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What's Inside >



Page 1
SAAF Opens Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th!

Page 2
Tomorrow and Beyond

Page 4
AIDSWALK 2017

Page 5
29th Annual Festival for Life is a HIT!

Page 6
Jell-O Will Return to 4th Avenue!

Page 7
Waba Cares Foundation to Host Mōda Provōcateūr to Benefit SAAF

Page 8
Bowling for Tommy, the 9th and Final

Page 8
SAAF An Accredited Charity by Better Business Bureau

Page 9
Housing Services Success Story

Page 10
2016-2017 Annual Report

Page 20
AZ Gives Day is April 3rd!

The SAAF CONNECTION

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION

WINTER 2018
Volume 5, Issue 1



Standing room only for the opening of the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th.

SAAF Opens Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th!

We are so proud and excited to announce that the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th has opened! What started a couple of years ago as a dream for so many of us in the community is now a reality.

Tucson has an LGBTQ youth center! The love, support, and encouragement of so many in the community means our youth now have a permanent, SAAF space. We hope that you had a chance to join us at the Ribbon Cutting, but let us take you on a quick tour here of the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th.

The central program of the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th will be Eon, which has long been a feature of Southern Arizona's LGBTQ youth community. Some elements of the program will remain unchanged. Youth are welcome to come be themselves, hang out, do homework and study, access art programming, and talk to staff who are committed to providing knowledge, guidance and support.

What's new is that Eon now has a permanent home in a state-of-the-art building designed by Corky Poster of Poster, Frost Mirto, Inc. The architectural team had a real challenge to meet in design. They had to take a historic building and preserve it so that it could meet the high-traffic needs of a youth center, while also making it feel like it was a home. The interior design services donated by Pamela Portwood really make the space feel like it's a home.

Continue to page 3.

Tomorrow and Beyond

By Wendell Hicks, Executive Director



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

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at donations@saaf.org.

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As so many of us often do at the start of a new year, I find myself reflecting on where we have been and where we are going.

2017 marked the 10th anniversary of my becoming the Executive Director of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation. It seems like ages ago and yet also feels like yesterday. Sometimes a new year can make you wistful for friends lost or times past. That's ok. We need to remember those who have come into our lives and made an impact. The times we share with our loved ones is both renewing and rewarding.

Sometimes a new year gives us pause to think about where we currently are. So many folks around Southern Arizona rely on SAAF's programs. For example, our Food for Life Program, serving hundreds, ensures healthy, delicious food is available to people who otherwise might not have a meal to eat. Being food insecure is an all too common reality in 2018. While celebrating the arrival of a new year, I'm mindful to remember those who are starting 2018 without some of the very basic human needs others might take for granted. We must never forget that the work continues on.

That's why, at the start of 2018, I am mostly thinking about tomorrow and beyond. SAAF continues to be a compassionate, loving space in a world that can sometimes seem hostile. As you'll see in our annual report, our programs continue to grow and our financial stewardship is strong. We are mindful that our donors, funders, and supporters have placed their trust in us, and I welcome you to take a look at how we are delivering on our mission to transform lives.

One of the things I'm most looking forward to in 2018 is showing off the new Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th. The SAAF team worked hard to make sure we had a sustainable, safe and well-designed space for the youth to meet in. In 2018 it means the world to me that our youth will know they are safe, they are welcome, and they are loved. When I first came to SAAF ten years ago, I could have never imagined I'd be moving to a city that would not only create a space for our LGBTQ and allied youth, but that they'd do it so willingly and lovingly.

That's why my heart has been in this work for so long and sings so loudly living in Tucson. Our community has a strong history of supporting the work SAAF does each and every day. When I get to the office, I know that not only are we making a difference at SAAF, but our community is making a difference with us. That's how we make Tucson a loving home for everyone.

If it's been a while since you've stopped in to check out SAAF, I invite you to come take a tour of our offices and see the programs we're running. There's so much great programming and services going on at SAAF. I know that it'll renew your hope for the future.

From the bottom of my heart, I wish you all a happy, healthy 2018.

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

Wendell Hicks
Executive Director

Continued from page 1.

SAAF Opens TLC4

The Tech Lounge Powered by Cox has the latest technology of today to help the youth succeed in the world of tomorrow. There's also the Long Realty Cares Foundation Performance Stage, which will allow our youth to put on shows and programs and the community to hold forums and meetings. The vohs + volk Teaching Kitchen is a full-sized residential kitchen to help teach the youth in a setting that is familiar and warm.



