

## AIDSWALK Arizona - Tucson is coming Sunday October 12!

By Monique Vallery, Associate Director of Development



**AIDS  
WALK  
ARIZONA  
TUCSON**

2014 will mark the 26th Annual AIDS WALK Tucson! We hope that you will join us as a Walker or Runner at this year's event, taking place on Sunday October 12 in Downtown Tucson on Jácome Plaza in front of the Main Library. SAAF is once again teaming up with one of Tucson's most beloved cultural events, Tucson Meet Yourself. What a great way to spend the day Downtown: Morning at AIDS WALK and an afternoon of Tucson Meet Yourself.

Visit [www.aidswalktucson.com](http://www.aidswalktucson.com) for complete information and to register yourself or a pet TODAY!



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### SAAF's Mission

To create and sustain a healthier community through a compassionate, comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS.



### Entering is quick and easy:

1. Go to [www.aidswalktucson.com](http://www.aidswalktucson.com)
2. Click on the Register Now button
3. Pay for your registration online by August 15 using a major credit card (Online registrations processed through a secure, encrypted site to insure the privacy of your financial information)
4. Set up your AIDS WALK fundraising page

*Every paid registrant through August 15 will be entered into a drawing for the Fitbit Activity Trackers or tickets to Festival for Life.*

**Register today for your chance to win!!!**

### Register for AIDS WALK 2014 – Be entered into our Drawing!

This year, we are excited to offer two Fitbit Activity Trackers or two tickets to Festival for Life, taking place on Saturday November 8, to 2 lucky AIDS WALK registrants.



Photo by Scott Grissel, Creatista

# Coming Up on 30 Years: What's Changed, What Hasn't Changed, and What's Changing

If HIV/AIDS taught us anything, it taught us how powerful grassroots efforts can be. When the plague that was AIDS swept through the gay community in the early 1980s and the government turned its back on gay men who were dying, we needed those strong, fearless and outspoken personalities who stepped forward.

I've heard about, even met a few of the key players in Tucson. People like Perry Woods who parked outside of Tucson gay bars, talking to anyone and everyone and handing out condoms from the trunk of his car. His was the first "mobile unit" and he was the first HIV Peer Outreach Educator. Craig Snow who pointed out that everyone in the community - gay and straight - needed to have frank and open conversations about condoms and how to have safer-sex. Natalie Perry, along with a handful of other volunteers, responded to the emotional distress and complex needs of people, mostly gay men, diagnosed and dying from AIDS. Jérôme Beillard, who modeled self-empowerment, started an agency by people living with HIV/AIDS for people living with HIV/AIDS. Through their combined efforts Tucson gained not one but three AIDS service organizations: the Tucson AIDS Project (TAP), The Shanti Foundation and the People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson (PACT) for Life. Each fulfilled a vital role.

Over a decade later, when PACT, Shanti and TAP merged to become the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (better known by the acronym SAAF and pronounced "safe"), many of the programs and services maintained their original grassroots spirit under Anne Maley's leadership. In many ways, they still are that way today, as much as is possible. Compassion, empowerment, education, and outreach remain at SAAF's core.

SAAF still recruits, trains and depends on volunteer Peer Counselors to support people newly diagnosed and living with HIV/AIDS. SAAF's Gay Men's Health Project and Men's Sexual Health and Personal Empowerment (MSHAPE) Program are outgrowths of Woods' and TAP's early prevention efforts. SAAF's Care Services and Case Management still use a care and empowerment model, assisting people living with HIV/AIDS to take charge of their own health, their health care decisions and their lives.

Some things inevitably change. The faces have changed.

Some people died, some moved on. But many people continue to be involved, are in it for the long haul.

Volunteers, such as SAAF Board member Steve Gottlieb who was recognized by the Alliance Fund as the 2014 Straight Ally of the Year. He and his wife Laura Penny were also recognized at the inaugural Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast for their continuing volunteerism, including their work with HIV/AIDS.

Staff may have changed, but the Observer is still reporting on HIV/AIDS topics locally, nationally and around the globe. It's important to remember your roots when you look to the future. We've come a long way.

What has changed for the better? You don't have to wait two gut-wrenching weeks for your HIV test result.

