

Everything in this newsletter is made possible by donors like you!

The 28th Annual
Jerôme Beillard



Saturday November 19, 2016

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The SAAF CONNECTION

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION

FALL 2016
Volume 3, Issue 4



Festival for Life now at Desert Diamond Casino and Hotel!

By Monique Vallery, Associate Director of Development

We hope you can join us for the 28th Annual Jerôme Beillard Festival for Life, the live and silent auction event of the season.

This year's Festival, occurring on Saturday November 19, is moving to a new home at Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel, located at 7350 South Nogales Highway.

This year's event, presented by long-time title sponsor Long Realty Cares Foundation, will feature works from prominent artists including: Curt Brill, Mark Molina, Gail Marcus-Orlen, Joan Marum, and many more. Also featured in the live and silent auctions will be once-in-a-lifetime trips, breathtaking jewelry, and festive floral arrangements just in time for the Holidays.

Admission tickets are \$50 before November 7 and \$65 after that. Tickets include admission to the event and appetizers, catered by Café a la Carte.

For more information, to preview the art, and to purchase discounted tickets, visit www.festivalforlife.org.

2016-2017 SAAF Board of Directors

GOVERNING BOARD

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OUR MISSION:

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

To comment on the content of The SAAF Connection, email donations@saaf.org.

To be added to or deleted from the mailing list or to make address changes, please contact SAAF at (520) 547-6105 or by email at donations@saaf.org.

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The Spirit of Philanthropy

By Wendell Hicks, Executive Director

One of my favorite phone calls to make is the one where I get to tell a donor or volunteer that she or he is being honored with a very prestigious award.

This past July, I was able to make that call to 5 donors who have made an incredible difference for the people SAAF serves.

At this year's National Philanthropy Day (NPD) luncheon, longtime SAAF donors

Tim Schaffner & Anne Maley-Schaffner will be honored for their philanthropy throughout the community with the *Outstanding Philanthropist Award*.

This nomination was submitted by SAAF and supported by local non-profits Social Venture Partners, Primavera, Literacy Connects, and Archaeology Southwest.

The NPD Luncheon, put on each year by our local chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, attracts nearly 1,000 people to the Westin La Paloma to celebrate and recognize philanthropy in our community and Anne & Tim are joining some prestigious company, indeed.

Over the past 30 years, this award has been presented to Jim Click, Donald & Joan Diamond, James E. Rogers, and Drs. John & Helen Schaefer, just to name a few.



Photo by Scott Griessel, Creatista

The *Outstanding Philanthropist* award is one of 5 competitive awards given out at the annual NPD luncheon, taking place this year on Friday November 18. In addition to this award, recognition is also paid to: *Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser*; *Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy*; *Outstanding Corporate or Foundation Philanthropist*; and *Outstanding Fundraising Executive*. In a very rare instance, SAAF was the nominee of 2 of this year's big 5 award winners as our **Director of Development, Ethan Smith Cox**, was selected to receive the *Outstanding Fundraising Executive Award*. Ethan has been at his profession for nearly 15 years now and is incredibly deserving of this recognition.

Outside of the big 5 awards, SAAF also takes great pride in recognizing deserving donors each year with the *Spirit of Philanthropy (SOP) Award* at the NPD luncheon. This year, we are fortunate to have not one but three amazing donors receiving this award. **Robert Bell & Tom Buchanan** as well as **Gloria "Mick" Devore** have done some amazing work for SAAF over the past year and we are incredibly excited to recognize them all as SOP awardees.

To get to work with so many wonderful donors, volunteers, and professionals is a real treat for me and a big part of the reason that SAAF continues to stand at the forefront in the fight against stigma in our community.

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The Spirit of Philanthropy

By Wendell Hicks, Executive Director

continued from page 2

You may have noticed that we have added something new to the cover of this newsletter. In the upper left-hand corner of page 1, you will note a banner declaring *"Everything in this newsletter is made possible by donors like you"* and this couldn't be truer. Donors like you are making a real difference in the lives of 1,000s everyday and while we take time to honor some very deserving individuals on November 18, we know that everything we are able to do is only because of incredible people just like you. At SAAF, you make every day feel like National Philanthropy Day by demonstrating your incredible Spirit of Philanthropy. Thank you, so much. You inspire me more than you will ever know.

