be a part of developing that curriculum and am proud to have been elected to the TUSD Governing Board. Diversity, equity, and inclusion has gone from theory to practice in many organizations.

**Looking forward, this year ahead is one of the most exciting times to be part of SAAF.** We will soon have an updated Strategic Plan that will not only guide what we do as an organization to ensure we're meeting the needs of our community, but will define who we are and what we stand for. We've already seen so many from our community be part of this important process. I can't wait to be on the journey with you as SAAF continues to grow into the institution our community needs.



As a parent of three young children, I understand the importance of building our society for the next generation. That's the role I see for SAAF in our community. And we can't do this without the amazing support of caring people like you. From volunteering your time and expertise to our mission, to financial contributions that fund the services we provide, YOU are part of the solution that allows SAAF to build a better society for all of us. Thank you!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Shah".

Ravi Grivois-Shah, MD MPH MBA

Chief Executive Officer



Cover photo credit: Carrie Eutizi, SAAF

To comment on the content of The SAAF Connection, email [info@saaf.org](mailto:info@saaf.org).

To be added or deleted from the mailing list or to make address changes, please contact SAAF at (520) 628-7223 or by email at [donations@saaf.org](mailto:donations@saaf.org).

Layout: Cirrus Visual

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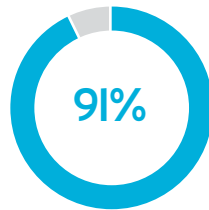
## OUR MISSION:

To cultivate a healthy and stigma-free society through transformative action.

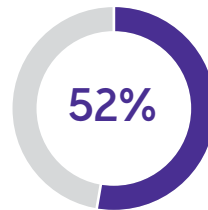
# Portrait of a Client

## CARE DEMOGRAPHICS

Once again, SAAF provided services to the greatest number of people in its history, **servicing 1,580** people living with HIV/AIDS in Southern Arizona and their household members. Of these, **182 were new clients** to SAAF.



are considered low income



are living below poverty level



of clients who have a suppressed viral load (<200)

### Age Summary:



2-12 years



13-24 years



25-44 years



45-64 years



65+ years

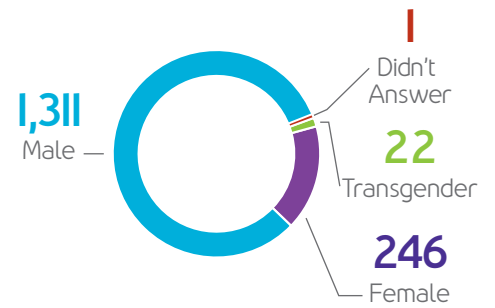
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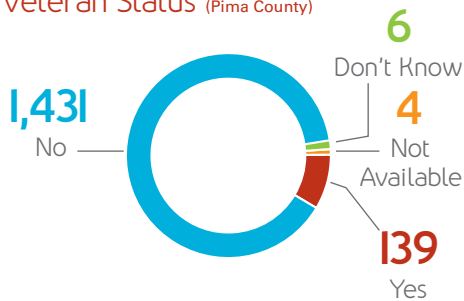
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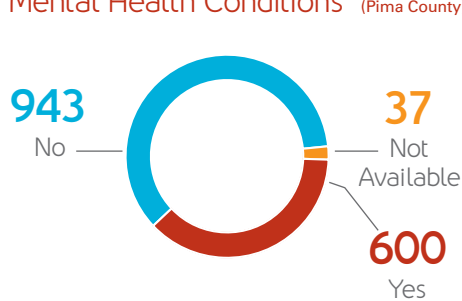
### Gender Summary:



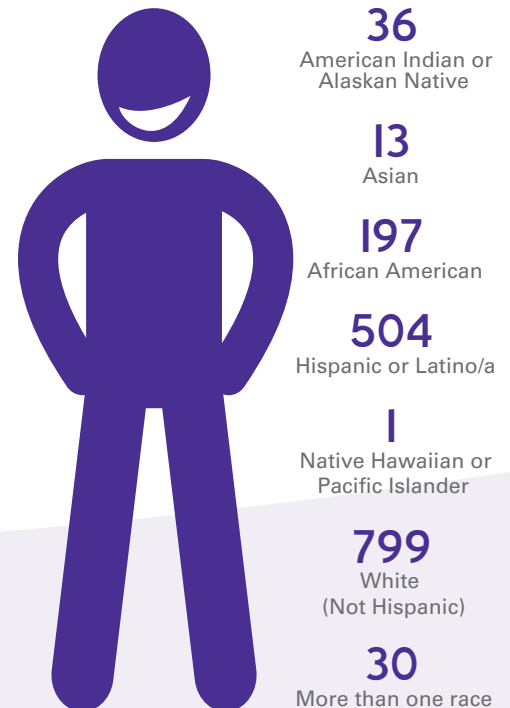
### Veteran Status (Pima County)



### Mental Health Conditions (Pima County)



### Race Summary:



### Substance Use Disorder (Pima County)

Alcohol Abuse

62

Drug Abuse

177

Dually Diagnosed

56

None

1,246

Not Available

39

# Care Services

## Overview FY 2019-2020

The Care Services Department ensures that people living with HIV/AIDS have access to the services they need to maintain optimal health and live as independently and safely as possible. SAAF continues to provide case management, medical case management, housing, support services, and support to LGBTQ+ community members experiencing violence and harassment through our Anti-Violence Project. Care Services programs are grouped into three primary areas: case management, support services, and housing services.

