

25TH  
Anniversary  
EDITION

2010-2011

TUCSON  
ARIZONA

## AIDSWalk 2010

By Monique Vallery, SAAF Events Coordinator

This year, AIDSWalkTucson marked its 22nd anniversary and well over 4,000 people were in attendance to show their support for SAAF. Title sponsor Desert Diamond Casino and Entertainment and Grand Sponsor Chick Match.com continued their support for AIDSWalk.

2010 marked the fifth year at The University of Arizona® campus with a 5k walk and a 10k fun run. This year's event also celebrated its 11th year hosting The AIDS Memorial Quilt with a quilt opening ceremony that included speeches from SAAF Executive Director Wendell Hicks and the Reverend Cherwee Hughley along with music from Reveille Men's Chorus and a heartfelt tribute to a lost love.

Attendees enjoyed the musical talents of the Shaky Bones Jazz Band and the Pinche Blues Band during the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. The Opening Ceremony also honored those living with HIV or AIDS by inviting them on stage while the audience heard speeches from Linda Coleman, a local Tucsonan sharing her story of love and remembrance for her nephew Michael.

**AIDSWalk 2010 has raised over \$143,000. A big "Thank You" to everyone who walked, ran, or sponsored a participant as well as to the more than 550 volunteers who volunteered more than 2,200 hours to make AIDSWalk happen! We'll look forward to seeing you again in 2011.**



Photo by Scott Gnessel, Creatista

### 2010 TOP FUNDRAISERS

**Individual:** Michael Steinberg

**Friends and Family:** Margaritas for Michael

**College/University:** UA Peace Corps Life is Calling

**Small Business:** Architecture for the Soul, LLC

**School (K-12):** Sahuaro High School

**Organization:** TMC Cares

**Corporate:** Raytheon

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## SAAF is Going Solar!

By Evelyn Rens, SAAF Grants Coordinator



Photo by Jerry Anderson

We are very excited to announce that SAAF received not one, but two Renewable Energy grants from the Arizona Department of Commerce. Jacinto is now the first of SAAF's seven housing complexes to transition to solar power! Technicians for Sustainability recently completed installation of solar energy and solar hot water systems. Recovery Act

# Reflections on 2010 – Resolutions for 2011 and Beyond

By Wendell Hicks



Photo by David Berger, Cox Media

**Another year has gone by and no doubt about it, 2010 was a year full of challenges and changes. It was also full of exciting opportunities and new directions.**

This was a tough year for many of the people we serve as they struggled to get by in the backlash of a difficult economy and funding reductions that impacted services for people living with HIV and AIDS. SAAF's challenge was to keep up with the growing need. There was a wait list for housing. More people required assistance to meet their basic needs including food. The one constant through it all was the compassion and commitment of so many people: dedicated staff, volunteers, and community collaborators as well as generous individuals, businesses, private and corporate foundations offering SAAF their continuing support. The response to our appeal in the summer newsletter kept the Food Program going until several grants came through. We have identified potential resources to develop more housing for families. We are truly grateful for these gifts and everyone's efforts on behalf of the people SAAF serves.

Some changes were anticipated, others unexpected. We miss and remember those people lost this year, including long-time SAAF Board member and friend Tommy Gin. The Bowling for Tommy event hosted by SAAF's Board of Directors touched his family and friends and helped to kick off the Tommy Gin Memorial Fund, a legacy in memory of his service.

Some changes were those whose time had come:

Thirty years into the HIV pandemic, it became glaringly obvious to SAAF's management team that in our own way we contributed to the stigma around HIV by identifying SAAF with an acronym only. Grant-funded activities to give SAAF brand recognition included changing signs on SAAF's office building. A new sign identifies SAAF as the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

Our organization continues to be a safe place and there is no shame in walking through our doors for whatever services you may need, no matter who you are or regardless of your HIV status.

