

From Texting to Testing: It's all about ACCESSIBILITY



Photo by David Berger, Cox Media

Using the latest technology, SAAF is increasing awareness about and access to resources for HIV/AIDS. SAAF's webpage is being updated to serve as a portal to our many programs and services as well as a link to social media. The advantages are numerous. YouTube makes it easy to share video messages, and networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace can target messages to specific groups. SAAF now has six public pages on Facebook, four of which are devoted to SAAF's youth prevention programs. Cyber safe spaces, like the MSHAPE's Men's Group, give participants a moderated forum to network privately.

The Internet increases access to information and the smartphone makes access mobile and portable. Whether texting or tweeting, you can have conversations with another person or with an entire social network. Creative use of many smartphone features helps broaden our reach. For instance, MTV Staying Alive and iCondom have a free app identifying condom dispensers. Just upload the app, touch the screen and your GPS system provides you with the name and address of nearby participating locations (See the article by Jerry Diaz on the front cover).

Using the app, you'll find free condoms, personal lubrication and safer-sex kits available at SAAF's office, Wingspan, local gay bars, and the Theresa Lee Clinic. SAAF has acquired condom vending machines in 23 locations around town where you can purchase one condom and a packet of personal lubrication for 25 cents. The proceeds benefit SAAF's Food Programs.

Smartphone's apps make it quick and easy to register for AIDS WALK 2011 on Sunday, October 16. To register or make a gift, just capture an image of the event's mobile bar code. Simply put your phone by the bar code on an AIDS WALK display, poster, flyer, registration form, or even this newsletter, and you will be taken directly to the AIDS WALK web page.

For the first time ever, SAAF is also offering HIV testing services at AIDS WALK, using rapid testing technology. Everyone has an HIV status. By knowing yours, you become empowered, doing your part to prevent the spread of HIV.

Although the fast-paced world of technology is wonderful and makes access to information convenient, it can't take the place of the human touch. Alonso, Matthew and Michael, all SAAF Prevention Staff members, drive as far west as Yuma and as far north as Payson providing rapid HIV testing and harm-reduction services. Thanks to their long hours on the road, people in eight previously underserved rural counties have access to HIV testing. SAAF promotes and facilitates early access to care and treatment for those diagnosed with HIV. Compassionate Peer Counselors and Case Managers support and assist people to navigate through complex social service and health care systems.

I am proud of SAAF's client-centered approach. People coming to SAAF are in different places in their lives. We provide them all with access to resources to take charge of their health and their lives. This includes access to computers and the Internet in the MSHAPE lounge and the Group Room off the lobby, and the Alternatives Drop-In center at SAAF headquarters.

It's all about accessibility.

Wendell Hicks

Wendell Hicks,
SAAF Executive Director

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SAAF

SOUTHERN ARIZONA
AIDS FOUNDATION

375 S. Euclid Ave.
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CONNECTION

SAAF

SOUTHERN ARIZONA
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October, November, December
WINTER 2011
Tucson, Arizona

CONNECTION

The Newsletter of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

Now, supporting SAAF is easier than ever!
Make a \$10 donation on your cell phone by
texting "SAAF" to 20222.

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

2011/12 Fundraising Events

**23rd Annual
AIDS WALK Tucson**
Sunday, October 16, 2011
University of Arizona® Campus

**23rd Annual Jérôme Beillard
Festival for Life**
Saturday, November 19, 2011
Tucson Chinese Cultural Center

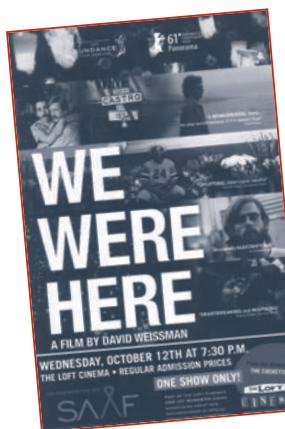
Bowling for Tommy
Saturday, January 14, 2012
Bedroxx, 4385 West Ina Road

Möda Prövocateür
Sunday, March 4, 2012
NEW LOCATION - Tucson Convention
Center Grand Ballroom

25th Annual Jell-O Wrestling
Saturday, May 12, 2012
Kennedy Fiesta Park

We Were Here Screening at the Loft - One Night Only

By Ethan Smith Cox, Development Director



"Of all the cinematic explorations of the AIDS crisis,
not one is more heartbreaking and inspiring than
WE WERE HERE, a quiet, elegiac documentary about the
response to the epidemic in San Francisco."

