

THIS ISSUE

Improving Services for People Living with HIV/AIDS	Page 1
Supporting Our Environment	Page 1
Thank You Southern Arizona	Page 2
"How I Live with HIV"	Page 3
The Wellspring Photo Project	
Governor Napolitano Visits SAAF	Page 3
HIV Youth Peer Education Program Raises Awareness	Page 3
AIDSWALK 2008	Page 4
Festival for Life	Page 4
New Women's HIV Prevention Program Receives Start-up Funding	Page 5
HIV/AIDS Spotlight	Page 5
Foundations for SAAF's Mission	Page 6
Challenge Match Raises Valuable Funds for Client Services	Page 6

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.

IMPROVING SERVICES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

Beth Carey, Director of Client Services

Because things are the way they are, things will not stay the way they are.

-Bertolt Brecht, poet and playwright

SAAF has made a number of changes to improve the quality of services provided to people living with HIV and to respond to changes in funding. In making these changes SAAF will continue to provide a compassionate, comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS with an increased level of quality to programs and most importantly to the people served by SAAF.

As part of these changes, Case Management services have been reoriented and each Case Manager is now working in partnership with a specific medical treatment team at the HIV specialty clinics in Tucson. Housing Case Managers are now providing case management services to residents in SAAF's housing program in partnership with the resident's medical team. This is creating better communication and access to services needed by clients.

Continued on page 5

SUPPORTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

As SAAF continues to focus on responding to the challenge of HIV/AIDS in Southern Arizona, we also become aware of other issues facing the health and vitality of this community. We have found that for clients and everyone that we work with here at SAAF, the nature of our environment plays an essential role in our continued health. That's why we are expanding our outlook, not only to foster an open and supportive environment for clients at SAAF, but also to protect the natural environment so our community can continue to grow and flourish.

SAAF has had a long-standing recycling program for our office trash, but we're taking it a step further: The newsletter you are reading from was made with 50% post-consumer and 25% pre-consumer recycled content paper, and we're making an effort to consciously select office materials that are environmentally friendly. We're using smaller

envelopes made of recycled paper and choosing to go with vegetable-based, solvent-free ink for our printing, which is less harmful to the environment. Our events staff use leftover event marketing materials to create notebooks that contain scrap paper so that our staff can cut down on our use of blank paper. In addition, the changes we have made have allowed us to bring costs down, which means we are able to increase our communication to you by adding one more newsletter. We're always looking for ways to improve and maximize our resources in order to reach the greatest amount of people with the most services and this year we are proud to say we are taking up that challenge with an important additional effect: we're helping to protect and preserve our natural environment. Both are causes worth fighting for.

THANK YOU SOUTHERN ARIZONA!



Photo by David Banger, Cox Media

What a year! In June, SAAF ended its fiscal year and as a community, you set another record for the amount of support you gave to SAAF. This year, volunteers contributed more than 18,000 hours, and over 5,500 gifts were made to support people living with or affected by HIV. Community support is of utmost importance as we continue to experience restrictions in public funding. I would like to thank all of you for supporting people affected by HIV/AIDS and programs that help to prevent new infections in our community. Without your countless volunteer hours, generous gifts and overall encouragement, SAAF simply would not be able to fulfill its mission.

Since I joined SAAF in October, I have been continuously overwhelmed by the strength and support of this community. Your enthusiasm, warmth, and willingness to stand in solidarity with this cause is inspiring.

In July we began another important year of coming together to stand up to the challenge of HIV/AIDS. We continue to strive to expand our reach into the community and are proud to announce the addition of new programs designed to reach youth and women. Infection rates among women have risen since the beginning of the epidemic in the United States and women of color are particularly at risk: the 2008 HIV/AIDS Report for the State of Arizona notes that “the current rate of emergent HIV among African American women is 50% higher than the mean rate among men.” In keeping with the newest challenges of HIV/AIDS,

SAAF introduced its Women’s HIV Prevention Program to reduce the rising rate of HIV infection among women, particularly women of color. The program also seeks to collaborate with agencies working with women of child-bearing age in order to incorporate prevention of mother-to-child transmission. We are also reaching out to youth through our new HIV Youth Peer Education (HYPE) program, designed to provide youth with the information and leadership skills necessary to reach out to their peers to prevent HIV/AIDS and maintain overall sexual health. In addition to youth and women, we continue to focus prevention efforts on other vulnerable groups. In particular, the rate of infection of HIV among men who have sex with men (MSM)

