

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

19th Annual AIDSWALK Tucson
together... remember. support. prevent.

On Sunday, October 14, 2007, Title Sponsor Desert Diamond Casino and the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) will be hosting the 19th Annual AIDSWALK featuring a 5Kwalk, 10K fun run, food, entertainment, community education and a live mini-concert, all on the central mall of The University of Arizona® campus. In a recent letter of support for AIDSWALK from Mayor Bob Walkup, he stated "AIDSWALK continues to be both a celebration of life and a time of reflection, of tribute and hope for a future without HIV and AIDS". This best sums up AIDSWALK's theme: "together... remember. support. prevent."

This year's walk will be kicked off by emcee Chuck George from KOLD 13-TV, many community leaders, and thousands of participants, all joining together in the local fight against HIV. SAAF is asking the community to participate in AIDSWALK 2007 as a demonstration of support to help stop this global epidemic, sustain those living with HIV/AIDS locally, and help prevent new infections through education and awareness.

One of the most powerful educational tools used at last year's event will be making another appearance. A 25 year timeline on the history of AIDS that stretches over 100 feet will again be put on view. The compelling display of press, statistics and stories included in the timeline is overwhelming, and a reminder that HIV/AIDS is still a local and national issue in the US.

The Center for Disease Control recently did a Spotlight Commemorating 25 years of HIV/AIDS, and following are a few pieces of information included in their spotlight:

- o There are over 1 million persons living with HIV in the United States.
- o About one-fourth of those with HIV are unaware of their infection.
- o An estimated 40,000 Americans are infected with HIV every year, and many are under the age of 25.
- o African American men and women are among the hardest hit populations in the U.S.
- o Women also remain a particularly vulnerable population, accounting for 29% of all HIV diagnoses in 2004.

AIDSWALK 2007 is a meaningful community gathering, as well as a celebration of life. Your support helps ensure sustain critical services for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS such as food, housing, medication assistance, and more. Your backing also helps to fund critical prevention programs for people at risk for HIV. One hundred percent of donations raised at AIDSWALK stay in Southern Arizona!

For more information about AIDSWALK or to learn about our traveling registration sites please visit www.aidswalktucson.com or our MySpace page at www.myspace.com/aidswalktucson or contact (520) 791-WALK (9255).

The event schedule is as follows:

6:30 a.m. Registration opens

7:00 a.m. 10K Run starts

7:15 a.m. Daybreak Quilt Opening Ceremony

7:45 a.m. TIHAN Interfaith Service

8:15 a.m. AIDSWALK 5K Opening Ceremony

8:30 a.m. 5K Walk begins

8:45 a.m. Live Music from Too Much Information (TMI) <http://www.tmi-band.com/>

9:30 a.m. Live Music from Steady Ground <http://www.steadyground.com/newsite/>

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