Another way we tackled stigma was through PlaySAAF, a community-wide HIV awareness campaign. PlaySAAF featured a sex-positive message in radio and TV spots, billboards and bus shelters, print ads in magazines and newspapers and in social networking sites such as Facebook. Through a strategic grant made by The Stocker Foundation and generous in-kind support by local media, SAAF was able to conduct a million-dollar marketing campaign for under \$100,000. The campaign's goals helped to raise awareness of and promote HIV testing.

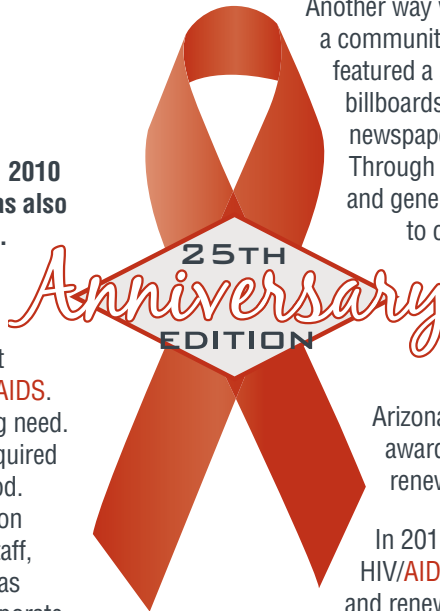
Another positive change came through Recovery Act funding opportunities from the Arizona Department of Commerce. SAAF received grant awards to convert some of our housing properties to renewable solar energy.

In 2010, we commemorated 25 years in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In 2011, it is now time to look ahead with hope and renewed plans for the future. Personally, I prefer visions to New Year's resolutions. I like to dream big. My wish list for 2011 and beyond is to:

- Package the PlaySAAF campaign and share it with other organizations to promote HIV awareness and education in their communities;
- Have all SAAF's properties and office building powered by solar energy by the end of 2012;
- Complete construction of new housing so families living with and affected by HIV/AIDS do not have to face homelessness or a waiting list; and
- Have the resources to meet the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS until the day comes when there is a cure and SAAF can redirect our efforts to addressing other community needs.

**May each of you be blessed with prosperity in all areas of your life in this New Year!**

Wendell Hicks, Executive Director



## Our Mission

The mission of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation is to create and sustain a healthier community through a compassionate, comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS.

# This Sign Says "WELCOME"

By Beth Carey, Director of Care Services

On July 27, new signs were installed marking the entrances to SAAF. For the first time on SAAF's building, one of the signs clearly states SAAF's full name, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

Members of the SAAF Haven support group, the longest-running support group for people living with HIV and AIDS in this community, were some of the first to notice the sign that spells out SAAF's name. "Yahoo!", one of the members exclaimed. While some of the group members expressed concern about possible breaches of confidentiality for people entering the building, by far the members felt that having AIDS out front on one of the signs was a way to say "Welcome" to others living with HIV/AIDS.

"After I was diagnosed with HIV, I hid for so long", one of the group members explained. "Now I tell everyone who I am. I tell them there is community support, and I tell them to come to SAAF." The sign now tells people, "This is the place to go." Another member stated: "Once you get help you can see life beginning again. That's what the sign is for."

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*"After I was diagnosed with HIV,  
I hid for so long. Now I tell everyone who I am.  
I tell them there is community support,  
and I tell them to come to SAAF."*



Many of the members of SAAF Haven describe personal journeys that began with fear, shame, and hatred from others and toward themselves when they first found out they were HIV positive. They also talk about the people and experiences who brought them love, joy, and the growing belief in the possibility of living a good life with HIV. For many, SAAF has been part of their journey to self-empowerment and sharing their strength with others. "The new sign is a positive way to state the business we're in here at SAAF," one of the members proudly declared, "the business of helping save lives."