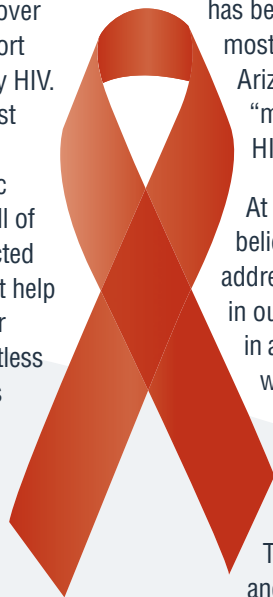
has been on a rise since 1999, and the most recent report from the State of Arizona on HIV/AIDS suggests a “measurable resurgence in the HIV epidemic in MSM.”

At SAAF, there is a fundamental belief that in order to adequately address the challenge of HIV/AIDS in our community, we must respond in a comprehensive and holistic way. As you will read throughout this newsletter, this means broadening our outreach through the recognition that HIV/AIDS affects everyone.

This also means looking for new and better ways to meet the needs of clients and our community.

I ask you to join SAAF for another challenging and exciting year. For those of you interested in learning more about SAAF, please join us for an open house tour to learn more about our programs and services or take part in one of this year’s upcoming events. AIDSWALK is coming up in October and the Jérôme Beillard Festival for Life in November. I look forward to working closer with all of you who have made my short time at SAAF so rewarding. Together, we are all investing in a future for our community that can be free of new HIV infections.

Mendace Hicks



SAAF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kathy Wells
President
- Cheryl Smith
1st Vice President
- Steve Gottlieb
2nd Vice President
- John Braswell
Secretary/Treasurer
- Capt. William Richards
Chair, Nominating Committee
- Tommy Gin
Member at Large
- Pamela Meichel
Member at Large



Kathy Wells

- Linda Breck
- Kathy Byrne
- Miguel A. Cruz
- Larry Cummings
- Damon Gay
- Chuck George
- Kristie Graham
- Conrad Moseley
- Kristin Roberts
- Wendell Hicks
ex-officio

HONORARY BOARD

- Kevin Carmichael
- Kimberly Clements
- Jim Click
- Thomas Donohue
- Sally Drachman
- Bob Elliot
- Roy Flores
- Jim Kolbe
- Peter Likins
- Czarina Lopez
- Anne Maley
- George Miller
- Rose Mofford
- Ned Norris, Jr.
- Lute Olson
- Cele Peterson
- Pat Pettis
- Steve Quinlan
- Robert N. Shelton
- Don Shropshire
- Esther Tang
- Robert E. Walkup
- Andrew Weil

A special thank you to all of SAAF’s past and current board members for their hard work and dedication. SAAF would also like to welcome new board members Chuck George and Larry Cummings as well as Kristie Graham who returned to the board after a short leave.

The SAAF Connection is published quarterly by the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

To be added to or deleted from the mailing list or to make address changes, contact Tara Vecchione at 628.7223, ext 231

To comment on the content of The SAAF Connection, email editor@saaf.org

Layout and Design: WhiteSpace Design, Inc.

*Printing: Nationwide Printing
Printed on Recycled Paper*

© September 2008, SAAF

ONGOING EVENTS

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

Wellspring Support Group
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm @ SAAF

Fridays:

Yoga
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm @ SAAF

HIV UPDATE

FREE and open to the public.
Be educated!
September 10, 2008
(lunch included)
12:00 pm -1:15 pm @ SAAF
Paolo Preston with the HIP/AZ
Methods program will lead a
discussion on “Stigma.”

“HOW I LIVE WITH HIV” THE WELLSPRING PHOTO PROJECT

In January of 2008, clients who attended the Wellspring HIV support group at SAAF decided they wanted to share with their community what it means to live with HIV/AIDS and the ‘How I Live with HIV’ photo project was born. The project consists of a series of 12 photos with narratives on how the participants live with HIV. Each photo is also accompanied by a short bio of the individual including their reason for participating in the project. All of the clients who chose to participate were given disposable cameras to take pictures of individuals, places, items and subjects that serve as their life-support for living with HIV/AIDS.