Something else that's new about how our community supports its LGBTQ youth is the Stonewall Foundation Sustainable Reserve Fund to ensure the programs operating out of the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th always have that vital lifeline of funding. The Stonewall Foundation was proud and honored to undertake this initiative to ensure program stability and long-term impact within our community. As we transition into full operations at the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th, we'll be announcing further details about the Stonewall Foundation Sustainable Reserve Fund.

We are really proud of the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th's ability to serve as a focal point and community gathering space. With meeting space like the Mick Devore Multipurpose Room and an amazing hangout patio, we know that community groups will be able to hold meetings in an

LGBTQ-friendly space. Even more, the location is convenient on 4th Avenue so that other community groups can hold meetings. These partnerships and opportunities strengthen our community and they foster new friendships.

You might notice as you walk down 4th Avenue and enter the space that there are two sets of beautiful blue tiles with names listed on them. These donors, along with so many others who you'll read about in our annual report, stepped up to support our youth. There never was a doubt or a question in their minds about supporting youth. We are so honored to have their support. The tiles send a deeper message, too. They remind our youth as they enter the space that there is a whole community of folks who love them just as they are and that they are welcome.

That message of love and support is what the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th is all about. We know that through the hard work and determination of so many—our donors, our community leaders, our staff and volunteers—that anything is possible. As Curtis Thornhill, Anne Zimmerman, Cree Zischke, Fraser Nelson and Miles Dickson so beautifully put in on a dedication plaque at the front of the building: "We envision the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th as a safe, supportive space for the LGBTQ+ youth of Southern Arizona—a place to share and grow, a place to move beyond endurance to transformation and triumph." We know that because the community came together and supported our youth today, our tomorrow looks bright.

If you haven't seen the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th, we'd love to take you on a tour of the space and show you all the amazing things that will happen there. Feel free to contact Travis Craddock, Director of Development at (520) 547-6105 or tcraddock@saaf.org

On behalf of the entire team who worked to make the Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th possible, thank you!



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



Walking with friends.

Photography by Scott Griessel, Creatista



Walking for friends.

AIDSWALK 2017

By Josué Romero, Events Coordinator

AIDSWALK Tucson 2017 asked: “Why do I Walk?” The response: we walk because it is a way to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS and to end a stigma that prevents people from seeking care or from getting tested.

On October 15, 2017, SAAF once again partnered with Tucson Meet Yourself (TMY) to present the 29th Anniversary of the Walk and Fun Run, continuing a partnership that not only reduces the expenses for SAAF but allows us to reach more than 100,000 TMY attendees. During the festival’s three-day span, panels of local and national AIDS Memorial Quilts were on display, and over 100 of the festival’s attendees received an HIV test.

We would like to give A Special “Thank You” to Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment, AIDSWALK’s Title Sponsor, for their continued support of SAAF, and to Dr. Maribel Alvarez and Tim Escobedo of Tucson Meet Yourself. We also would like to thank Civano Coffee House, Walgreens, Intuit, and all of AIDSWALK’s sponsors.

A BIG “Thank You” to all the volunteers who helped make the event a success. We could not have done it without you all!

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

TOP INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISER-ADULT:

Alan Taylor

TOP INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISER-YOUTH:

Anna Jean White

TOP FRIENDS/FAMILY/PETS TEAM:

Alexander/Alfie Family & Friends

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

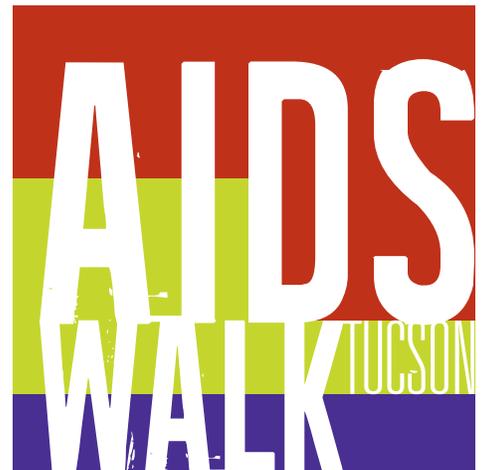
Reveille Mens Chorus & Desert Voices

TOP CORPORATE TEAM:

Raytheon Employee Resource Groups

TOP SMALL BUSINESS TEAM:

BreakOut Studios



PRESENTED BY:



GRAND SPONSORS:





A night of fun, festivities, and fundraising.