**The SAAF Haven support group meets each Wednesday from 11:00-12:30 at SAAF, with lunch included. The group is open to anyone living with HIV/AIDS.**

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## CDC Grant Helps Create New Risk-Reduction Program

By Carlos Torres, SAAF Alternatives Program Manager

In the summer of 2010, SAAF received notice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that it was awarded a 5-year grant to provide HIV prevention services in Pima County. The application and review process was extremely competitive with over 500 organizations from across the United States submitting proposals. SAAF was the only organization in the state of Arizona to receive funding.

The program, known as Alternatives, will serve men and women with a history of substance use as well as individuals reentering our communities from jail or prison who have a history of substance use. Alternatives has three main components: Peer Education; Individualized Risk-Reduction counseling with comprehensive case management; and HIV Counseling, Testing, and Referral services.

Those individuals that participate in the Peer Education intervention will receive training in HIV and hepatitis risk-reduction, harm-reduction, and communication skills. The goal is to have them share this information with their immediate social networks and encourage them to participate in HIV prevention services and testing.

Individualized Risk Reduction Counseling will give participants an opportunity to work with a Prevention Counselor and a Case Manager to get support to access health care, drug treatment, and legal or human services to support their HIV and hepatitis risk-reduction behaviors.

All participants will be encouraged to take an HIV test and learn their status. Those who test HIV positive will be referred to HIV medical care as well as other services. HIV negative individuals will be encouraged to maintain good health and reduce HIV risk behaviors.

**For more information on the progress of the Alternatives program, please contact Carlos Torres at 520-628-7223, or at Ctorres@saaf.org.**

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## SAAF is Going Solar!

*Continued from page 1*

By Evelyn Rens, SAAF Grants Coordinator

funds allocated to the Department of Commerce by the U.S. Department of Energy made this project possible.

Jacinto houses two families and two individuals. These units, built in 1984, were renovated with City of Tucson Community Development Block Grant funds in 2007 and received weatherization upgrades in collaboration with Tucson Urban League. Moving to solar power at Jacinto is the next step in SAAF's commitment to increase the energy efficiency at SAAF's properties. Installation of a solar energy system at Savoy House is slated to begin early in 2011.

**For more information about these projects, contact Jerry Anderson, SAAF's Property Manager, at [janderson@saaf.org](mailto:janderson@saaf.org).**



Photo by Daniel Snyder

“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”

– Martin Luther King Jr

## 2010 Jérôme Beillard Festival for Life A New Night and a New Venue Add Up to Success!

By Kelly Wiehe, SAAF Events Coordinator

Over 600 people kicked off the holiday season at the 22nd Annual Jérôme Beillard Festival for Life on Saturday November 20, 2010 at the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center and this year's event was the most successful ever raising more than \$100,000!

This year, Festival for Life featured the first ever Pre-Event Party for Title Sponsor Long Realty Cares Foundation guests and Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation Circles of Humanity members. Attendees were able to preview auction items while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and drinks before the main event.

During the affair, guests sampled light fare from Pastiche Modern Eatery and bid on 470 live and silent auction items while listening to Brad Holland play the piano. After a short address from SAAF Executive Director Wendell Hicks, Long Realty Cares Foundation Board Vice-President Liz Peckham welcomed the crowd and turned the evening over to emcees Lupita Murillo (KVOA Channel 4) and Bobby Rich (MIXfm). There was a Live Auction followed by the music of Kate Becker and the Zodiacs. It was a great night where friends were able to “Eat,Sip,Bid” and raise funds for the programs and services of SAAF.

**We would like to sincerely thank the nearly 300 artists, businesses, and individuals who contributed to the Live and Silent Auctions; the 2010 Festival for Life Committee members; the nearly 100 volunteers that helped to make it happen; and all those who attended the event.**



Photo by Scott Griessel, Creatista

## 2011 Möda Provöcateūr *my story. my style.*

By Kelly Wiehe, SAAF Events Coordinator



If you missed the stunning styles on display at the Möda Provöcateūr Preview at Zen Rock in November, not to worry!

