SAAF 2014 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

SAAF will once again be shining the spotlight on our wonderful volunteers at our annual Volunteer Appreciation event. This year’s event will take place on Thursday April 17 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Historic Y. Dinner will be catered by Carte Blanche and served by SAAF employees, followed by an awards ceremony where we will present awards in 20 categories.

This year’s Honorees:

- **Administration:** Julio Soto
- **Business Leadership:** FreedomSmoke USA
- **Care Services:** Robert Knight; Bill Morrow
- **Development:** Peter Bleasby
- **Education:** Gwen Valentine
- **Jean Cicci Peer Counseling:** Brian King
- **Self-Empowerment:** Phil Bossenbroek
- **Longtime Volunteer:** Kristie Graham
- **Media Leadership:** Tucson Observer
- **New Volunteer:** Robert Knight
- **Youth Prevention:** Jude Lucas
- **Original Contribution:** Robert Miller; Female Storytellers

Volunteer of the Year Nominees

- Robert Bejarano
- John Booker
- Julio Soto

Staff Volunteer of the Year Nominees

- Moureen Drury
- Maritza Galaz
- Linda Hampton
- Jai Smith

SAAF would not be able to do any of the work we do without the commitment of our hundreds of hard-working and passionate volunteers. While we take this time to highlight some of the volunteers who make SAAF such a special place, we hope that all volunteers will come out and be a part of this event as we show our appreciation.

RSVP to Fred Rodriguez, Development Associate, at (520) 547-6099 or frodriguez@saaf.org.
Gather in the darkness – a handful of people, dozens, maybe hundreds. Strike a match. Light a white candle. Pass your flame to your neighbor’s unlit candle until everyone’s candles are lit. Standing together in vigil, share a collective moment of silence. Remember loved ones lost and others forgotten who have died from AIDS. Standing together in solidarity, faces glowing in the flames, we uplift those around us who face the day-to-day challenges of living with HIV/AIDS. Standing together we keep our collective light shining on HIV during a time when it is being dismissed, ignored, forgotten. We won’t be alone.

On May 18, people in Australia, India, South Africa and other countries around the world will observe the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. SAAF is proud to sponsor and co-host the AIDS Candlelight Memorial in Tucson with the Tucson HIV/AIDS Interfaith Network. This year’s theme is “Let’s Keep the Light on HIV”.

More than 20 million people around the world have died from AIDS when health officials started keeping count after the virus was discovered in 1981. During a visit to SAAF, one researcher from the University of Arizona said that using genetics they tracked the virus as far back as the 1950s. How many thousands of people died of HIV before the virus was known and had a name?

Let’s bring it closer to home. More than 20,250 people have died from HIV or AIDS-related causes in Arizona from 1981 – 2012. During the past year, 19 people served by SAAF died from AIDS-related causes, including a young man only 24 years old, gone too soon. He was known to many of SAAF’s staff who were heartbroken.

More than 40 million people around the world live with HIV and AIDS. In our own community more than 2,400 have been diagnosed with HIV or AIDS, but almost 44% are in need of medical care. And what about the people who do not know their status? When we shine a light on HIV, we are also casting a light on stigma which keeps people from being tested, from disclosing their status, from seeking medical care and from asking for support.

Every year, SAAF recognizes a group of people who shine the light on HIV, day in and day out. When HIV first turned up on the scene, a grassroots movement of volunteers in Pima County took action. Their response is why SAAF exists today. On Thursday, April 17, at the Historic Y, SAAF will host our annual Volunteer Appreciation event. This is a time when we recognize people whose efforts are heroic though they don’t see themselves as heroes.

The AIDS Candlelight Memorial is a personal touchstone for me. I have lost far too many loved ones to AIDS. Your presence can inspire hope. Please come to Himmel Park on May 18 (see next page for details) to attend the AIDS Candlelight Memorial. Share your light. Together we can support each other and support those living with HIV/AIDS. And please join me at the Historic Y as we recognize some exceptional people who give of their time and talent because they know their efforts matter in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

In solidarity,

Wendell Hicks
Executive Director
The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is one of the world’s oldest and largest grassroots mobilization campaigns for HIV awareness. Started in 1983, the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial takes place every third Sunday in May and is led by a coalition of some 1,200 community organizations in 115 countries.