With great appreciation,



Wendell Hicks



Robert Bell & Tom Buchanan



Ethan Smith Cox



Tim Schaffner & Anne Maley-Schaffner



Wendell Hicks & Gloria "Mick" Devore



SAAF CARE SERVICES

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

SAAF
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

AIDSWALK Tucson

Sunday October 9, 2016
Downtown Tucson
www.aidswalktucson.com

28th Annual Jerôme Beillard Festival for Life

Saturday November 19, 2016
NEW LOCATION!
Desert Diamond Casino
7350 South Nogales Highway
www.festivalforlife.org

Bowling for Tommy

Saturday January 21, 2017
Fiesta Bowl
501 West River Road
www.saaf.org

14th Annual Möda Provöcateūr

March 2017
Tucson Convention Center
Grand Ballroom
www.saafmoda.org

30th Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling

Saturday May 6, 2017
4th Avenue & 7th Street
www.jello-wrestling.org

SAAF LGBTQ Initiatives Going Strong

By Adam Ragan, Associate Director of LGBTQ Initiatives

It's been a busy and fulfilling couple of months for us here at SAAF. The response to the LGBTQ Community Survey surpassed all expectations. Having read each of the 227 surveys, we are working on compiling a publishable document in the coming weeks. Based on the feedback we've received, it is our hope that we will be able to continue to reach out to the community through surveys and forums.

One trend that emerged from the survey was that 83% of respondents stated that LGBTQ youth programming was their top priority. This affirms SAAF's work with Eon, a safe place for LGBTQ and allied youth. Since 2014, Eon has been housed at SAAF and continues to be a central focus of our LGBTQ youth programming. SAAF also continues other great youth programming like Youth Empowerment and LGBTQ Leadership (YELL), a youth-led curriculum to develop LGBTQ youth leadership. Your Story works to prevent and treat youth substance abuse in the Latino, Native American, and LGBTQ youth communities.

One of the other exciting things to emerge from the survey is the fact that 73% of respondents indicated a desire to attend an event to honor those in our community doing good work. A formal sit-down dinner has been the traditional way to do this but survey results indicate that just isn't our cup of tea these days. The survey tells us that tradition should be respected while we adapt to what the community needs and wants. In that vein, we are currently



working on creating a fun event that meets our needs while still allowing us to honor our local heroes. I hope you'll share our excitement to have this type of community event return to southern Arizona.

One of the many exciting LGBTQ initiatives we are working on and especially proud of is the soon-to-be unveiled LGBTQ Virtual Resource Center (VRC). Thanks to a generous grant from our friends at the LGBT & Straight Alliance Fund, a fund of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, SAAF will soon roll out an LGBTQ resource guide, including a searchable database of LGBTQ-serving businesses and agencies. This endeavor will result in the most comprehensive, go-to resource for LGBT resources in southern Arizona.

SAAF is here for you and always will be. I hope you will call or email us anytime. As we enter the holiday season and gather with ones we hold dear, we'd like to wish you and yours the happiest of holidays and we look forward to a healthy, happy, and productive 2017.

Family Day will be held on Saturday December 17, 2016.



GIFT SUGGESTIONS

CHILDREN 6 MONTHS TO 12 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 13 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 10. Interested in giving to the Holiday Project? Please contact Erik Simonson, SAAF's Support Services Manager, at (520) 547-6153 or esimonson@saaf.org. SAAF can help with picking up gifts and donations.

Help Us Make it a Positively Fabulous Holiday

By Erik Simonson, Support Services Manager

As summer is winding down and we're drying out from the monsoons, it can only mean one thing: the holidays are just around the corner! 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's event will be held on Saturday December 17 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 Erik Simonson, SAAF's Support Services Manager, at (520) 547-6153 or esimonson@saaf.org.

The Poz Café Holiday Dinner Party, hosted by TIHAN in collaboration with SAAF, gives our clients the opportunity to celebrate the holidays together. This year's themed gathering will be held on Tuesday December 13 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!



TO YOUR HEALTH

Travis Wright Memorial Buyers' Club

Purchase vitamins and supplements for HIV/AIDS care and general health at the lowest possible cost.

The Buyers' Club is now online at tucsonbuyersclub.org. Or, you can visit the store at the SAAF offices, located at 375 South Euclid Avenue, Monday through Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm.

Staff Spotlight: Joshua Richardson

Joshua Richardson is SAAF's Office Manager, and one of the newest shining stars to join our team.