The purpose of the photo project is to give the community a glimpse into the lives of a small group of individuals living with HIV. The project is about fostering an understanding of what it means to live day to day with the virus - that it does not claim the identities of those living with HIV/AIDS but that we as individuals can create and change the identity of HIV/AIDS. The project is also intended to increase awareness, sensitivity and compassion for those living with HIV/AIDS.

This powerful photo project will be featured at the Jérôme Beillard Festival for Life in November. Please join the participants in sharing their stories of the pain, love and support that comes from living, learning, and thriving with HIV/AIDS.

Thank you to Robin Stancliff Photography, Centric Photo and Tucson Pima Arts Council for your support.

The Wellspring group and photo project are activities of SAAF's HIV Intervention & Prevention Arizona (HIP/AZ) prevention program.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Volunteer Orientation

Tues.	Sept. 16	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Sat.	Oct. 25	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Tues.	Nov. 18	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Sat.	Dec. 6	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

AIDS Educator Training

Sat.	Sept. 13	8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Sat.	Dec. 13	8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Client Support Training (2 days)

Sat.	Sept. 27	8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Sun.	Sept. 28	8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Sat.	Nov. 15	8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Sun.	Nov. 16	8:30 am - 5:00 pm

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.

Photo by Jessica Calentano



GOVERNOR NAPOLITANO VISITS SAAF

Governor Janet Napolitano visited to show her support of people living with and affected by HIV. The governor recorded a Public Service Announcement in support of this year's AIDSWALK and stopped in to speak with youth participating in the HYPE program.

HIV YOUTH PEER EDUCATION PROGRAM RAISES AWARENESS

This July marked the launch of SAAF's new HIV Youth Peer Education program, known as HYPE, which will continue to take place as an annual summer training. Fourteen young people, ages 12-18 came together from all over Pima County for a full week of training designed to empower themselves to become role models for their peers in HIV prevention. The youth learned about peer education, the bridge model of behavior change, safer sex practices, and leadership skills. A visit from Governor Janet Napolitano got the youth energized at the beginning of the week and they spent the latter part of the week designing lessons about HIV prevention and healthy decision-making. On the final day of the training, the youth delivered their presentation to two separate groups of young people in the community. The newly-trained peer educators left excited and eager to use their skills in their communities and to empower their friends and classmates to make healthy decisions.

AIDSWALK 2008

Everybody's Walk!

On Sunday, October 19, 2008, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and Title Sponsor Desert Diamond Casino and Hotel will be hosting the 20th annual AIDSWALK Tucson featuring a 5K walk, 10K fun run, food, entertainment, community education, and a quilt-opening ceremony on the central mall at The University of Arizona®. AIDSWALK calls the community to "remember, support and prevent". Twelve AIDS Quilt panels help us to remember family, friends, and loved ones that have been lost to HIV or AIDS. Nearly 100 sponsors and over 5,500 walkers raise the much-needed funds to help support people living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS through programs and services of SAAF. Education and outreach at the event help to reduce stigma and offer the community an opportunity to learn the part each of us can play in preventing new HIV infections in this community.

Individual walkers and teams are encouraged to visit www.aidswalktucson.com to register online in advance. Walkers are encouraged to

get involved and create a fundraising page to gain support from family, friends and co-workers to join them in this important event. Walkers can also pick up an AIDSWALK registration brochure at any Tucson Walgreen's store. Early registration and check-in will take place at the SAAF office, 375 S. Euclid Ave, on October 16 and 17 from 9am to 6pm and on the 18th from 9am to 2pm. Fundraising incentive prizes will be awarded at levels of \$100, \$250, \$500 and \$1,000! **A grand prize of a 4 night stay at the Penasco Del Sol Hotel in Rocky Point, plus a \$250 Visa gift card will be awarded to the highest fundraiser.**

AIDSWALK 2008 will be a meaningful day of community gathering. Be part of it! We ask that you tell others about AIDSWALK, put up a poster, form a team of your own, challenge others to a fundraising contest, and generally spread the word. Your personal support of AIDSWALK helps provide critical services for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, and also helps to fund essential prevention programs for people at risk for HIV. HIV/AIDS doesn't discriminate. This is everybody's walk.