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is much more than just a memorial. The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial serves as a community mobilization campaign to raise social consciousness about HIV and AIDS. With 33 million people living with HIV today, the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial serves as an important intervention for global solidarity, breaking down barriers of stigma and discrimination, and giving hope to new generations.

The local Memorial event will take place on Sunday May 18 at Himmel Park (near Speedway & Tucson Blvd) beginning at 6:00pm. The event will include music, reading of the names of people who we have lost to HIV & AIDS, and a “candle lighting”. This is a free event and open to everyone.

For more information about the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and commemorations being held around the world, visit candlelightmemorial.org

Take Back the Night event set for April 9
By Iris Rosado, RAAP Health Education & Resource Specialist

Take Back the Night (TBTN) is an annual event to speak out and raise awareness against sexual violence and provide support to survivors. The first TBTN took place in the United States in the 1970s and people in cities worldwide continue to host marches, rallies, and performances annually. This year’s TBTN event will be held during Victims’ Rights Week on Wednesday, April 9 from 6:30pm to 9:30pm at Mercado San Augustin, just west of downtown. Starting at 5:30pm on the same day, there will be a march from the main library in downtown Tucson ending at Mercado San Agustin.

SAAF is one of the many community sponsors of this event. The Culture of Peace Alliance is pleased to support this important community awareness campaign by acting as TBTN’s fiscal agent. This partnership has been forged to help raise awareness about the prevalence of sexual assault, support survivors in peaceful vigilance, and create a community culture that does not tolerate and actively strives to reduce assaults.

We hope you all join us for this important event!
**Jell-O Wrestling - It’s Fun to Play with Your Food!**

By Monique Valley, Associate Director of Development

The Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction will be held on Saturday May 3, 2014 at The Slaughterhouse, located at 1102 West Grant Road, just near the I-10 entrance. This year we welcome a new Title Sponsor to the event, FreedomSmoke USA. Jell-O Wrestling has been raising money in support of the programs and services of SAAF for 27 years and we always bring something special each year!

You can purchase tickets or VIP packages online at www.jello-wrestling.org. See you there!

Purchase Jell-O VIP packages through April 30 online and get 5 raffle tickets, one admission ticket, and one drink ticket and save over 20%!

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**Möda Provôcateûr 2014: Wasn’t Your Grandmother’s Fashion Show...and we raised over $75,000!**

By Monique Valley, Associate Director of Development

This year’s theme was “Not Your Grandmother’s Fashion Show” and participating salons and boutiques pulled out all the stops to celebrate another fabulous Möda Provôcateûr. This year’s Möda Provôcateûr was presented by Arizona Lottery, BreakOut Studios, CJ Vohs, FreedomSmoke USA, Macy’s Foundation, and Udall Law Firm. The event took place on Sunday March 2 at the Tucson Convention Center Grand Ballroom and what a show it was!

Local salons and boutiques came out in full force to show off all of their talents for an unforgettable evening. Some of the highlights of the evening included:

- 400 Models, Stylists, Hairdressers, and Volunteers
- 700 Attendees
- The 2014 Celie Peterson award presented to Todd Wilson from BreakOut Studios
- Incredible performances from Artifact Dance Project, Big Tony and the Houseboys, and BreakOut Studios
- The amazing floral dress creations by Savage Botanicals
- Our amazing hostess, Lupita Murrillo

Thanks to everyone who came out and helped make this year’s event the most successful to date!
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:

**CARE SERVICES: Benefitting people living with HIV/AIDS**

- Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, MAC AIDS Fund, The Southern Arizona Foundation, Sundt Foundation and Union Pacific Foundation all made generous and critically-needed grants. Their generous support enables SAAF to provide more than 51,000 meals to more than 500 households, individuals and families, living with HIV/AIDS.

Thanks to Nordstrom and their partnership with MAC AIDS Fund more than 60 people living with HIV and AIDS can benefit from life-enhancing wellness and alternative health care services such as naturopathy, acupuncture and bodywork as well as pharmaceutical-grade vitamins and nutritional supplements from SAAF’s Travis Wright Memorial Buyers’ Club.