Sunday March 6, 2011 will mark the 8th Annual Möda Provöcateūr. Over 250 models will walk the runway at The University of Arizona® Student Union Grand Ballroom with styles created by local salons and boutiques. This amazing professionally produced runway event is like no other in Tucson.

**Tickets are on sale now. For more information visit the Möda Provöcateūr website, [www.saafmoda.org](http://www.saafmoda.org) and check us out on Facebook.**

## Jell-O Wrestling 2011 moving to Saturday

By Monique Vallery, SAAF Events Coordinator

The 24th Anniversary Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction presented by ManAds will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2011 at Tucson Electric Park. That's right – for the first time in recent memory, Jell-O Wrestling will be held on a Saturday.

For those of you who have not yet been initiated into the Jell-O Wrestling experience, it is an event made up of 10-12 teams of wrestlers who raise funds to wrestle in a pit of Jell-O. Between wrestling matches, our lovely and talented Drag Queen Hostesses run a live auction featuring a variety of unique items ranging from nice to naughty!

Interested in supporting this fun and outrageous event? Then why not sign up to wrestle? This is your chance to live out your childhood dream of being able to play with your food and not get in trouble for it!

**Become a 2011 Jell-O Wrestler today by contacting Monique Vallery, SAAF Events Coordinator, at (520) 628-7223 or [mvallery@saaf.org](mailto:mvallery@saaf.org). Please also remember to visit the Jell-O website at [www.jello-wrestling.org](http://www.jello-wrestling.org) often to get updates!**



# Foundation Spotlight: Steve J. Miller Foundation



By Evelyn Rens, SAAF Grants Coordinator

*"It is clear that we will not be able to stop the U.S. HIV epidemic until every affected community, along with health officials nationwide, prioritize the needs of gay and bisexual men with HIV prevention efforts."*

— Kevin Fenton, M.D.  
CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD & TB Prevention

The Steve J. Miller Foundation has made grants to SAAF over the last nine years that have supported innovative programs targeting gay and bisexual men including Salud es Poder (Spanish for "Health is Power"), the Gay Men's Health Project and more recently MSHAPE (Men's Sexual Health and Personal Empowerment).

MSHAPE is a participant-driven, participant-directed program designed to empower gay and bisexual men in achieving and maintaining optimum physical, mental, spiritual, and sexual health through education, support, training, and positive social-networking opportunities. MSHAPE is a program that promotes greater awareness of men's health issues and serves to build a stronger, more supportive community.

In 2010, the Steve J. Miller Foundation made a grant in support of the MSHAPE Bridge Program. As rates of HIV infection increase in younger generations, the Bridge Program seeks to recruit and involve young men ages 18 – 24 in MSHAPE's activities and in HIV and STD prevention efforts as peer educators.

**On behalf of the men we serve, SAAF wants to recognize and offer our appreciation to the Steve J. Miller Foundation for its outstanding commitment to HIV prevention efforts in Southern Arizona.**

## Foundations for SAAF's Mission

By Evelyn Rens, SAAF Grants Coordinator

According to Wikipedia, the Greek playwright Aeschylus is credited with coining the term *philanthropy*. The word was used to describe Prometheus' motivation for giving human kind the gifts of fire and optimism, out of his "loving" or "caring" for their "human potential". Benjamin Franklin may have created the first "personal system of civic philanthropy in America" which included raising funds with a challenge grant for a hospital. Of the several modern definitions given, Robert Bremner's sums it up best: "The aim of philanthropy...is improvement in the quality of human life."<sup>1</sup>

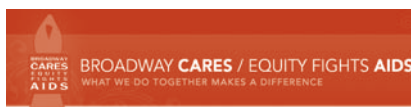
**Grantmaking** is one form of philanthropy. An individual, a family, a group of individuals or a corporation creates a foundation, a type of nonprofit organization often set up with an endowment of funds. Trustees or directors of the foundation then distribute income earned from the assets set aside to support specified charitable activities.<sup>2</sup> Grantmaking, like the gift of optimism, contributes significantly towards efforts to improve people's quality of life. According to the Foundation Center, in the United States more than 24,000 grantmaking organizations distribute funding for human services and more than 16,000 for health related causes.