TITLE SPONSOR



The AIDSWALK schedule is as follows:
6:30 am Registration opens
7:00 am 10K Run starts
7:15 am Daybreak Quilt Opening Ceremony
8:15 am AIDSWALK 5K Opening Ceremony
8:30 am 5K Walk begins
9:30 am Support Celebration of our 'Living With' HIV Warriors, and Awards

Registration

Visit www.aidswalktucson.com to register online in advance. AIDSWALK registration brochures are also at any Tucson Walgreen's store

Early registration and check-in:

SAAF office, 375 S. Euclid Ave
October 16 and 17 from 9am to 6pm
October 18th from 9am to 2pm

For more information about AIDSWALK please visit www.aidswalktucson.com, our myspace page at www.myspace.com/aidswalktucson, our facebook page or contact (520) 791-WALK (9255).



Photo by Robin Stancliff

20th ANNUAL
JERÔME BEILLARD



FESTIVAL for LIFE

Sunday, November 23, 2008

The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and Title Sponsor Long Realty Cares

Foundation are proud to announce the 20th Annual Jérôme Beillard

Festival for Life, Sunday, November 23, 2008 at The University of Arizona®

Student Union Grand Ballroom. Festival for Life was started by Jérôme Beillard and

Robert Markley for the People With AIDS Coalition of Tucson (PACT) in 1989. Festival for Life is an exciting and entertaining evening with live and silent auctions featuring beautiful artwork, unique gifts, restaurant and theatre gift packages and spectacular travel opportunities.

Festival for Life is well-known for its fine selection of art from local and nationally acclaimed artists such as Lynn Taber, Gail Marcus-Orlen, Curt Brill, Lynnette Moody and Thomas Philabaum. Artists, art students, clients and community members also donate small pieces of artwork called Paper Prayers, a traditional Japanese gift to wish good health.

For this special anniversary year, "20 Years, 20 Mirrors," a commemorative display of 20 mirrors uniquely designed by local artists will be presented to be auctioned at Festival for Life. The mirrors will range in size and style to reflect the many different people who continue to work together to bring an end to the AIDS epidemic.

If you are interested in sponsoring this event, donating a piece of artwork, unique gift or experience to be auctioned at Festival for Life, or to purchase tickets beginning in October, please call Jess at (520) 628-7223, email to events@saaf.org or visit www.festivalforlife.org.

NEW WOMEN'S HIV PREVENTION PROGRAM RECEIVES START-UP FUNDING

Luis Ortega, Director of Prevention

In April of 2008, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation was awarded a grant from the M.A.C. AIDS Foundation to start the Women's HIV Prevention program. According to the CDC, women now account for more than one quarter of all new HIV/AIDS diagnoses and 80% become infected through heterosexual contact. In Pima County, Arizona, women represent 13% of HIV/AIDS cases. The need to ensure that women in our community receive appropriate and effective HIV prevention education led to the development of this program and the subsequent funding by M.A.C.

The purpose of SAAF's Women's HIV Prevention program is to reduce the rising rate of HIV infection among women, particularly among those disproportionately affected by the epidemic. The program works to attain this goal by increasing awareness, providing education, encouraging women to know their HIV status, and empowering women to take charge of their sexual health. SAAF is collaborating with a number of agencies in Southern Arizona that serve women, particularly women of color, around issues of homelessness, domestic violence, health promotion and/or substance abuse treatment. Through these collaborations, we hope to offer comprehensive HIV prevention by providing activities designed



Wendell Hicks and representatives from M.A.C.

specifically for women and targeting those at higher risk of acquiring HIV.

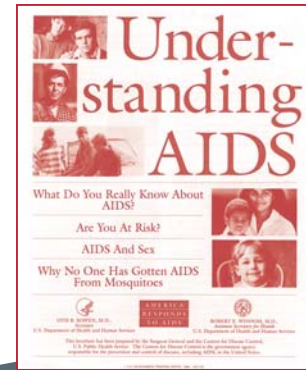
Women face unique risk factors and barriers that keep them from protecting themselves from HIV infection, being tested and accessing services. Some of these include: the continued perception that HIV is a disease that only affects gay males, power imbalances in relationships, poverty and financial dependence, and the tendency for women to prioritize others (their children and partners) before themselves.

The specific services that the program offers include increasing awareness through outreach, offering HIV education and risk-reduction workshops in settings that serve at-risk women, providing individual risk-reduction counseling, and providing referrals to additional resources.