Rapid tests deliver results in 15 – 20 minutes.

AIDS is no longer a death sentence. With the introduction of effective antiretroviral drugs in the mid-1990s, people started living longer.

What hasn't changed – even after 30 years?

Prevention is still the only cure. Even with nearly three decades of research, there is still not a cure or a vaccine. We know that studies tell us that PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis), using the HIV drug Truvada® reduces but does not eliminate the risk to contract HIV. PrEP still needs to pass the "risk versus benefits" test (i.e. are the side effects worth it) and the test of time.

(continued on page 3)

SAAF, like many AIDS service organizations, is at a crossroads. This is due in great part to having a National HIV/AIDS Strategy, which has guided the response to and funding for HIV/AIDS care and prevention since 2010. There is also the passage and implementation of the Affordable Care Act which has been a game changer. HIV health care specialists and government agencies have taken to labeling HIV/AIDS a “chronic disease” like diabetes. In my mind there is no comparison because there is another thing that has not changed.

Unfortunately, the stigma around HIV also continues to linger and fester. It is the reason people still don't get tested, still don't get treated. I've heard it said being diagnosed with HIV is not that big a deal anymore. Really? So why are people who test positive for HIV still so devastated at learning their diagnosis? Because HIV may not be a death sentence, but it is still a life changer.

What we are seeing currently is the integration or merger of HIV medical care and HIV prevention, “treatment as prevention”. What will the long-term impact of this change be? Some experts are saying that anyone diagnosed with HIV today who starts on medications can have the same life expectancy. But will they have the same quality of life?

This is where SAAF comes in and has a vital role to play. Since 2006, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that everyone between the ages of 13 – 64 be tested for HIV as a part of routine health care. We know that is not happening. Many people prefer to have their routine HIV screening at SAAF. There are likely a few exceptions, but frankly, many physicians are not comfortable talking to their patients about their sexual practices and risks, much less safer-sex. SAAF's Health Educators offer risk-reduction counseling and a variety of safer-sex materials in a sex-positive, non-judgmental atmosphere.

In our community, it can still be difficult to navigate the myriad of health care and social service systems and agencies, especially for people who are sick or have experienced discrimination. The Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion restored benefits to childless adults in Arizona, including those with pre-existing conditions, and expanded access to health care services. The new health insurance marketplace does add another layer of complexity. SAAF's Peer Counselors and Case Managers listen, offer support, direct people to the most appropriate community resources and when needed advocate for them.

There are exciting opportunities in the works. SAAF recently collaborated on a grant proposal with long-time partners at CODAC and the Pima County Health Department. If awarded, this 4-year grant would take us further towards services integration by offering HIV and Hepatitis testing, education and prevention with HIV medical care, mental health and substance abuse treatment services – all in one location. This year, CODAC will be opening the Living Out Loud LGBT wellness and community health center. They are holding forums to get community input on the types of services to be offered and how the setting should be designed.

SAAF's staff and board are currently working to develop a new 3-year strategic plan which will guide our organization from 2015 through 2017. We are working hard to maintain SAAF's client-centered focus and core values, especially compassion and empowerment, in the changing landscape. If we do it right and stay true to SAAF's grassroots spirit, the people we serve will benefit. Absolutely.

Warmest regards,



Wendell

## 2014/2015 Fundraising Events

### **AIDSWALK Tucson**

Sunday October 12, 2014  
Downtown Tucson

[www.aidswalktucson.com](http://www.aidswalktucson.com)

### **The 26th Annual Jerome Beillard Festival for Life**

Saturday November 8, 2014  
Tucson Chinese Cultural Center

[www.festivalforlife.org](http://www.festivalforlife.org)

### **Bowling for Tommy**

Saturday January 24, 2015

Bedroxx  
4385 West Ina Road

### **Möda Provöcateūr**

Sunday March 1, 2015  
Tucson Convention Center  
Grand Ballroom

[www.saafmoda.org](http://www.saafmoda.org)

### **Jell-O Wrestling**

Saturday May 9, 2015

The Slaughterhouse  
1102 West Grant Road

[www.jello-wrestling.org](http://www.jello-wrestling.org)

## 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-Friday  
9:00am to 6:00pm**



## SAAF First in Going Green!

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

SAAF has established itself in the nonprofit world as the green leader, by being the first charity organization to step up to the Southern Arizona Green Chamber of Commerce (SAGCC)'s Climate Change Challenge. This is another way that SAAF is helping to maintain a healthy community and clean air for all of us.

