2015 Wingspan Dinner will be FABULOUS!
by Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

Since taking over Wingspan, southern Arizona’s LGBT community center last year, SAAF has been working hard to keep the vital programs and services they provide alive and well. This includes the Anti-Violence Project and the Eon Youth Lounge, both of which serve 100s each year. In addition to this, we have also been planning this year’s Wingspan Dinner, an event beloved by many in our community, and we think this one is going to be absolutely fabulous.

The 2015 Wingspan Dinner
CELEBRATING LEGALIZED LOVE!

Each year, the Wingspan Dinner honors notable individuals in our community who are making a big difference in the fight for LGBT rights. This year’s Dinner, Celebrating Legalized Love, will take place on Saturday February 14 at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort. For 2015, we are excited to honor: Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias with the Dr. Jean Baker Community Ally Award; Former Wingspan Executive Director Kent Burbank with the Godat Award; and Wingspan Senior Pride’s Rick Jorgenson, who will receive the Steve Hall Award.
SAAF Celebrates 30 Years!

2015 marks the 30th anniversary of programs serving people living with HIV/AIDS in Tucson. Our journey as an organization began with the birth of the Tucson AIDS Project (TAP) and the Shanti Foundation in 1985 followed by the creation of the People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson (PACT) for Life in 1987. In 1997, these 3 organizations merged under the name of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF).

Today, we continue to honor the grassroots spirit of TAP, PACT for Life, and the Shanti Foundation by supporting our community in meeting their needs through care for people living with HIV/AIDS and targeting prevention education and testing to stop new HIV infections.

We have come a long way in 30 years but there is still a lot of work to be done…and we are up to the task! SAAF is proud to serve people from all different backgrounds and to be expanding our programs to meet the needs of our community. It’s our mission to offer diverse programming that serves LGBT people through our acquisition of Wingspan, Southern Arizona’s LGBT community center. This is just the beginning for SAAF as we look to our next 30 years!

Wendell Hicks
Executive Director

Keynote Address by Jen Hoefle Olson & Kelli Olson - plaintiffs in Lambda Legal’s Arizona marriage equality case

Steve Hall Award: Rick Jorgenson

Dr. Jean Baker Community Ally Award: Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias

The Godat Award: Kent Burbank

Special performance by Tempest DuJour from RuPaul’s Drag Race

2015 Wingspan Dinner will be FABULOUS!

by Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development

In addition to the awards, we are also thrilled to have Jennifer Hoefle Olson & Kelli Olson as our keynote speakers. Jennifer & Kelli were litigants in Arizona’s Lambda Legal case to legalize same-sex marriage. Then, we’ll wrap up the evening with a performance by Tempest Dujour, a longtime Tucson fixture and a contestant on this Year’s RuPaul’s Drag Race. Plus, as always, we have a few surprises up our sleeve that you will not want to miss!

Purchase your tickets today as space is extremely limited. To purchase tickets and for more information, visit www.saaf.org/ways-to-support/wingspan-dinner/. We’ll see you there.
26th Annual Jerôme Beillard Festival for Life

By Moureen Drury, Marketing and Events Coordinator

The 26th Annual Jerôme Beillard Festival for Life, presented by Long Realty Cares Foundation at the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center, was a huge success with over 650 people joining us to raise more than $90,000 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.

Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development, recognized Mark Molina for his work on the Festival for Life committee and his generous donation of dozens of unique art pieces.

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 this event 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!

Jell-O Wrestling is almost here… and we need YOU!

By Moureen Drury, Marketing and Events Coordinator

The Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction will be held on Saturday May 9, 2015. 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 28 years that Jell-O Wrestling has been raising money in support of the programs and services of SAAF.

Want to be a part of SAAF’s wildest fundraising event? Then bring out your best costumes, find a friend, and get ready to wrestle in a pit of Jell-O! We need 10 wrestling teams to meet our goal and all of the funds we raise stay local.

Contact Moureen Drury at mdrury@saaf.org or visit www.jello-wrestling.org for more info.
Möda Provōcateūr 2015- Not Your Grandmother’s Fashion Show
By Monique Vallery, Associate Director of Development

Join us on Sunday March 1, 2015 at the Tucson Convention Center Grand Ballroom for the 12th Annual Möda Provōcateūr, a hair and fashion extravaganza benefiting SAAF.

This year, we are extremely excited to have the largest show in our 12 year history! We will have eight salons showcased including: Ahead of Style; Avalon for Hair, Skin and Nails; Salon Nouveau; Toni &Guy; ULTA; Village Salon; and, making their Möda Provōcateūr debut, Industry and Twisted Salons. Artifact Dance Project and BreakOut Studios will also be performing again this year.

