Möda Provocateur 2014: Not Your Grandmother’s Fashion Show

By Monique Vallery, Associate Director of Development

Join us on Sunday March 2, 2014 at the Tucson Convention Center Grand Ballroom for the 11th Annual Möda Provocateur, a hair and fashion extravaganza benefiting SAAF.

This year’s theme is “Not Your Grandmother’s Fashion Show” and participating salons and boutiques are pulling out all the stops to celebrate another fabulous Möda Provocateur.

In addition to the wild hair and fashion you have come to expect, this year’s event will also feature a raffle with dozens of exciting prizes; Project Möda: showcasing up-and-comers on the fashion scene; amazing performances; and a few surprises.

This year, we are extremely excited to feature Savage Botanicals, 10 fantasy couture creations, celebrating the subversive in design. These dresses, designed by Arizona florists, are created using permanent botanical and other materials in the floral designer’s toolkit. These breathtaking creations will get their Tucson premier at Möda 2014 and you will not want to miss out!

Early bird rates are effective through February 14 and tickets for Möda Provocateur are limited and going fast so go to www.saafmoda.org to order yours today.
AIDSWALK 2013 Sees Biggest Turnout of Last 4 Years
By Monique Vallery, Associate Director of Development

This year’s AIDSWALK saw over 3,000 walkers, runners, and their pets as well as 300 volunteers converge on Downtown Tucson. Held on Sunday October 13, supporters of SAAF came out to help open panels of the quilts that are a part of the National AIDS Memorial Project, get free HIV testing, and participate in the Walk and Fun Run. This year’s event was, once again, in collaboration with the annual Tucson Meet Yourself (TMY) festival which allowed SAAF to save on expenses while reaching out to the more than 100,000 attendees at TMY.

SAAF would like to say a BIG “Thank You” to our Title Sponsor, Desert Diamond Casino and Entertainment, as well as the Tucson Meet Yourself Board of Directors led by Maribel Alvarez and Tim Escobedo, and everyone who made this year’s event such a great success, raising more than $142,000 for the programs and services of SAAF.

A Special “Congratulations” to this year’s Top Fundraisers. We couldn’t have done it without you!

Top Individual Fundraiser – Adult: ............ Michael Steinberg
Top Individual Fundraiser – Youth: ............ Anna Jean White
Top College/University Team: ............ Delta Lambda Phi- Omega Chapter
Top Friends/Family/Pets Team: ............ Alexander/Atte Family & Friends
Top Corporate Team: ...................... Raytheon
Top Small Business Team: ...................... R&A CPA

We’ll look forward to seeing you on Sunday October 12, 2014 for the 26th Annual AIDSWALK Tucson!

AIDSWALK Arizona & Walgreens Red Ribbon Campaign
By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

We are very excited to announce AIDSWALK Arizona 2014! This is a first-of-its-kind collaboration between SAAF, Aunt Rita’s Foundation in Phoenix, and Northland Cares in Prescott. All three agencies will jointly promote and market our Walks throughout the state. Our goal is to increase awareness and resources to support people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

One of the very special aspects of this campaign will be the Walgreens Red Ribbon campaign. More than 60 Walgreens stores in Tucson, Marana, Yuma, & Oro Valley will be selling paper red ribbons, like the one pictured here, at the checkout line during two, 3-week campaigns, scheduled for March 11-31 & September 9-30, 2014 and all of the proceeds will directly benefit SAAF! Ribbons will be on sale at Walgreens across the state with proceeds from areas outside southern Arizona benefitting Aunt Rita’s & Northland Cares. This should not only be a great fundraiser for our 3 organizations, but also a wonderful awareness-raiser for the entire state of Arizona.

Keep on the lookout for the ribbons and please help SAAF by making a purchase.
Bowling for Tommy is January 25 at Bedroxx!

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

Save the date for everyone’s favorite night of bowling, fun, and fundraising for SAAF! Bowling for Tommy 2014 will take place on Saturday January 25 from 4:00-7:00pm at Bedroxx. Individual bowlers can register for $30 and lanes of 6 can be purchased for $180 and include one large pizza and one pitcher of soda as well as shoe rental for 6.

Special Thanks to the 2014 Bowling for Tommy Title Sponsor FreedomSmoke USA as well as lane sponsors Waterfall, Economidis, Caldwell, Hanshaw, & Villamana, Cox Communications, Ecomor, and Kristie Graham, who have helped make this event possible.

To register, call (520) 628-SAAF (7223) or go online to www.saaf.org/bowlingfortommy.

Jell-O Wrestling is Almost Here… And We Need YOU!

By Monique Vallery, Associate Director of Development

The Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction will be held on Saturday May 3, 2014. We are excited to be returning to the Slaughterhouse, located at 1102 West Grant Road, just near the I-10 interstate entrance. This year marks 27 years that Jell-O Wrestling has been raising money in support of the programs and services of SAAF.

For those of you who may want to wrestle – it is time to put on your wrestling tights and get ready to get sticky! We are looking for 10 teams of two to wrestle at this year’s event. Wrestlers raise funds to face-off in a pit of Jell-O, often in extraordinary costumes.

Want to be a part of SAAF’s wildest fundraising event? Then contact Monique Vallery at mvallery@saaf.org or visit www.jello-wrestling.org.