For more information about how you can support education and prevention, contact Michele Bart, SAAF's Director of Development at 520-628-7223 or via email at micheleb@saaf.org.

SPOTLIGHT: WHERE WE WERE 20 YEARS AGO – HIV/AIDS IN 1988

- First World AIDS Day held on December 1
- The U.S. Health Omnibus Programs Extension (HOPE) Act authorizes use of federal funds for AIDS prevention, education, and testing
- First comprehensive needle exchange program in North America is established in Tacoma, WA
- US Department of Justice bans discrimination of federal workers with HIV
- 372 people were diagnosed with AIDS in Arizona, 88% of whom died within the same year
- The first Tucson AIDS WALK was held
- "Understanding AIDS", a booklet by Surgeon General C. Everett Koop was mailed to all US households - the single most widely read publication in the United States in June 1988



IMPROVING SERVICES

Continued from page 1

Over the last two years the demand for emergency rent, mortgage, and utility assistance has experienced a significant increase. Helping clients maintain their homes is critical to their stability and ability to maintain good health. So, in order to better meet those critical needs, the public funds that had previously supported optical services were shifted to support the increased housing demands. Therefore, as of July 1, SAAF is no longer offering optical services including vision exams and eyeglasses, but has increased support for housing.

In addition, in order to meet the increased demand for food resources through the Food Pantry and the Food for Life program, SAAF will be limiting assistance through gift cards and the distribution of water filters, cleaning, and hygiene supplies to those with very little or no income.

Many of SAAF's public funding sources either decreased their funding this year or provided level funding in a year that brought an increased number of clients and an increased demand for services. The exception to this was in the area of housing, allowing us to increase the number of community housing units that could be supported through ongoing rental assistance or short-term emergency assistance. Support from

the Southern Arizona community including the generous donations made to this year's Challenge Match was critical to the maintenance and improvement of these services. Through these changes, and with your support, we have all worked hard to ensure that the funds and support SAAF receives to help others is designated to best meet the basic needs of people living with HIV. We are grateful to the clients, volunteers, staff, and community for your support of offering quality services to people most in need.

To find out how you can support people living with HIV, contact SAAF's Director of Development, Michele Bart, at 520-628-7223 or via email at micheleb@saaf.org.



375 S. EUCLID AVENUE
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85719

CONNECTION

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 326
TUCSON, ARIZONA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PLANNED GIVING WORKSHOP:

Free and Open to the Public
September 18th, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
SAAF – 375 S. Euclid Ave
Facilitated by Douglas Newman, JD, LLM
To RSVP email Tara Vecchione at
tvecchione@saaf.org

FOUNDATIONS FOR SAAF'S MISSION

Grantmaking by private, corporate and family foundations enables SAAF to fulfill our mission to create and sustain a healthier community through a compassionate, comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS. We offer our heartfelt thanks to these foundations for supporting programs and services that benefit people living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV. Thanks to everyone for your compassion and caring!

Food Program

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
Southern Arizona Foundation
Tohono O'odham Nation

Housing

The Drachman Institute
The Marshall Foundation

Prevention, Education & Awareness

M-A-C AIDS Fund –
Women's HIV Prevention Program
Macy's West Passport Fund – Voz
Southern Arizona Sports Foundation – Voz
Steve J. Miller Foundation – MSHAPE

CHALLENGE MATCH RAISES VALUABLE FUNDS FOR CLIENT SERVICES

For the 3rd year in a row, members of the community have risen to the challenge posed by a generous, anonymous donor: match a \$10,000 gift. This year, once again, that challenge has been met and exceeded. To date over \$20,000 was raised for Client Services.

People now live longer with HIV/AIDS, all thanks to the many HIV medications and services currently available. This is good news! However, this leads to our newest challenges: Treating and managing HIV effectively is complex, and quite frankly, expensive. The reality is, longer life expectancy means people need services over longer periods of time. SAAF must address these challenges if we are to continue to meet the needs of the community.

We thank you for coming together to ensure that the services people living with HIV/AIDS so desperately need are sustained. This year, funding from the challenge match helped to support the positions of 4 case managers, and enabled over 1000 clients to access case management and peer counseling services. SAAF's case management team also assisted 124 new clients this last fiscal year.

**To find out more about supporting people living with HIV,
contact SAAF's Director of Development, Michele Bart at 520-628-7223,
or via email at micheleb@saaf.org.**