The salons and boutiques are pulling out all the stops to celebrate another fabulous Möda Provōcateūr. 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 Moda, showcasing up-and-comers on the fashion scene; amazing performances; and a few surprises.

Early bird rates are effective through February 14 and tickets for Möda Provōcateūr are limited and going fast so go to www.saafmoda.org to order yours today.

Walgreens Red Ribbon Campaign Returns!
By Ethan Smith Cox, Director of Development & Monique Vallery, Associate Director of Development

The Walgreens Red Ribbon campaign which debuted in southern Arizona in 2014 is coming back! After raising more than $24,000 for the programs and services of SAAF, we are very excited to once again be a part of this incredible fundraising effort.

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, 2-week campaigns, scheduled for early March & June, 2015. Ribbons will be on sale at Walgreens across the state with proceeds from areas outside southern Arizona benefiting 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.
This year’s AIDSWALK saw hundreds of walkers, runners, and their pets and hundreds of volunteers in Downtown Tucson. Held on Sunday October 12, supporters of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) participated in the Walk and Fun Run, admired national and local AIDS memorial quilt panels, and raised a lot of money. 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 and HIV testing over 100 people during the festival!

SAAF would like to say a BIG “Thank You” to our Title Sponsor, Desert Diamond Casinos and Entertainment, as well as the TMY 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 $158,000 for the programs and services of SAAF.

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

Save the date for AIDSWALK 2015 in downtown Tucson on Sunday October 11, 2015!

2015 Fundraising Events

Wingspan Dinner
Saturday February 14, 2015
Loews Ventana Canyon Resort
www.sAAF.org/ways-to-support/wingspan-dinner

Möda Provocateur
Sunday March 1, 2015
Tucson Convention Center
Grand Ballroom
www.sAAFmoda.org

Jell-O Wrestling
Saturday May 9, 2015
The Slaughterhouse
1102 West Grant Road
www.jello-wrestling.org

Top AIDSWALK 2014 Fundraisers

Top Individual Fundraiser-Adult: Michael Steinberg
Top Individual Fundraiser-Youth: Anna Jean White
Top College/University Tam: Delta Lambda Phi-Omega Chapter
Top School (K-12): Sahuaro Cougars
Top Friends/Family/Pets Team: Alexander/Alfie Family & Friends
Top Organization-Profit/Professional Association/Church: SAAF Prevention All Stars
Top Corporate Team: Raytheon Employee Resource Groups
Top Small Business Team: R&A CPAs
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 at the SAAF office building located at 375 South Euclid Avenue.

HERE IS A LISTING OF UPCOMING ORIENTATIONS:

Tuesday February 17, 2015
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Tuesday March 17, 2015
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 Michael Webb, Volunteer Coordinator, at mwebb@saaf.org or (520) 547-6101

Foundations for SAAF’s Mission

By Evelyn Rens, SAAF Grants Coordinator

Cox Charities generously supports safe and healthy lifestyles for at-risk youth in Pima County through their support of SAAF’s Voz Youth Prevention Program.

Enterprise Holdings Foundation is driving SAAF’s mission home through their support of HIV testing services. We want to give a special thank you to Sara Hyde at Enterprise Holdings for submitting the request on behalf of SAAF.

Banfield Charitable Trust is helping keep beloved pets together with people living with HIV/AIDS through their generous continuing support of the Pawsitive Friends Pet Assistance Program.

Armstrong McDonald Foundation generously funds alternative health care, complementary therapies and wellness services that improve the health and quality of life for seriously-ill people living with HIV/AIDS.

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.

Walmart

SAAF is proud to recognize the Walmart Foundation for their generous support of the Food Program. This is the first grant SAAF has received through the Arizona State Giving Program. Walmart shares SAAF’s goals to address and prevent hunger in Arizona communities. This grant will enable SAAF to provide nutrition services, supplemental protein foods, fresh produce and staples to 500 households, serving at least 48,000 meals in the coming year. Nutrition education will also be provided to Food Program recipients through this grant. Thank you Walmart!
Your gift today to SAAF’s Food Program will help someone tomorrow!

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 the SAAF/TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) 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.

Write A Will Workshop Date

Tuesday March 17, 2015
10:00am-12:00pm
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona
2250 East Broadway Blvd.

RSVP to Fred Rodriguez, SAAF Development Associate, at (520) 547-6099 or frodriguez@saaf.org by March 12, 2015