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The SAAF CONNECTION

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION

WINTER 2017

Volume 4, Issue 1



Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th artist rendering

SAAF's Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th to provide a safe place for LGBTQ youth

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

SAAF is very excited to announce its newest project to support the LGBTQ community, the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th - A SAAF Place for Youth.

This project will create a dedicated space on 4th Avenue which will house several of SAAF's LGBTQ youth-centered prevention programs, including Eon, HIV Youth Peer Education (HYPE), and Arizona's Life Links for Youth (Project ALLY).

This newest initiative is being funded through a \$1.8 million capital campaign which began in March 2016 and has raised more than \$1.5 million to date.

The Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th is named for lead donor Curtis Thornhill, a Tucson native who now calls San Francisco and Salt Lake City "home". Thornhill has provided the lead gift for the campaign and has challenged SAAF to raise an additional \$300,000 by the end of March.

The Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th will provide a safe space as well as skills-building, advocacy, and culturally-competent care to LGBTQ youth and their allies ages 13-26.

A groundbreaking event will take place in January with the Center set to open in June. Please check our website or subscribe to our e-newsletter to stay up-to-date on this exciting project.

For more information and to give, please use the enclosed envelope or visit www.centeron4th.org today.



Photo by Scott Griessel, Creative

Dreams Come True

By Wendell Hicks, Executive Director

Leading an organization like SAAF is a dream come true for me. Having come from a small town in east Texas, a place like SAAF was something I did not see a lot of growing up. When I accepted the position of Executive Director at SAAF more than 9 years ago, I knew my life was going to change in some pretty big and significant ways.

Another dream is coming true for me and our community in 2017. SAAF recently purchased a space on 4th Avenue which will become the **Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th: A SAAF Place for Youth** (see story, page 1). The Center will house most of our youth prevention programs which target the LGBTQ population and their allies. Since taking over many initiatives from Wingspan – southern Arizona’s LGBTQ community center for more than a quarter century, 2 & ½ years ago – we here at SAAF have searched for the right way to re-launch LGBTQ programming in Tucson in a sustainable way that was directly responsive to community needs and immediately addressed gaps in services. The Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th will do just that.

completed suicides by LGBTQ and allied youth, will also call the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th “home”.

While we are now nearly 85% to our overall goal of raising \$1.8 million for the Center, we could really use your help to meet the \$300,000 fundraising match currently in place. Using the envelope included here, you can make your gift today. You can also go online and learn more and give at Centeron4th.org.

This, and so many other dreams that are coming true for those we serve, could only happen with your help and I can’t thank you enough for your incredible support of SAAF and the work we do. Here’s to an amazing 2017 and creating a community, together, that we can all be proud of.

Keep Dreaming,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendell Hicks".

Wendell Hicks
Executive Director

One of our community’s longest-running youth prevention programs, the **Eon Youth Lounge**, will move to the Center in 2017. Eon provides a drop-in space for LGBTQ youth and their allies, ages 13-23, where they can feel free to be themselves and become empowered through groups and trainings focused on: Communication; Leadership; Sexual health; Career development; Suicide prevention techniques; and much more. Open Monday through Friday, the Eon Youth Program has served 100s of youth over the past two decades.

In addition to housing Eon, SAAF’s **HIV Youth Peer Education (HYPE)** program and **Project ALLY**, a program focused on reducing the numbers of attempted and

OUR MISSION:

To cultivate
a healthy,
stigma-free society
through
transformative
action.

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

To be added or deleted from the mailing list or to make address changes, please contact SAAF at (520) 547-6105 or by email at donations@saaf.org.

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We are happy to report on two particularly important launches coming in the first half of the year.

LGBTQ Initiatives in Full Swing at SAAF

By Adam Ragan, Associate Director of LGBTQ Initiatives

2017 is shaping up to be full of exciting happenings for us here at SAAF. The New Year always brings with it the promise of renewal and recommitment to the causes we hold so dear. For the SAAF family, that includes our commitment to the LGBTQ community. It's always exciting when we can announce the results of our labors. We are happy to report on two particularly important launches coming in the first half of the year.



The first is the launch of **OutInAZ**, Arizona's community resource center. With funding from our friends at the LGBT&S Alliance Fund, a fund of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, OutInAZ will be the most comprehensive LGBTQ resource guide to help connect the community to the resources we use. Listings will identify LGBTQ-owner/operated businesses as well as groups, businesses, and resources that are LGBTQ-affirming. Listing with the site is super easy and fast. When you're Out In AZ,

you can check OutInAZ to find the resources you need. Be sure to check OutInAZ.com early in 2017 to see the launch date.