As part of the challenge, SAAF has already shown significant improvements in energy-use reduction over the past year and has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions further over the next year.

David Schaller, a SAGCC Board Member, says, "SAAF's commitment to the Green Chamber's Climate Leadership Challenge demonstrates that the business case for climate action has strong appeal to non-profits as well as private sector companies within the community". Wendell Hicks, SAAF Executive Director, seconds that sentiment. "SAAF is excited to be at the forefront of addressing climate change and playing our part in making a difference for our world. In cooperation with SAGCC, we look forward to finding even more ways that we can make a positive difference in the coming years".

**For more information about SAGCC or the Climate Change Challenge, visit [www.sagcc.org](http://www.sagcc.org).**

## SAAF Housing: A Place Clients Can Call Home

By Timm Mains, Housing Services Property Manager

**SAAF Housing provides subsidized permanent housing for clients living with HIV/AIDS.** Clients who qualify pay 30% of their income in rent similar to the Section 8 Housing Program. SAAF currently houses 111 clients at seven sites with a total of eighty three units.

The housing sites are located throughout the city ranging in size from a duplex to a twenty-five unit gated community. The housing staff includes the Property Manager, Housing Administrator, two full time Maintenance Technicians, and one Volunteer Locksmith. The housing staff is also assisted by three Housing Case Managers.

Over the last five years SAAF has made site upgrades and safety and energy improvements to several of the sites. These include security gates, parking lot renovations, exterior insulation, energy-efficient dual-pane windows, sprinkler systems, solar electric, and hot water systems. We are currently waiting to hear whether Pima County will award SAAF a Community Development Block Grant that may make it possible to replace twelve outdated evaporative coolers with Energy Star air conditioning units.

Housing staff have a great relationship with our clients through daily interactions that include maintenance of the units, 24/7 on-call availability for after hour emergencies, annual re-certifications, and unit inspections. Our goal is to provide safe, clean, well-maintained, and attractive housing for our residents. Through our housing we strive to create a place for clients that they can call home.

# Foundations for SAAF's Mission

By Evelyn Rens, SAAF Grants Coordinator

Compassion is at the heart of SAAF's mission. Through the compassion of philanthropists with corporate and private foundations SAAF can continue to provide programs and services that improve the health and quality of life for people living with, affected by or at risk for HIV/AIDS.



<b>Compassion</b>	<b>Faith</b>	<b>Tradition</b>	<b>Respect</b>
<b>T-I:BDAG'AMJED</b>	<b>S-WOHOCUDA</b>	<b>HIMDAG</b>	<b>PI:K 'ELID</b>

## A Special Sponsor for a Signature Special Event:

Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment celebrated their 30th anniversary this year! The Tohono O'odham Nation owns and operates three casinos. Giving back to the community is a part of their traditions. SAAF is delighted to recognize Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment as AIDS WALK's Title Sponsor for 19 consecutive years running! All the people at Desert Diamond embody the Nation's values of compassion, faith, tradition and respect.

## Scholarships for SAAF's Staff:

Regular training and professional development is essential for SAAF's staff to stay current on HIV/AIDS issues and policy and learn about cutting edge practices. Many workshops, conferences and conventions take place out of town adding to the expense to attend. Congratulations to the following staff on their successful applications and thanks to the following organizations for making scholarships to SAAF:

**Wendell Hicks, SAAF's Executive Director**, requested and received a stipend from the Advocacy Capacity Building Project, sponsored by M•A•C AIDS Fund and God's Love We Deliver, to cover travel costs and lodging for a 2-day symposium in Washington, D.C. This trip provided a hands-on opportunity to visit "the Hill" and meet with elected officials to advocate for coverage of food and nutrition services as a part of HIV/AIDS care.

