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Saturday April 23, 2016 -
Time to Play With Your Food!

The SAAF CONNECTION

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION

SPRING 2016

Volume 3, Issue 2



New Prevention Program to Target Underage Drinking

By Paco Velez, Youth Programs Manager

Youth Empowerment and LGBTQ Leadership (YELL) is one of several new and exciting prevention programs at SAAF. Through YELL, we are working to reduce underage drinking and marijuana use amongst LGBTQ youth by providing life skill-building workshops and classes, social media information campaigns, and youth-led presentations to adults and other youth in Tucson.

YELL empowers youth to create informational graphics and marketing materials to share at community events, through a social media presence, and through targeted outreach at smoke shops and liquor stores. YELL also has its very own coalition composed of supportive members in our community who work with LGBTQ youth. The coalition helps by providing guidance and feedback and sharing our harm-reduction approach with the greater Tucson Community.

Because SAAF operates from a harm-reduction philosophy and works to reduce stigma, we have developed programs

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2016 SAAF Board of Directors

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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,
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2016 – What a Year it Will Be!

By Wendell Hicks, Executive Director

At their March meeting, the SAAF Board of Directors voted to invest in some important new initiatives. These new actions all center on providing increased support for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities and will help to further the work that SAAF has been doing since taking over operations of Wingspan, southern Arizona's LGBTQ community center, in 2014.

We are excited to hire on a new position at SAAF, the Associate Director for LGBTQ Initiatives. This position will be responsible for several things including: Outreach to Wingspan donors and volunteers who have not been engaged since Wingspan closed its doors; Creating a new event to replace the Wingspan Dinner and finding a way to honor and recognize LGBTQ pioneers in the community and; Further engagement of volunteer groups once associated with Wingspan that now utilize SAAF as their fiscal agent. These groups include: Southern Arizona Senior Pride; the Multi-Faith Working Group; Camp Born This Way and; Puertas Abiertas.

Additionally, the SAAF Board also made available resources that will help us to find a more suitable drop-in space for those who participate in the Eon Youth Program. Since moving to SAAF in 2014, the Eon program, which serves high-risk and high-need LGBTQ youth, has been housed here at the SAAF office building. While this has been a wonderful transition space



Photo by Scott Griessel, Creative

for the youth, it is definitely time to start looking to expand the program and make it more accessible to those we serve.

Unrelated to the board vote but still of vital importance, SAAF has begun the process of creating an LGBTQ virtual resource center. Earlier this year, SAAF started working with an intern from the University of Arizona to update all of the information and referral resources formally housed on the Wingspan website. This listing was an amazing resource for those within the community as well as out-of-town visitors and we are looking forward to relaunching it in a new online format and further expanding online resources for those in the LGBTQ community. The Alliance Fund has stepped up to offer their support of this important new initiative and we here at SAAF cannot thank them enough for their ongoing commitment to our community.

All exciting stuff meaning big changes for SAAF and I will look forward to updating you on all the developments throughout the rest of 2016. What a year it will be, indeed, and I can't wait to see where it takes us!

On behalf of those SAAF serves,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendell Hicks".

Wendell

The local Memorial event will take place on Sunday May 15 at the Historic Y, located at 300 East University Blvd, beginning at 6:30pm.



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

International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is Sunday May 15

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is one of the world's oldest and largest grassroots mobilization campaigns for HIV awareness. Started in 1983, the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial takes place every third Sunday in May and is led by a coalition of some 1,200 community organizations in 115 countries.

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is much more than just a memorial. The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial serves as a community mobilization campaign to raise social consciousness about HIV and AIDS. With 33 million people living with HIV today, the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial serves as an

important intervention for global solidarity, breaking down barriers of stigma and discrimination, and giving hope to new generations.

The local Memorial event will take place on Sunday May 15 at the Historic Y, located at 300 East University Blvd, beginning at 6:30pm. The event will include music, reading of the names of people who we have lost to HIV & AIDS, and a "candle lighting". This is a free event and open to everyone.