During a very difficult year for clients, SAAF was able to continue vital care programs and services:



### CASE MANAGEMENT

- Case Management provided needs assessments, the development of care and action plans, and provision of or referral to necessary services. Case managers supported clients by linking them to medical care, behavioral health, substance abuse services, and other necessary social service programs.
- Case Management and emergency shelter was provided through our Anti-Violence Project for LGBTQ+ survivors of violence. These services include safety planning, goal planning, basic needs, emergency and transitional housing, advocacy, and support navigating the legal system.

### SUPPORT SERVICES

- Complementary Therapies
- Dental Services (provided statewide except for Maricopa and Pinal Counties)
- Food and Nutrition Services, including the Food for Life Program and the Food Pantry, Ensure distribution, Harvest Days, Emergency Meals
- Holiday Project
- Medical Benefits Management for those enrolled through the Affordable Care Act Federally Facilitated Marketplace (provided statewide)
- Medical Benefits cost sharing assistance for those enrolled in statewide ADAP program

- Support Groups
- Transportation Services
- Wellness and Buyers' Club
- Hygiene/Cleaning Supplies
- Other personal support services

### HOUSING SERVICES

- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing to People Living with HIV
- SAAF provided over 550 people (including households) with housing services to prevent homelessness, assist with rent/mortgage/utility assistance, and sustain housing, using our Housing First Model approach.

# Prevention Overview FY 2019-2020

**The Prevention Department** uses empowering harm reduction approaches to cultivate healthier communities. With passion, compassion, humility, and creativity, we make a difference. We create sex-positive, safer spaces, and provide culturally-responsive services that are client-centered. We embrace and respect our communities through a flexible, non-judgmental approach. Never forgetting we are the communities we serve, we use our energy and expertise to foster social equity. We cultivate collaborative relationships to achieve comprehensive services. We are a team. We are supportive of each other -- fiercely advocating for and with our communities. We are not afraid to push buttons. We don't wait for change. We initiate it! Prevent! Promote! Protect!

SAAF provided effective behavioral interventions, public health strategies and health education and risk-reduction activities that included outreach, individual-level interventions, group-level interventions, community-level interventions, health education/public information, and social media strategies.

Prevention programs conducted the following activities through the implementation of the above initiatives:

- **Over 1,000 individuals** received one-on-one support, risk-reduction counseling, syringe access services, and/or resource and referral services.
- **Over 17,000 people** were provided education, skills building, and/or training through the implementation of individual-level interventions, group-level interventions, community education workshops, social media messaging, and outreach services.
- **Over 500,000** safer-sex materials were distributed during outreach, community education, and programmatic events.

## HIV + HEP C TESTING

HIV Counseling and Testing were provided by trained SAAF staff. Testing was available at SAAF, behavioral health agencies, local bars, UofA, and at community events throughout the year. Confidential HIV testing using 4th-generation HIV rapid testing technologies was available. Last year approximately

- **1,000 people** received HIV rapid testing services at SAAF, Behavioral Health Agencies in Pinal County, community locations and at mobile-testing events. Hepatitis C rapid testing was also made available to people who inject drugs or have a history of injection drug use.
- **187 Hepatitis C rapid tests** were conducted at SAAF and in collaboration with behavioral health organizations in Tucson.

## ADULT PROGRAMS & OUTREACH

### PrEP Navigation Services

- For people at risk of HIV transmission
- Education and support
- Readiness assessments, benefits coordination, and referrals to medical providers

### Syringe Access Program (SAP): Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

- Access to HIV and HEP C testing
- Access to clean works, bleach kits, hygiene items
- Build relationships with staff and access to health-related information, including options for treatment

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

- **Youth Empowerment and LGBTQ+ Leadership (YELL):** Substance Abuse education/reduction and Coalition Building
- **HIV Youth Peer Education (HYPE):** HIV Education and peer support
- **Arizona Life Links for Youth (ALLY):** Suicide Prevention, LGBTQ+ youth, arts initiative with the University of Arizona Museum of Art.
- **Lighthouse:** Collaboration with SIROW and Our Family Services. SAAF provided capacity building and technical assistance trainings for youth serving providers.
- **Spectrum:** Collaboration with SIROW and Devereux Behavioral Health. SAAF provides substance abuse and HIV prevention groups and individual Prevention Navigation services.
- **Eon Youth Lounge:** SAAF provides HIV Testing and HIV/STI prevention; education, support, and a safe space for LGBTQ+ youth
- **Youth Life Project:** Sexual and dating violence prevention and education.
- **Your Story:** Substance abuse and HIV education and prevention services for youth and young adults of color. HIV, HCV, and HBV testing services; capacity building and social marketing.

# Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th, a SAAF Space for Youth

Despite challenges due to the pandemic, the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th remained open to serve Tucson's most vulnerable youth. Programming and support groups have continued virtually, and the lounge remained open to serve LGBTQ+ who identify as homeless or housing unstable.

This past year, the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th provided LGBTQ+ and allied youth with:



**Over 960**  
bus passes



**Over 2,446**  
hygiene items



**Over 1,442**  
clothing items



**Over 32**  
hot meals



**Over 2,997**  
nonperishable food items



**Over 69**  
showers



**Over 67**  
loads of laundry



Unduplicated youth who accessed the Center and its programming in FY 19-20: **153**

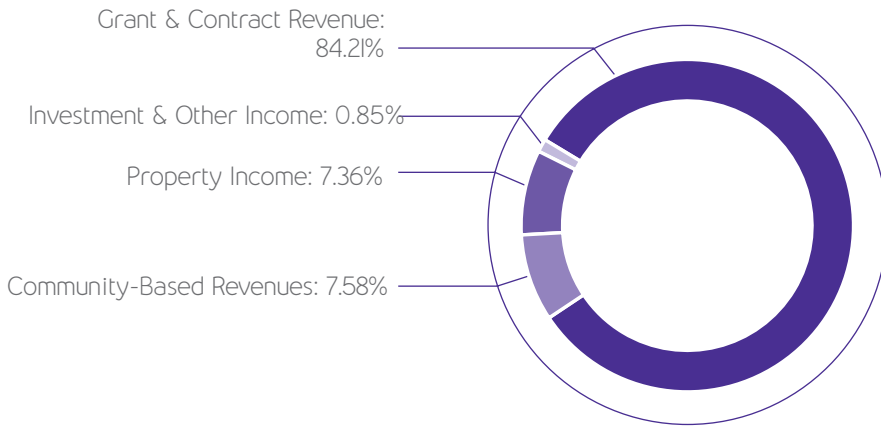
**98% of youth** indicated that their participation in Eon resulted in sustained or increased sense of safety and well-being.

"I have grown so much in my queerness and now that I have a voice, I have been able to find myself and I will continue to grow and evolve with the support from [SAAF]."



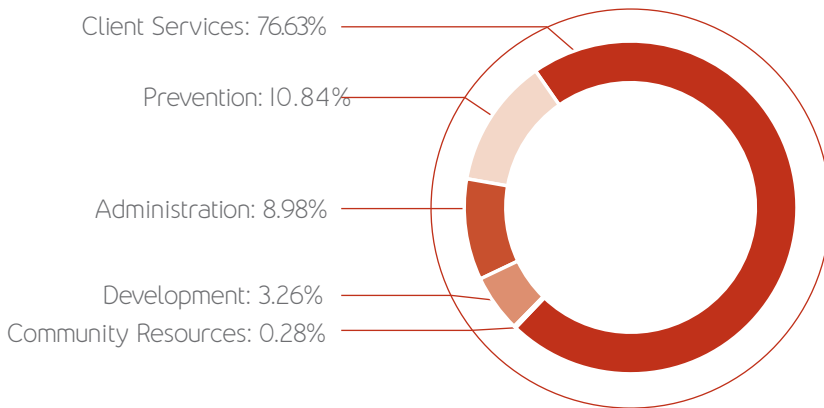
# SAAF Financials

## FY 2019-2020



### Revenue

Grant & Contract Revenue	9,278,635
Community Based Revenues	834,968
Property Income	810,938
Investment & Other Income	93,644
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>11,018,185</b>



### Expenses

Client Services	8,541,942
Prevention	1,208,355
Administration	1,000,992
Development	363,553
Community Resources	31,592
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>11,146,434</b>

Change in Net Assets	-128,249
Beginning Net Assets	6,305,613
Ending Net Assets	6,177,364



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# The SAAF CONNECTION

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## Your Impact Report FY 2019-2020

# Volunteers are All-Important: The Impact of SAAF Volunteers

During a year where so much has been uncertain and ever changing, the enthusiasm that SAAF volunteers have exhibited in serving SAAF clients has never faltered. Our organization has always relied heavily on volunteer support, and as this year presented an influx of needs, our volunteers rose to the challenges of 2020 without hesitation. From delivering meals to clients who were quarantined, to performing COVID screenings for every person who attends

our needle exchange, SAAF volunteers have (and continue to) show up. Our volunteers are a diverse bunch who come from all walks of life, but they are united by a common passion for helping make our community a better place, one volunteer hour at a time. We are so grateful for our volunteers, as we wouldn't be able to carry out our mission of cultivating a healthy and stigma-free society without their dedication to transformative action.

In One Year...



**525** Total number of Volunteers



**4,454** Volunteer Hours



**\$121,148**  
Value of Volunteer Hours