— Stephen Holden, *New York Times*

On Wednesday, October 12, at 7:30 pm, SAAF and the Loft Cinemas team up to present *We Were Here*, a 2011 film documenting the early days of the AIDS crisis in San Francisco. *We Were Here* revisits San Francisco a decade after the outbreak of AIDS, when the city's flourishing gay community is hit by this unimaginable disaster. This is the first documentary to take a deep, reflective look back at the arrival and impact of AIDS in San Francisco. It explores how the city's inhabitants were affected by, and how they responded to that calamitous epidemic.

Though a San Francisco-based story, *We Were Here* extends beyond the city and epidemic, and speaks to the capacity of individuals to come together as a community and face adversity with love, compassion and determination.

The Loft screening kicks off our AIDS WALK 2011 weekend of events.
For more information visit www.loftcinema.com.

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Technology Meets Necessity Meets SAAF

By Jerry Diaz, Senior Health Education Specialist

Help prevent the spread of HIV and
other sexually-transmitted infections.
We at SAAF urge you to support
MTV Staying Alive and iCondom
in their mission to create the world's
largest map of condom distribution.

Download the free iCondom app
(www.mycondom.com) to locate sites
in our community
that distribute very
low-cost condoms.



You have either heard or experienced this scenario yourself. You are out and having a great time with someone. You envision an intimate situation with this amazing person but one issue looms large. You don't have a condom.

Studies show that the possibility of HIV infection rises when condoms are not available. Although SAAF has always been a leader in supplying safe-sex items, its reach is limited. It is one organization in one building that is only open during regular office hours. Through partnership, SAAF and other community organizations have succeeded in making condoms available at various locations to anyone needing them. This effort has been a rewarding community-building effort that has paid off for many years.

Music Television (MTV) and Apple have created an application that puts the convenience of knowing where to find a condom in the palm of your hand. Smartphone users, meet the iCondom App. The app is free and can be downloaded and used on your smartphone, hand-held device, or tablet. The application uses a location function to spot where in your area condoms are available. The map screen looks like any other GPS, with pins that show where condoms are available. Select a pin and a screen describing the location appears. The location may be an office, business, bar, or health organization.

iCondom works hand in hand with SAAF, identifying places where SAAF stocks condoms (SAAF stocks condoms in local GLBT bars, Wingspan, community centers, and restaurants where the cost is only 25 cents).

**There is now no excuse to be without a condom.
Stop the spread of HIV.
Download your free app at mycondom.com today.**

SAAF

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.

Volunteer Training

Get involved with SAAF. Join us for an upcoming volunteer orientation, the first step for anyone wanting to volunteer at SAAF.*

Tues. Nov. 22 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Tues. Dec. 13 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 Courtney Kelly, SAAF volunteer coordinator, at (520) 628-7223 or ckelly@saaf.org

Community Resources Training

Learn more about HIV/AIDS and build your skills as a community educator. If you're interested in learning the basics about HIV and in being a volunteer outreach educator with SAAF, we have three great classes to help volunteers. All trainings are on Saturdays from 8:30am-4:30pm. Breakfast, lunch, snacks and refreshments are provided.

HIV Overview for Community Education

November 5, 2011

This interactive training fits a variety of learning styles. Provides a basic understanding of HIV and prepares the participant to speak with family and friends about the virus. This class is open to those in the community interested in increasing their knowledge of HIV.