**We want to take this opportunity to recognize those foundations that invest in SAAF's mission and through their grantmaking support human potential and improve the quality of life for people living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV.**

1 [www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philanthropy](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philanthropy)  
2 [www.mcf.org/mcf/whatis/founda.htm](http://www.mcf.org/mcf/whatis/founda.htm)

**alliancefund**

Lesbian Gay Bisexual  
**10 Years** Transgender Straight  
Investing in your community since 2000.



## Support Groups

### Mondays

**P.A.T.H. – Positive Attitudes Towards Health and HIV:** Open to anyone living with or concerned about HIV/AIDS  
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm @ SAAF

### Wednesdays

**SAAF Haven Support Group**  
(lunch included)  
11:00 am - 12:30 pm @ SAAF

### Thursdays

**Heterosexual Support Group**  
(lunch included)  
11:00 am - 12:30 pm @ SAAF  
(except for third Thursday of the month)

*Support Group schedules may vary.  
Please call SAAF for more information.*



## 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
- Support Groups
- Telephone Assistance
- Transportation

### 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

## Scott's Story

***J. Scott McManus is the Jérôme Beillard Empowerment Awardee for 2009. Scott is a volunteer whose courage and personal strength empower those around him.***

By J. Scott McManus

I've always approached things needing to know the "how" and "why" before accepting things as they are. When I was young it was "Why is the sky blue?" Growing up I questioned authority and the status quo, "Why do we need to do it this way?"

After my diagnosis with **AIDS** my questioning continued – "What can we do now?" "Who can I talk to?" "What are our next steps?" Whether it was with doctors, nurses, my employer or my family members, I asked questions and sought answers. I was allowed to learn and be part of the solution. I was empowered and connected—challenged yet truly blessed.

Empowerment for me is not a personal tool but a shared instrument of hope. I can not be selfish when others are in distress or need. I carry with me the energy and strength of those who have passed before me.

I started my participation in the HIV consortia in the various areas where I have lived in part to know what was going on, but also to remind myself and others of a shared purpose of speaking up for other people living with HIV and **AIDS** not able to be at the table. I have connected with others who share my passion and drive – people I will never forget and hopefully will never forget me.

I've given back in support to my family. I've volunteered in the HIV/**AIDS** community. I've helped at a food bank and on a telephone helpline. As I volunteer at SAAF with Care Services and Prevention programs and at TIHAN I want people to know that in asking they do not need to give up their pride and dignity. I want people to feel comfortable and welcomed and to know they are never a burden. I want people to know a non-judgmental, helpful, and healthy way to fulfill ourselves and our partners, and I want to treat others as I expect to be treated. I trust my Jersey accent and caring attitude coated with a sense of humor to bring the best out of people!

**I find hope in however many more years I am blessed with on this earth. I challenge myself each and every day to fulfill the mission to be there unconditionally and give others the comfort, solace, and laughter we need to live with **AIDS** in our midst.**



Photo by Scott Griessel, Creatista

## Volunteers Making a Difference

With the gracious help of volunteers, SAAF's two big fall fundraising events, AIDSWalk and Festival for Life, went off without a hitch!

More than 500 volunteers provided 2,200 hours of volunteer time for SAAF's largest fundraising event, AIDSWalk. In November, more than 100 volunteers helped with Festival for Life, SAAF's annual live and silent auction. Without the help of these volunteers, neither of these events would have been possible. Volunteers also played a crucial role at this year's World AIDS Day held at Hotel Congress on December 1.

Thanks to everyone who came out and made such a big difference in all of SAAF's fundraising efforts.

Want to get more involved with SAAF as a volunteer? Then join us for an upcoming Volunteer Orientation. RSVP for one of the following dates by contacting Marc Canales, SAAF Volunteer Coordinator, at (520) 628-7223 or [mcanales@saaf.org](mailto:mcanales@saaf.org).