For more information about the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and commemorations being held around the world, visit candlelightmemorial.org.



29th Anniversary
Reno Gannon Memorial

Jell-O Wrestling

Benefit Auction and Extravaganza!

Photos by Scott Griessel, Creatista

See Jennifer Lopez live in concert in Las Vegas!

The 2016 raffle prize is two tickets to see Jennifer Lopez live in concert at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas on June 8 plus a 2 night stay at Planet Hollywood and a \$200 Visa gift card. Tickets are just \$1 each and no more than 3,000 will be sold. You also need not be present at the drawing, taking place at the event, to win.



Jell-O Wrestling Celebrates 29 Years of Encouraging You to Play with Your Food!

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

The Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Benefit Auction and Extravaganza will be held on Saturday April 23, 2016 at its new home on 4th Avenue!

Jell-O Wrestling has been raising money in support of the programs and services of SAAF for 29 years and 1,000s have enjoyed this unique and crazy event over the past 3 decades.

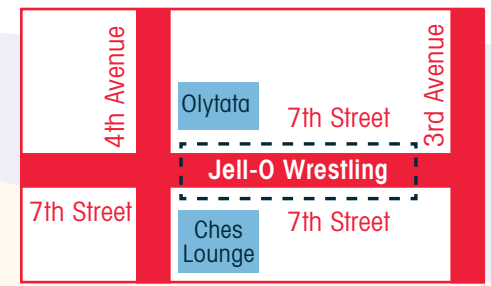
This year's event is sure to be bigger and better than ever and 4th Avenue is the perfect location for SAAF's longest-running fundraising event.

You can sponsor a Wrestler, purchase tickets or VIP packages, and get more information online at www.jello-wrestling.org.

Tickets:
 \$20/Before April 10
 \$25/After April 10

Schedule:
 Gates Open: 6:00pm
 Wrestling Starts: 6:30pm

New Location:
 4th Avenue and 7th Street



More than 250 models took to the runway and wowed the audience of nearly 800 attendees.



Photos by Scott Gressel, Creatista



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

29TH ANNUAL RENO GANNON MEMORIAL JELL-O WRESTLING

Saturday April 23, 2016
NEW LOCATION!
4th Avenue & 7th Street
www.jello-wrestling.org

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

Möda Provöcateūr Raises \$80,000+!

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development



This year's Möda was a huge hit, raising more than \$80,000! Participating salons and boutiques pulled out all the stops, once again, and more than 250 models took to the runway and wowed the audience of nearly 800 attendees.

Highlights of this year's event included the dramatic and spectacular winged models in Spirit Salon & Day Spa's segment; longtime SAAF volunteer Peter Bleasby being presented with the Cele Peterson Award; and the crowning of this year's Project Möda designer for her inventive use of dryer sheets to create a wrinkle-resistant wedding gown.

This year's Möda Provöcateūr was presented by Primo Sponsor Southwestern Utility Management & Venerato Sponsors Freedom Smoke USA, Waba, and Cox Communications.



Thanks to everyone who came out and helped make this year's event one of the most successful ever! We'll look forward to seeing you again in 2017.



TO YOUR HEALTH

Travis Wright Memorial Buyers' Club

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

Cactus Drug
(Formerly The Medicine Shoppe)
305 S. Euclid Ave, next to SAAF
Monday-Friday: 9:00am to 6:00pm

SAAF 2016 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

By Jason Cuneo, 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 14 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm 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.

SAAF would not be able to do much of the work we do without the commitment of our hundreds of hard-working and passionate volunteers. While we take this time to highlight some of the volunteers who make SAAF such a special place, we hope that all volunteers will come out and be a part of this event as we show our appreciation.

If you are interested in attending, RSVP to Lauren Lederman, Development Associate, at (520) 547-6119 or llederman@saaf.org.