Outreach Educator

November 19, 2011

Upon completing this training, you'll be able to assist staff and other trained volunteers in conducting outreach at testing events, social service agencies, community health fairs, and other locations where community members can be reached with information and safer-sex supplies. Prerequisite: Completion of the HIV Overview for Community Education training class.

Community Educator

December 3, 2011

This training will discuss different methods of giving a presentation, effective presentation techniques, how to assess your audience, and how to plan and prepare an effective HIV overview presentation. This training will give ample opportunity to practice giving an HIV overview presentation. Prerequisite: Completion of the HIV Overview for Community Education and Outreach Educator training classes.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Jason Rivera, HIP/AZ Program Manager, at jrivera@saaf.org or (520) 628-7223 or register online at www.saaf.org/cep-training-sign-up.php.



Staff Spotlight

By Imelda Rodriguez, Development Associate

I am the Development Associate for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and began working here in January 2011. My main job at SAAF includes administrative duties for the Development Department where I oversee gift entry and acknowledgement, and manage Sage, our fundraising software. I am also responsible for generating reports and helping with SAAF's events whenever possible.

I absolutely adore working at SAAF. It is truly a place I am happy to come to everyday. I can be myself and am completely in love with everyone I work with. SAAF staffer's compassion permeates every aspect of our work with clients and the communities we serve. At the end of the day, it feels so good to go home and know that the work I've done contributes to the greater good.

When I am not working, I enjoy being with my two boys, Gabriel, age 16, and Josiah, 1. Gabriel is a sophomore at Cholla High School and currently plays football there (Go Chargers!). Although he is barely one, Josiah is the most talkative little man you will ever meet, even though much of what he says is barely intelligible.

One thing that many people may not know about me is that I was adopted from Mexico as a child and I could not have asked for two greater parents, even if I had chosen them myself.

I am so happy to be at SAAF and feel lucky to work with such a dedicated group of staff, donors, and volunteers. It lifts my heart every day.

SAAF Stars Shine in Tucson

By Monique Vallery, Events Coordinator

Ms Lucinda Holliday (long time SAAF supporter and 2011 SAAF volunteer appreciation award winner) and the SAAF staff have joined forces to raise money for care services programs.

In August, Senior Health Specialist Waco Starr took the stage at Woody's as Ms. Synchronicity Starr. That evening's scintillating performance helped to raise nearly \$1,000 for the Share Bear Fund, a program that helps provide direct services to clients.

The next performance will take place starting at 9:30pm on Friday October 7 at Woody's and will feature SAAF's Events Coordinator Monique Vallery as l'nedagina.

Look for future performance dates in our e-newsletter, the SAAF Connection Plus. To subscribe to SAAF's e-news and never miss a single exciting update, go to saaf.org and enter your email address in the box provided on the home page.



AIDSWALK Tucson: No New Infections...PERIOD. Coming Sunday, October 16, 2011

By Monique Vallery, Events Coordinator

Join thousands of friends, families, and community members walking in support of those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, HIV education and prevention efforts, and loved ones lost to HIV/AIDS. SAAF's largest annual fundraising event reaches thousands in our community...and we want you to be a part of it.

What's New this Year?

Supporting AIDSWALK and SAAF is easier than ever

Upon paying the \$20 walker or \$35 runner registration fee (or the equivalent amount raised from your sponsors), you will receive an AIDSWALK 2011 t-shirt. Those who pay \$5 to register a pet will get an AIDSWALK doggie bandanna. Can't make it this year? Sign up and fundraise as a virtual walker.



For complete information about this year's AIDSWALK, visit www.aidswalktucson.org or scan the bar code at left.



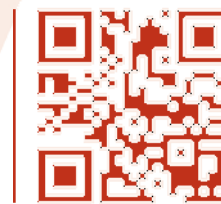
Festival for Life - You won't believe your eyes!

By Ethan Smith Cox, Development Director

EAT. SIP. BID!