### Volunteer Orientation

Sat. Jan. 22 8:30 am - 10:30 am  
Tues. Feb. 15 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
Sat. Mar. 12 8:30 am - 10:30 am

### Reception Orientation

*Scheduled as needed. Please inquire if interested.*

***Dates may be subject to change and trainings may be rescheduled depending on number of participants. Additional trainings may be scheduled depending on interest/need.***

## Five Year SAMHSA Grant Awarded to SAAF *Focus is on Outreach to Minority Youth*

By Ruth Hillman, SAAF Associate Director of Prevention Services

SAAF has been awarded a 5-year federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This was a special funding opportunity and SAAF was eligible thanks to the successful Points of Health Program and its use of the Say It Straight curriculum.

The program, RAPP (Reaching Adolescents Prevention Project), will implement Say It Straight with minority youth ages 13-21 who participate in the charter school system. The curriculum is designed to prevent risky behaviors such as alcohol and drug use, which can lead to HIV/**AIDS** and/or hepatitis C infection. It promotes wellness, personal and social responsibility, positive self-esteem and positive relationships, and focuses on recognizing disempowering behaviors and replacing them with empowering behaviors and communication techniques.

RAPP will also provide family support services to increase family communication around substance use and HIV risks and help stabilize families. HIV testing and counseling services will be offered.

SAAF will partner with school administrators to recommend sexual health education policies as part of their school curriculum and will implement a community-driven social marketing campaign to raise awareness about substance use and HIV/STI risk for youth.

**For more information on the progress of the RAPP program please contact Ruth Hillman at 520-628-7223 or at [rhillman@saaf.org](mailto:rhillman@saaf.org).**

THE  
**SAAF**  
SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS  
FOUNDATION

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# CONNECTION

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*Your gift today to  
SAAF's Food Program  
will help someone tomorrow!*

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"We make a living by what  
we get, but we make a life  
by what we give."

— Winston Churchill



## Travis Wright Memorial Buyers' Club

**The Buyers' Club has moved across  
the street from SAAF and is now  
located at the Medicine Shoppe at  
305 South Euclid, #111.**

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

**Monday - Friday**

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm and by appointment

## Join Us for a Night of Bowling and Fun at Bedroxx

By Ethan Smith Cox, SAAF Development Director

We hope you will join us for Bowling for Tommy, a fundraising event to honor the work and legacy of former SAAF Board Member Tommy Gin, who passed away in January 2010.

Bowling for Tommy will take place on Friday, January 14, 2011 at Bedroxx, located at 4385 West Ina Road. Check-in will begin at 5pm and bowling starts at 6pm.

Lanes can be purchased for \$180 and up to six people can bowl on one lane. With your lane purchase, you will receive unlimited bowling from 6-8pm, shoe rentals for up to six players, 1 large pizza and 1 pitcher of soda. There will also be a raffle with many exciting prizes.

To register for Bowling for Tommy, go to the SAAF website and click on the Bowling for Tommy link on the left side of the screen.

**All proceeds benefit the programs  
and services of SAAF.**

## YOUR GIFT IN ACTION

Below are just a few of the ways in which  
SAAF utilizes funds to support people  
in Southern Arizona.

### \$5

Can help to cover 1 Food for Life meal  
delivered to a homebound client.

Last year, SAAF delivered more than  
15,000 meals in Southern Arizona.

### \$10

Can help to cover the cost of 1 HIV test kit  
with supplies. If the test has a positive result,  
this cost goes up to \$200. This does not cover  
the administrative costs to conduct the test.

### \$15

Can help to support a family that receives  
a monthly supplemental food bag which  
includes 2 lbs. of meat, 1/4 lb. butter,  
1 lb. cheese, and 1 loaf of bread.  
Last year more than 1,500 supplemental  
food bags were given out.