**Kelly Morrow, Support Services Manager**, and **Drayanna Masingale, Food for Life Coordinator**, applied for and received a scholarship from the Meals on Wheels Association of America to attend the 2014 MOWAA Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona this August. They'll be attending workshops on nutrition, volunteer management as well as visiting the Expo where they can meet vendors who offer discounted services for nonprofit meal programs like SAAF's Food for Life.

**Claire Swinford, ADAP Assist Program Associate**, requested and received a scholarship to attend the ADAP Advocacy Association's 7th Annual Conference in Washington, DC this coming August. One critical objective of the conference is to look at coverage provided by the Affordable Care Act and the Ryan White Program.

# 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





# In the Foundation Spotlight:

By Evelyn Rens, SAAF Grants Coordinator

**Macy's Foundation, Atlanta, Georgia & Macy's Passport Fund, San Francisco, California**

**SAAF wants to offer special thanks and recognition to Macy's Foundation and Macy's Passport Fund for their outstanding commitment and generous support of Voz (the Spanish word for "voice").** Voz is one of SAAF's youth development and prevention programs which focuses on empowering underserved minority and LGBTQ youth to make healthy choices through life-skills training and providing them age and culturally-appropriate sexual-health and HIV-prevention education. Voz also offers peer education and leadership training to interested program graduates and conducts outreach during events to raise awareness among youth, their parents and relatives and the wider community.

Macy's became a key partner at a critical time, in 2008 - 2009. Youth participants had a much greater need for services, reporting more family stress and higher rates of substance use and other risky behaviors. At the same time Voz's funding was being reduced. Contributions from Macy's Foundation and Macy's Passport Fund enabled SAAF not only to continue to offer comprehensive risk-prevention education and direct services to participants ages 12 - 20, but to expand the program! SAAF successfully piloted Voz with youth in the Pima County Juvenile Court Center Alternatives Program. Since the program began in 2003, Voz has touched the lives of more than 20,000 "at-risk" and "high-risk" youth, throughout Pima County, Arizona.

**Whenever possible, please support businesses and corporations in our community which support SAAF!**

# Got Style? Avalon Gets You to Gorgeous and Gives to SAAF

By Evelyn Rens, SAAF Grants Coordinator

**Want to look good and feel great? Kevin Casey, owner of Avalon for Hair Skin and Nails and the mastermind behind the wildly successful Mōda Provōcateūr hair and fashion show fundraiser, is at it again. Pamper yourself this summer and Avalon will donate a percentage of the fee to SAAF. Here's how it works:**

**Give your parched face a perk up.** Book a facial with any aesthetician in the salon in the month of July and 25% of the full cost of your service will be donated to SAAF.

**Get a cool new do.** Book a haircut with any stylist in the salon in the month of August and 25% of the full cost of your service will be donated to SAAF.

**Try a new shade.** Book a hair color appointment with any stylist in the month of September and 25% of the full cost of your service will be donated to SAAF.

You aren't getting a discount, but when you pay full price for the selected service, a donation is made to SAAF. You're worth it. We promise you'll look fabulous and feel great, while supporting people living with HIV/AIDS in our community.

**For more information, call Avalon for Hair Skin and Nails at 575-1777.**

## Volunteer Training

### Get involved with SAAF.

Join us for an upcoming volunteer orientation, the first step for anyone wanting to volunteer at SAAF.\* Orientations take place from 5:30pm - 8:30pm at the SAAF office building located at 375 South Euclid Avenue unless otherwise noted.

- Tuesday . . . July 15, 2014  
5:30pm - 8:30pm
- Saturday . . . August 16, 2014  
10:00am - 1:00pm
- Tuesday . . . September 16, 2014  
5:30pm - 8:30pm

*\*No orientation is necessary for those volunteering for fundraising events and Walk-in Wednesdays.*

To sign up for Volunteer Orientation, contact Michael Webb, SAAF Volunteer Coordinator, at (520) 547-6101 or [mwebb@saaf.org](mailto:mwebb@saaf.org)





*"I absolutely loved working with the young people that were from high-risk communities, low-income communities, and youth that have to raise themselves for lack of guidance at home. I try my best to leave them with encouraging words that will inspire them to continue their journeys."*

## Staff Spotlight-London Arango

By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

London Arango is a Case Manager at SAAF, a position he has held since April 2013. In this position, he assists SAAF clients in many different ways, including: **advocating on their behalf; connecting them with services in the community; or helping them apply for health insurance, just to name a few.** London says, "Clients can utilize my services as an advocate if and when they feel they are not able to articulate certain concerns. For example, health concerns with their doctor or problems with their landlord, family, or spouse. My position allows me to be a sounding board for my clients when they may feel ambivalent about different situations that arise in their life. Clients may not have a phone or the internet to look these resources up for themselves and that's when I can assist them".