The second launch is an event to bring the LGBTQ community together and honor the work of those who work tirelessly to make our community a home. Planned for June 2017, the **Big LGBTQ Brunch** is a fresh take on how we celebrate our community. Like anytime family gathers, there's sure to be plenty of laughs, hugs, and food. Details are forthcoming and we hope you'll plan to make the Brunch part of your Pride month celebrations. Be sure to watch for details at saaf.org.

There will be some other big and exciting events in 2017 and we look forward to sharing those details with you. In the spirit of the New Year, we want to make sure you know that you can always reach out to us at any time to discuss anything. Wishing you all a 2017 full of rainbows and love.



SAAF CARE SERVICES

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
Medical Benefits Cost Sharing Assistance for those enrolled in statewide ADAP Assist
Medications Assistance
Support Groups
Transportation
Wellness and Buyers' Club
Other Personal Support Services

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



Photography by Scott Griessel, Creatista

AIDSWALK 2016 - Tucson's Premiere WALK

By Lindsey Jones,
Associate Director of Development

This year's AIDSWALK, held on October 9, marked another success for SAAF's marquee event.

Held in downtown Tucson in conjunction with Tucson Meet Yourself, walkers, runners and sponsors raised more than \$120,000 to support SAAF's Prevention and Care Services.

Panels from the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt were ceremoniously unfurled and on display (For information on the history of the Memorial AIDS Quilt or instructions for creating a panel, go to aidsquilt.org).

Thank you to AIDSWALK's Title Sponsor, Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment, for their continued support for over two decades.

AIDSWALK would not be possible without the commitment of SAAF volunteers who logged more than 2,000 hours to make this a fun and well-organized event for walkers, runners and spectators.

The date and venue for the 2017 AIDSWALK will be announced soon so stay tuned!

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 FRIENDS/FAMILY/PETS TEAM:

Alexander/Alfie Family & Friends

TOP ORGANIZATION/ NON-PROFIT/PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION/CHURCH:

Reville Mens Chorus & Desert Voices

TOP CORPORATE TEAM:

Raytheon Employee Resource Groups

TOP SMALL BUSINESS TEAM:

R&A CPAs

TOP COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY TEAM:

Omega Brothers of DLP



Presents



**AIDS
WALK
ARIZONA
TUCSON**





Photography by Scott Griessel, Creatista



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

BOWLING FOR TOMMY

Saturday January 21, 2017
Fiesta Lanes - 501 West River Road
www.saaf.org/bowlingfortommy

MÖDA PROVÖCATEÜR

Sunday March 19, 2017
Tucson Convention Center Grand Ballroom
www.saafmoda.org

JELL-O WRESTLING

Saturday May 6, 2017
4th Avenue
www.jello-wrestling.org

Jell-O Returns to 4th Avenue!

By Lindsey Jones, Associate Director of Development

The 30th Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction, presented by title sponsor Civano Coffee House, will be held on Saturday May 6, 2017 on 4th Avenue at 7th Street.



Teams of wrestlers raise funds to wrestle in a pit of Jell-O, often with extraordinary costumes and characters. Between wrestling matches, our Drag Diva Hostesses run a live auction featuring a variety of unique items selected to please the crowd.

Doing Good Was Never This Much Fun!

Funds raised through Jell-O Wrestling assist SAAF with our mission to cultivate a healthy & stigma-free society through transformative action. Your support will help to fund the vital programs and services of SAAF and help us to help so many others.



4th AVENUE
Merchants Association



To purchase tickets and learn more about this year's Jell-O Wrestling event, visit www.jello-wrestling.org. See you there!





KVOA reporter Lupita Murillo emceed the event which was enjoyed by more than 450 guests and sponsors.



Photography by Scott Griessel, Creatista

TO YOUR HEALTH

Travis Wright Memorial Buyers' Club

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

The Buyers' Club is now online at tucsonbuyersclub.org. Or, you can visit the store at the SAAF offices, located at 375 South Euclid Avenue, Monday through Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm.

Festival for Life 2016 Enjoys Move to Desert Diamond

By Lindsey Jones, Associate Director of Development

More than 600 items – gifts, jewelry, paper prayers, ceramics and pieces of framed art – filled the Festival for Life hosted at the Desert Diamond Casino Hotel on November 19.

KVOA reporter Lupita Murillo emceed the event which was enjoyed by more than 450 guests and sponsors including Barbara Moylan of Title Sponsor Long Realty Cares Foundation.

Auctioneer Paul Ramirez whipped the crowd into a bidding frenzy with the live auction which included a spa package at Canyon Ranch, a hand-designed, signed electric guitar, and a ceramic piece by famed artist Maurice Grossman, and a trip to Napa Valley.

This event would not be possible without the year-round work of the event's volunteer committee or the donations by hundreds of artists, framers, businesses, and individuals.