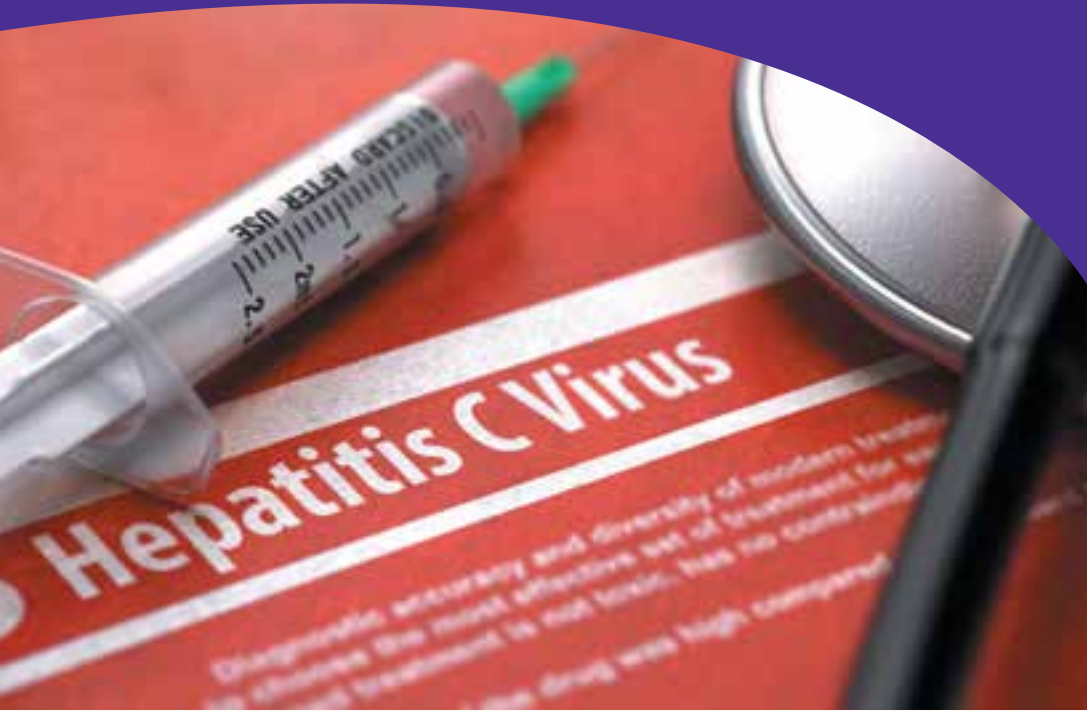
The Office Manager position is part jack-of-all-trades and part superhero. In his role, Joshua oversees the day-to-day office functions of the agency, manages all front office operations (including reception and facility maintenance), and supervises the reception staff & volunteers. Because his job is so multifaceted, Joshua is frequently the go-to guy when staff members have a question.

Joshua's favorite part of his position is working with a great group of people and being able to impact the community through the work we do as an organization. Thus far, his greatest challenge at SAAF is not having enough time in the day. He hopes that SAAF will continue to grow and remain a successful organization for the community.

Prior to joining SAAF, Joshua's work experience has included bartending, working at Citi Mortgage (in mortgage collection, quality assurance, and management), and life guarding at a Walt Disney World resort. If his face looks familiar, it might be because he recently jumped into the Jell-O pit as a wrestler at SAAF's 2016 Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza!

In his free time, Joshua enjoys being with friends and family, cooking, knitting (he's self-taught), and going to festivals, prides, and other events. He's just begun dipping his toes in the pool of drag show management and is looking forward to getting more shows under his belt! Joshua has recently taken up hiking and has fallen in love with exploring new trails in Tucson's many mountain ranges.

This year, the Buehler Family Foundation made a first-time award of \$75,000 to SAAF to be used for the Syringe Access Program.



Foundations For SAAF's Mission

By Tony Bruno, SAAF Grants Coordinator

The Buehler Family Foundation is a philanthropic foundation that provides grant funding to Institutions like the Northwest University School of Medicine, Children's Memorial Hospital, the Shedd's Aquarium, and Lincoln Park Zoo Hospital. This year, the foundation made a first-time award of \$75,000 to SAAF to be used for the Syringe Access Program.

These funds will be utilized to expand program hours and purchase the tools needed for participants to avoid behaviors that result in transmission and acquisition of hepatitis C, HIV, and other blood-borne and sexually-transmitted infections.

A vaccine against hepatitis C is not currently available and the costs of care and treatment are a significant burden

on the national health care system. But hepatitis C is preventable. Without interventions to prevent the spread of the disease, the infection rate will continue to rise. It is with the goal of preventing new infections and linking individuals currently infected to care and treatment that SAAF sought funding to enhance and expand the reach of services and intervene more effectively in one of the most serious public health crises currently facing our nation.

This opportunity was made available to SAAF by one caring and committed volunteer, who provided direct contact information to a member of the **Buehler Family Foundation Board**, proving that one person can and really does make a difference.



VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Get involved with SAAF!

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

Tuesday October 18, 2016
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Tuesday November 8, 2016
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Tuesday December 13, 2016
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

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

To sign up for Volunteer Orientation, visit www.saaf.org/volunteer/overview

Festival for Life Stay & Play Package!

By Monique Vallery, Associate Director of Development

This year, you can get a room for the evening and enjoy Festival for Life all in one place! Purchase the Stay & Play package, save over 25%, and enjoy Festival for Life without the worry about the drive home.

Packages are \$189 (Value: \$259) and include:

- 2 admission tickets to Festival for Life
- 1 Deluxe Room night stay (Saturday November 19) at the Hotel



To purchase your Stay & Play Package, visit www.festivalforlife.org



Saturday November 19, 2016