A special thanks to Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias, Dr. Francisco Garcia, the Director for the Pima County Health Department, and Neal Cash, President and CEO for the Community Partnership for Southern Arizona for their quick response and assistance in obtaining funding for SAAF’s Project ALLY (Arizona Life Links for Youth) when funding was eliminated due to the federal sequester. ALLY is now funded through grants by Pima County Outside Agency and the Community Partnership of Southern Arizona.

SAAF Alternatives is helping prevent the spread of HIV among people who inject drugs. This program offers wrap-around services in a drop-in center, offering peer education training, basic needs, HIV and Hepatitis C testing and referral services. The cornerstone of any prevention program for people who inject drugs is syringe access.

The Comer Foundation and a grant from the Elton John AIDS Foundation through the AIDS United Syringe Access Fund is funding syringe access supplies and services. Thank you!
Getting on the Glam: Thanks to Viva MAC Cosmetics for helping SAAF to fight hunger and HIV/AIDS! Melissa Hess, Manager of MAC Cosmetics La Encantada and a SAAF board member, was joined by eight MAC artists and store managers as they presented Wendell a $25,000 check to support SAAF’s Food Program.

The lovely Natalia Flowers (far right) rocked Rihanna’s new Viva Glam blue-red with frost lipstick. So can you! 100% of sales from MAC’s Viva Glam lipsticks and lipglass help to support women, men and children living with HIV/AIDS locally and around the world. At MAC Cosmetics, every day is World AIDS Day.

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 100s of Arizona non-profits. More than 8,500 people donated making more than 11,000 gifts!

SAAF is very excited about this year’s Arizona Gives Day and we have set a rather lofty goal of raising $10,000! We have already lined up eight $500 hourly match gifts (see listing in sidebar) and we need your help to insure we meet every match. Every hour counts and every gift counts on Arizona Gives Day so please consider giving whatever you can. Even a gift of $10 or $20 can make a huge difference. Plus, SAAF will be eligible for several cash prizes so your gift may be doubled plus some!

For more information about this year’s Arizona Gives Day and to make a donation, visit our website at saaf.org.
The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been a milestone for individuals living with HIV and AIDS, since many are now able to access affordable healthcare for the first time regardless of pre-existing conditions.

The Medical Benefits Management (MBM) program was created by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to provide additional support to this community. The MBM program uses federal funds to pay monthly premiums and some out-of-pocket expenses for individuals living with HIV/AIDS who have enrolled in insurance plans through the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM). Because of SAAF’s exceptional reputation managing two statewide insurance programs over the years, ADHS chose to contract with SAAF once again to manage this new program. This is an exceptional opportunity for SAAF to provide a much-needed service to our clients, and to people living with HIV and AIDS throughout Arizona.

Building a new program is never easy, but with SAAF’s Statewide Insurance Programs Coordinator, Neil MacDonald, and two new ADAP Assist Program Associates, the program is off to a great start. Currently over 250 individuals living with HIV/AIDS in Arizona have access to healthcare through the FFM, and are receiving premium and cost-sharing assistance through the MBM program. It is projected that as many as 675 clients will enroll in the MBM program in the coming years. We here at SAAF are proud to have been selected to manage the MBM program and are always excited to implement new programs that establish the best possible care for our community.
Friday June 27, 2014 marks the 19th annual National HIV Testing Day. In 1995 the National Association of People Living with AIDS (NAPWA) founded this day to promote HIV Testing. Each year, 48,000 people are diagnosed with HIV and even more are living with HIV and don’t know it.

During last year’s National Testing Day, SAAF, in partnership with COPE Community Services, Inc. and the Pima County Health Department, tested over 100 people! This year the same partnership will provide free HIV testing throughout Tucson. For more information visit www.saaf.org or www.hivtest.org

HIV Testing is available at SAAF five days a week by appointment or walk-in: Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 am to 1:00pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00pm to 8:00 pm, and Fridays from 10:00am to 1:00pm. To make an appointment, call 520-628-SAAF (7223).