

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

AIDSWALK Tucson 2006- Take a Step

Take a step onto the beautiful University of Arizona Campus Mall for the 18th Annual AIDSWALK 2006 on October 8th. For this year's event, we have pumped up the energy with a new location, new date, and new activities. Join us in the fight against HIV/AIDS by supporting those in our community living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, preventing the spread of HIV, and remembering those we've lost to HIV/AIDS. You can help. Participate in the 10K fun run or 5K walk and raise donations to support the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

This year marks the 25th anniversary since the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced its first warning of the disease later to be known as AIDS. Over the past 25 years, many strides have been made to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS but much more is needed to be done. Anne Maley, Executive Director, SAAF, commented, "Southern Arizona is experiencing a growing need for our services at a time when we are experiencing cuts in government funding. I encourage everyone to join AIDSWALK 2006 and help us increase awareness and the much needed resources to continue providing high quality services to people living with HIV/ AIDS in Pima County and southern Arizona."

According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention:

- o There are an estimated 38.6 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, doubled since 1995
- o During 2005, an estimated 4.1 million people became newly infected with HIV, including 540,000 children
- o 55% of U.S. adults, ages 18-64, report ever having being tested for HIV, including 21% who report being tested in the last year. This number has been increasing over time
- o Among the more than one million people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S., an estimated 25% do not know they are infected

Help stop this global epidemic and support those living with HIV/AIDS while helping prevent new infections by participating in AIDSWALK 2006. Anne Maley added, "One hundred percent of donations raised will stay in Southern Arizona to support critical services for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS and to fund prevention programs for people at risk for HIV."

AIDSWALK 2006 promises to be fun, festive, and a day of awareness. We have activities for youth, plenty of great food, live music including a live mini concert following the event, Quilt opening ceremony, and more! Information about the event is being added daily, so check out www.aidswalktucson.com or contact (520) 791-WALK (9255) for the latest info. Be ready to gather your friends and family to *take a step* forward in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

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 Politically Incorrect
- 9:30 a.m. Live Music from Too Much Information