London continues, "I love working for SAAF, first and foremost, because I've been a client myself. I've been in the position where I've needed advocacy. I've utilized SAAF services at a time when I was not able to provide for myself. I was so grateful and thankful that these services were in existence and didn't take it for granted. I knew that when I was able to become self-sufficient again I would resign from being a client so that others in need could have the opportunity to take advantage of all the good work that SAAF does".

When asked about challenges in his position, London states "Challenges show up in different ways, but what mostly comes to mind is the idea that there are never enough funds or time to do it all".

Before coming to SAAF, London worked as a Detention Officer with the Juvenile Court and is passionate about helping youth. "I absolutely loved working with the young people that were from high-risk communities, low-income communities, and youth that have to raise themselves for lack of guidance at home. I try my best to leave them with encouraging words that will inspire them to continue their journeys."

When asked about something that few people may know about him, London reveals he has a love of singing, dancing, and acting. "I took some acting classes when I lived in Oakland and I took some African dance classes as well. I've never done anything professionally, yet that was a dream of mine in my early adult life".

London enjoys relaxing by listening to music, singing, or reading a good book. London says, "I love to laugh and make others laugh, too. Laughter can cure so much".

# 2014-2015 SAAF Board of Directors

## GOVERNING Board

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*1st Vice President*  
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*2nd Vice President*  
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Steve Laguna	
Cliff Martin	
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Anne Maley-Schaffner	

## POSTHUMOUS HONORARY Board

Tommy Gin  
Cele Peterson

## Production:

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

To be added or deleted from the mailing list or to make address changes, please contact SAAF at (520) 628-SAAF (7223) or by email at [donations@saaf.org](mailto:donations@saaf.org).

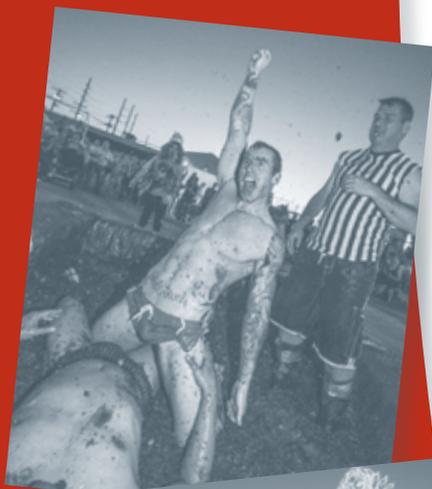
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*Your gift today to  
SAAF's  
Food Program  
will help someone tomorrow!*



## Jell-O Wrestling 2014 Most Successful Ever!



By Monique Vallery, Associate Director of Development

The 27th Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction, presented by new Title Sponsor Freedom Smoke USA International was held on May 3, 2014. This year's event raised more than \$57,000 for the programs and services of SAAF and we could not have done it without your support!

Highlights of this year's event included wrestling matches featuring Gladiators, the LostBoys Motorcycle Club, Harry Potter, James Bond, Madonna and Prince, Tucson Roller Derby, Mighty Superheroes, and SAAF's ED Wendell Hicks taking on Jeanette Mare, the "Be Kind" Lady! We also continued to see the giving and generosity of so many people throughout the event with challenge gifts and auction bids. The night was also once again led by our dear friend Miss Lucinda Holliday.

We also drew the name of this year's raffle grand prize winner of 2 nights in Vegas and 2 tickets to see Brittany Spears live. Congratulations to Sheyla Velarde - we hope she has an amazing time this summer at the show. Any many thanks again to Dr. Kayla Boyer and Speedway Veterinary Hospital for again being the Raffle Sponsor.

**We'll see you next year on Saturday April 25, 2015 for another great year of Jell-O!**