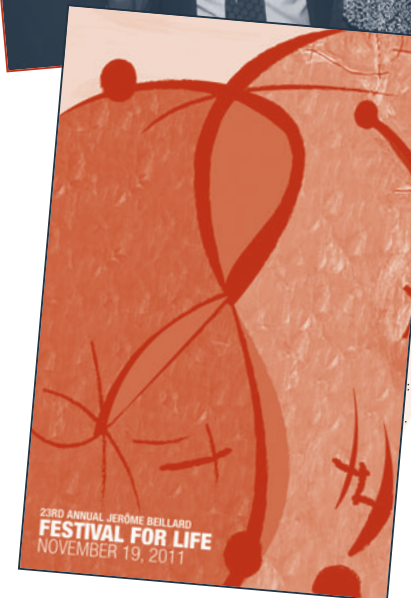
The 23rd annual Jerome Beillard Festival for Life is Saturday, November 19th at the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center. This year's event is shaping up to be one of the best ever. Highlights of the amazing artwork, gift baskets and jewelry available in the live and silent auctions include:

- A trip for two to Bali
- Mexico vacation packages
- Framed artwork from Gail Marcus-Orlen and Paula Wittner
- Framed Photographs by Betsy Leacock and Lorraine Darconte
- A Ballet-themed Christmas tree
- Performing arts gift basket



In addition to the auction, incredible food, and great company, this year's event features entertainment by Flam Chen, the Street Minstrels and Jose Luis Puerta.

Don't miss the social event of the season! Tickets can be purchased online at festivalforlife.org or by calling (520) 628-7223.



Foundations for SAAF's Mission

By Evelyn Rens, Grants Coordinator

Grants from the following corporate and private foundations help fund programs and services that support human potential and improve the health and quality of life for people living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV. Thanks to:



M•A•C AIDS Fund for its continued support of SAAF's Food Program for People Living with HIV/AIDS. Every cent of the retail price of M•A•C VIVA GLAM lipstick and lipglass is donated to the M•A•C AIDS Fund.

For each VIVA GLAM lipstick and lipglass sale, SAAF can provide:

- One homebound client living with HIV/AIDS with three delicious, nutritious Food for Life meals daily, prepared with fresh ingredients, and delivered right to the door; or
- A family affected by HIV/AIDS with a monthly supplemental food package containing two lbs. of meat, ¼ lb. butter, 1 lb. cheese, and 1 loaf of bread; or
- Two clients with a bag of fresh produce that contains apples, oranges, an onion, a bag of potatoes, a head of cabbage or lettuce, one tomato and one garlic bulb during monthly "Harvest Days"; or
- One client needing extra nutritional support with a case of Ensure;
- The purchaser of the lipstick with feeling beautiful both inside and outside!



Steve J. Miller Foundation continues to support MSHAPE's HIV prevention efforts.

Phoenix Suns Charities, winning on and off the court...for joining our team and supporting the Voz Youth Prevention Program.

Enterprise Holding Foundation contributed to the funding of SAAF's HIV Counseling & Testing program and National HIV Testing Day activities on June 27, 2011.

City of Tucson/Pima County HOME, Habitat for Humanity Tucson, and U.S. Bank for contributing to the Glenn Street Development & Rehabilitation



Bowling for Tommy 2012 - Twilight at Bedroxx

Don't miss bowling, fun, and fundraising, from 4:00 to 6:30 pm, at the annual Bowling for Tommy. Individual bowlers may register for \$30. Lanes of six, purchased for \$180, include one large pizza, a pitcher of soda, and shoe rental for six.

Register online at www.saaf.org or call (520) 628-7223.



Services Available for People Living with HIV/AIDS:

CLINICAL SERVICES

Case Management
Peer Counseling

SUPPORT SERVICES

Complementary Therapies
Dental Care
Food Programs
Holiday Project
Medications Assistance
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

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.

Travis Wright Memorial Buyers' Club

Purchase vitamins and supplements for HIV/AIDS care and general health at the lowest possible cost. Located at The Medicine Shoppe 305 S. Euclid Ave, next to SAAF

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Wednesday
9:00 am to 8:00 pm