

## PRESS RELEASE

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*For Immediate Release*

**The Arizona Wildcats invite you to join them at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual AIDS WALK Tucson to be held this year on the University of Arizona Campus!**

**The Arizona Wildcats Basketball team are helping to kick off this year's festivities and annual walk and run benefiting the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) in a big way.** For starters, the event will be hosted for the first time on the beautiful University of Arizona Campus Mall, Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. This year's event has been reenergized with a new location, new afterwalk mini-concert on the UA lawn, and tons of other fun new ways to raise community awareness about prevention and client service programs offered by the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation that help in the fight against HIV/AIDS in our community. It's not too late to participate in this weekend's 10K fun run or 5K walk and raise donations and awareness to help support the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

**This year's walk will be led by the Arizona Wildcats Basketball team, Cathy Rivers** from Journal Broadcast Group, **Barbara Grijalva** from KOLD and many other community leaders as thousands of participants join them. Please join us stop this global epidemic and support those living with HIV/AIDS while helping prevent new infections by participating in AIDS WALK 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."

**This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 AIDS WALK 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." This year's event will host a 100 foot timeline of the past 25 years. The development of the timeline is spearheaded by a SAAF youth prevention program will be a traveling showcase to many of their events and one you won't want to miss. The timeline includes local, national, and global statistics of the disease. It's a powerful education piece for the community.

AIDS WALK 2006 promises to be fun, festive, and a day of awareness. We have activities for youth, great food, live music, a Quilt opening ceremony which hosts Quilt panels from the Names Project Foundation, and more! For more information you can visit [www.aidswalktucson.com](http://www.aidswalktucson.com) or contact (520) 791-WALK (9255). 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. AIDS WALK 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

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