This year's honorees are:

- Business Leadership:** Desert Diamond Casinos and Entertainment
- Care Services:** Gloria Fernandez
- Development:** Kristie Graham
- Education:** Andy Little
- Events:** Tom Martin
- Food Programs:** Gael Sladky
- Group Volunteer Effort:** Bears of the Old Pueblo
- Jean Cicci Peer Counseling:** Phil Bossenbroek
- Jerome Beillard Self-Empowerment:** John Wielebski
- Longtime Volunteer:** Larry Moore
- Media Leadership:** KOLD-TV, Channel 13
- New Volunteer:** Tony Bishop
- Original Contribution:** Fluxx Studio
- Outstanding Care Services Collaborator:** Arizona Department of Health Services
- Outstanding Prevention Collaborator:** Pima Prevention Partnership
- Outstanding Prevention Contribution:** Ben Van Maren
- Reception:** Juan Chavira
- Volunteer Resources:** Ariel Varner
- Youth Prevention:** Carlos Moreno
- Volunteer of the Year Nominees***
Andy Little
Tom Martin
Greg Smith
John Wielebski

**Winner to be announced at awards ceremony*

Foundations for SAAF's Mission

By Tony Bruno, SAAF Grants Coordinator

Private foundations are a cornerstone of support for SAAF's care services and prevention programs. We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to:

Nordstrom, for their continued support of the Complementary Therapies Program. In 2016, this program served 134 low-income people. Complementary therapies include: massage, acupuncture, and help with supplements and nutraceuticals.

Union Pacific Railroad & Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS's support of the Food for Life program is helping to feed people who would otherwise go hungry. Union Pacific has a long-standing commitment to improve the quality of life in the communities they serve and work in & Broadway Cares has been supporting SAAF for more than 2 decades now.

AIDS United Syringe Access Fund continues to provide generous support to reduce the transmission of HIV, hepatitis C, and other blood-borne pathogens in our community. AIDS United more than doubled their support of the Syringe Access Program over the next two calendar years. Way to Go!



SAAF relies on the compassion of 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 as well as those who identify as part of the LGBTQ spectrum.

Continued from page 1

New Prevention Program to Target Underage Drinking

By Paco Velez, Youth Programs Manager

like YELL to create a safe space where youth can get the information they need about substance use and recognize the connection to HIV/AIDS and other risk factors. Providing this education in different settings including schools, SAAF's Eon youth lounge, and after-school programs in community centers, means that YELL is helping to transform prevention messaging in Tucson through collaboration, information sharing, and fun!



If you are interested in supporting the YELL Coalition or know of youth between the ages of 12-23 who would like to participate, please contact me at pvelez@saaf.org or (520) 547-6120.



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 April 19, 2016
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Saturday May 21, 2016
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Tuesday June 21, 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, contact Jason Cuneo, SAAF's Volunteer Coordinator, at (520) 547-6101 or jasoncuneo@saaf.org

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Arizona Gives Day is Tuesday April 5

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

2015 marked the third annual Arizona Gives Day and last year's day of giving raised more than \$2 million for 100s of Arizona non-profits. SAAF had a great day, raising almost \$15,000 and finishing among the top 15 non-profits in our category!

We're very excited about this year's Arizona Gives Day and have set a rather lofty goal of beating 2015 and raising \$20,000! We have already lined up over \$3,000 in match gifts (see listing below) and we need your help to insure we meet these matches. Every gift counts on Arizona Gives Day so please consider giving whatever you can. Even a gift of \$10 or \$20 can make a huge difference. Plus, SAAF will once again be eligible for several cash prizes so your gift may be doubled and then some!

For more information about this year's Arizona Gives Day and to make a donation, visit our website at saaf.org.



Arizona Gives Day Match Gifts Thank You to this year's Arizona Gives Day Match Donors!

Kristie Graham	\$1,000
Chad Froeschke	\$500
<i>WhiteSpace Design</i>	
Anne Maley-Schaffner & Tim Schaffner	\$500
Michael Steinberg & Alan Taylor	\$500
John Kendall	\$500
Pam Meichel	\$250