2013 Jerôme Beillard Festival for Life

By Monique Vallery, Associate Director of Development

The 25th Annual Jerôme Beillard Festival for Life, presented by The Long Realty Cares Foundation at the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center, was a huge success with over 650 people joining us to raise more than $95,000 for SAAF!

Musician Richard Noel entertained the crowd as the silent auction kicked into high gear with over 600 items on display. Wendell Hicks, SAAF’s Executive Director, started the live auction with a warm welcome and introduced Lupita Murillo (KVOA TV), our evening’s emcee. Several committee members were honored for their years of service and volunteerism to Festival. Peter Beailey, Lorraine DarConte, and Tom Martin were honored for 10 years of service with an artist-commissioned framed paper prayer. SAAF Executive Director Wendell and Festival Co-Chair Cindy Joy honored Claire Ortloff for her 25 years of service on the Festival for Life Committee, having volunteered at EVERY Festival since the very beginning.

Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development, also recognized new Festival Sponsors Freedom Smoke USA. Owners Pamela Workman-Parker and David Detloff were presented with a custom framed “StopAIDS” photo from photographer Alethea Do.

This amazing event is made possible by the hundreds of items donated by local artists, businesses, framers, and individuals. The variety and quality of work is amazing. Our Festival Committee works throughout the year to ensure that Festival for Life continues to be a showcase for all of the wonderful artists and businesses in our community.

It also takes over 100 volunteers to help put this event together and we thank them for their contribution and thank YOU for coming out and making this event such a great success!

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.

Thanks to everyone who came out and made such a big difference in all of SAAF’s fundraising efforts.
Foundations for SAAF’s Mission
By Evelyn Renz, SAAF Grants Coordinator

Compassion is at the heart of SAAF’s mission. We rely on the compassion of philanthropists with corporate and private foundations to support programs and services that improve the health and quality of life for people living with, affected by or at risk for HIV/AIDS. These committed and compassionate grantmakers include:

Banfield Charitable Trust provided funding and Banfield Pet Hospitals provided in-kind contributions of pet food to support SAAF’s Pawsitive Friends Pet Food Bank.

For many of the people SAAF serves, pets – cats and dogs – bring joy in their lives and give them a reason to get up in the morning. What could be more heartbreaking than losing a pet because you can’t afford to feed it?

Banfield’s mission is to keep pets and people together and to facilitate solutions to ensure no pet owner will ever have to surrender their pet. SAAF’s priority is to provide services to people living with HIV/AIDS and their dependent family members. For many of our clients, pets are members of their families too. Some of SAAF’s clients also rely on service animals. Through Banfield’s support, 69 people and more than 90 pets were served last year. We are grateful to have their support for 2014.

SAAF is grateful for the continued and generous support from the Armstrong McDonald Foundation.

No one living with HIV and AIDS takes their health for granted; staying well is an ongoing challenge from diagnosis to the end of life. Gifts from the Armstrong McDonald Foundation provide seriously-ill people living with HIV/AIDS the opportunity to access alternative health care services such as naturopathy, acupuncture, and nutritional supplements they would not otherwise be able to afford. These services and products help to reduce pain, fatigue and stress, promote more restful sleep and increase energy levels. Participants tell us when they feel better, when their mood improves, they have a better outlook. Life is worth living again.

The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender & Straight Alliance Fund believes in the work of SAAF and funded three programs:

ALLY (Arizona’s Life Links for Youth) saves lives through suicide prevention awareness and training for LGBTQ youth and concerned adults in our community. In May, all of the funding for this program had been eliminated due to the federal budget sequester. SAAF is truly grateful to the Alliance Fund as well as Richard Elias and the Pima County Board of Supervisors, Dr. Francisco García with the Pima County Health Department and Neal Cash and the Community Partnership of Southern Arizona for funding this vital lifesaving program.

MSHAPE (Men’s Sexual Health and Personal Empowerment) provides HIV prevention and wellness education, safer-sex resources, and helps meet the basic needs of HIV-negative gay, bisexual and transgender men.

The Eon Sexual Health Education Program, which operates in partnership with Wingspan, provides sexual health education called “Sex Chats” to LGBTQ youth, as well as one-on-one risk-reduction counseling services and HIV testing services to LGBTQ youth who participate at the Eon Youth Lounge.

March is Write A Will month
By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

More than half of all adult Americans do not currently have a will. If you do not have a will at the time of death, the State will make determinations about how your estate is divided up. In Arizona, if you are part of an unmarried, same-sex couple, your surviving partner will receive nothing from your estate without a will.

Take control of your future by attending SAAF’s upcoming Write A Will workshop. This workshop is free and will offer great insight into what it takes to secure your future and the future of your loved ones.

Workshop Date
Saturday March 22, 2014
10:00am-11:30am
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation
375 South Euclid Avenue
RSVP to Fred Rodriguez, SAAF Development Associate, at (520) 628-SAAF (7223) or frodriguez@saaf.org by March 19, 2014

Arizona Gives Day is April 9
By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

Last year marked the first ever Arizona Gives Day and it was such a huge success for non-profits across the state that it will return this year on Wednesday April 9. Last year’s day of giving raised more than $925,000 for 106s of Arizona non-profits. More than 6,500 people donated making more than 11,000 gifts!

Arizona Gives Day was a day Arizonans came together to make donations to as many nonprofits as possible in 24 hours and to shine a spotlight on the many worthy causes around the state.

We are gearing up for another amazing Arizona Gives Day so stay tuned for more information in our next newsletter, e-newsletter, and Facebook page.