Title Sponsor



Save-the-Date for the 2017 event on November 18 – and come to the best place in Tucson for holiday shopping. Purchase items for friends and family while making a difference in the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS, their families and the community.

Möda Provöcateūr is an event celebrating the best of Tucson style while raising funds for the programs and services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF).



Möda Provöcateūr: A Different Kind of Fashion Show

By Lindsey Jones, Associate Director of Development

When local salons get together with local boutiques and models for a celebration of style, fashion, and compassion...Watch out!

Möda Provöcateūr is an event celebrating the best of Tucson style while raising funds for the programs and services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF). The Tucson Convention Center Grand Ballroom will be a perfect place to showcase local salons & boutiques at this year's event, taking place on Sunday March 19. Salons featured include: Ambiance Salon & Spa; Artistry Beauty Studio; Spirit Salon & Day Spa; The Industry Hair Studio; Toni & Guy; & Ame Salon/Studio X.

In addition to the wild hair and fabulous outfits, there will be a raffle featuring exciting items and Project Möda, showcasing young talent of the fashion scene. Civano Coffee House is the Title Sponsor of this amazing event and Waba is our Venerato sponsor.

mödaprovöcateūr



Early bird rates won't last and tickets for Möda Provöcateūr are limited and going fast so go to www.saafmoda.org to order yours today.



VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Get involved with SAAF!

Join us for an upcoming volunteer orientation, the first step for anyone wanting to volunteer at SAAF.* Here is a listing of upcoming orientations.

Saturday January 21, 2017
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Tuesday February 21, 2017
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Tuesday March 21, 2017
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, visit www.saaf.org or contact Sallie Muse, SAAF's Volunteer Coordinator, at smuse@saaf.org or (520) 547-6174.



DIFFA is one of the largest funders of HIV/AIDS service and education programs in the United States.

CLIENT QUOTE

"I would like to say the people at SAAF are number one. Keep up the awesome work you all do for those who are in need."



Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS Makes First-Time Grant to SAAF

By Tony Bruno, Grants Coordinator

DIFFA (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS) raises awareness and grants funds to organizations that fight HIV/AIDS by providing treatment and direct care services for people living with or impacted by the disease, offering preventative education programs targeted to populations at risk of infection, or supporting public policy initiatives.

DIFFA is one of the largest funders of HIV/AIDS service and education programs in the United States, mobilizing the immense resources and creativity of the design community. Since its founding in 1984, DIFFA has emerged from a grassroots organization into a national foundation based in New York City with chapters and community partners across the country that, working together, has provided more than \$42 million to hundreds of HIV/AIDS organizations nationwide.

The 2016 DIFFA National Grantees serve critical areas and target populations including homeless individuals, the LGBT community, youth ages 13-24, people of

color, elders and incarcerated populations. The organizations offer a range of services to fight stigma, work on prevention and education, and offer nutrition, counseling and job preparedness services.

This year DIFFA awarded SAAF with a first-time allocation of \$10,000 to support the Eon Youth and MSHAPE Lounges. Our youth participants, other financial partners, and staff wish to thank DIFFA for this first of many contributions in supporting the work we do in southern Arizona and around the state.

Subaru will donate \$250 for every new Subaru vehicle sold or leased from November 17, 2016 through January 3, 2017, to four national charities designated by the purchaser or lessee.



DONOR QUOTE

"I'm crazy about this organization and the way they serve those who are in such desperate need. I was in their front office a few different times when someone in obvious distress would walk in. They usually hadn't been in before, a caseworker would join them quickly and ask about their immediate needs, like did they need meals? And then they'd gently ask, "do you need something to eat right now?". Seriously. The whole SAAF staff & vibe is contagiously human, sharing, and grateful."

Subaru Shares the Love with SAAF

By Tony Bruno, Grants Coordinator

Over the last eight years, Subaru of America and its retailers have donated nearly \$70 million to help those in need. By the end of this year, Subaru and its participating retailers will have donated nearly \$90 million. This year, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation will qualify for a level 2 share of these funds.

Subaru will donate \$250 for every new Subaru vehicle sold or leased from November 17, 2016 through January 3, 2017, to four national charities designated by the purchaser or lessee. Pre-approved hometown charities may be selected for donation depending on retailer participation. Certain participating retailers will make an additional donation to the hometown charities selected. Purchasers/lessees must make their charity designations by January 31, 2017.



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Bowling for Tommy is January 21 at Fiesta Lanes!

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 2017, presented by title sponsor the Grace Trust, will take place on Saturday January 21 from 4:00-7:00pm at Fiesta Lanes, located at 501 West River Road. 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 2017 Bowling for Tommy lane sponsors: Waterfall, Economidis, Caldwell, Hanshaw, & Villamana, Emcor, 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