Photography by Susan Miesel, Creatista



SAAF
JOIN THE CLUB!

SAAF's Monthly Giving Club

is an exclusive membership of people who care the most about sustaining our ability to eliminate stigma in our community!

If you have a passion for LGBTQ youth, caring for people living with HIV/AIDS, or preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, you are the ideal Monthly Giving Club member.

Members of this special group make a monthly gift to SAAF through an automatic charge on their credit card. For most of us, this is an easy and convenient way to make a significant gift.

\$10/month (\$120/year) = 60 Safe-Sex Kits with condoms, dental dams and lube

\$20/month (\$240/year) = 12 Rapid HIV Tests

\$50/month (\$600/year) = 24 Food for Life Boxes for homeless youth or homebound clients

\$100/month (\$1,200/year) = 60 educational workshops for youth and adults on topics such as LGBTQ Issues, Substance Abuse, Harm Reduction or HIV/AIDS

If you want to join, you can set up a monthly gift using the enclosed envelope or online at www.saaf.org/ways-to-support/monthly-giving-club.

SAAF
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

29th Annual Festival for Life is a HIT!

By Josué Romero, Events Coordinator

The 29th Annual Jérôme Beillard Festival for Life, presented by Long Realty Cares Foundation at Desert Diamond Casino and Entertainment, was a success with over 300 people coming together to raise more than \$30,000 for SAAF.

2017's event had a Guys & Dolls theme and featured actors dressed as characters from the musical. Musicians Joe Bourne and Angel Diamond entertained the crowd throughout the night as the silent auction kicked into high gear with over 300 items on display. Lupita Murillo, our evening's emcee, introduced Wendell Hicks, SAAF's Executive Director, to provide a warm welcome to our guests. Auctioneer Paul Ramirez kicked off the live auction, which included domestic and international trips, jewelry, and amazing art pieces.

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

It 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 success!

Jérôme Beillard Festival for Life



TITLE SPONSOR:

PREMIER SPONSOR:





The 31st Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling will be on Saturday, April 21, 2018.

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.

Generously funded by:
Nordstrom Cares
Armstrong MacDonald
Lovell Foundation



One hundred gallons of Jell-O equals one hundred reasons to play!

Photography by Scott Griessel, Creatista

Jell-O Will Return to 4th Avenue!

By Josué Romero, Events Coordinator

Doing Good Was Never This Much Fun!

The 31st Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction will be on Saturday, April 21, 2018, on 4th Avenue. Teams of wrestlers will 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. Funds raised through Jell-O Wrestling assist SAAF with our mission to cultivate a healthy & stigma-free society through transformative action.

Tickets on sale NOW!!

Remember to follow us on Facebook to stay updated on 2018's Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza!
www.facebook.com/Jello.Tucson/



TITLE SPONSOR:



HOSTED BY:



Don't miss this night of glamour and entertainment, where local stylists and salons will showcase their profession and individualism!



VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Save the Date! Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Join us for our upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:

Thursday, April 19, 2018

The Historic Y

738 N 5th Ave, Tucson, AZ 85705

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, March 24, 2018

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Tuesday April 17, 2018

10:00 am – 1:00 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 SAAF's Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@saaf.org or (520) 547-6174.

Waba Cares Foundation to Host Möda Provöcateūr to Benefit SAAF

By Travis Craddock, Director of Development

This year Sean Cho and the Waba Cares Foundation will breathe new life into the iconic Möda Provöcateūr event, taking place on March 25th!

You won't want to miss this night of glamour and entertainment, where local stylists and salons will showcase their profession and individualism for the title of 2018's Möda Provöcateūr Salon of the Year Award!

In the fall of 2017, Sean, the owner of Waba Hair & Beauty Supply, started the Waba Cares Foundation with its mission of collaborating with non-profit organizations to organize and fund charitable events. With a new and big vision, we are happy that Sean and his team will be planning and hosting this year's event to raise awareness and funds for the programs and services at SAAF.

mödaprovöcateūr



Join us in the fight against HIV and stigma in our community. Visit www.wabacares.org to purchase your tickets for the 15th Annual Möda Provöcateūr!



CLIENT QUOTE

“Thank you so much for everything that you do. I know that I would not have been able to accomplish all that I have without your help and support.”

With nearly 200 people in attendance, including the Gin family, sponsors, volunteers, and bowlers, the final event raised more than \$8,000 for the programs and services at SAAF.



Gin family and friends.

Bowling for Tommy, the 9th & Final

By Josué Romero, Events Coordinator

With nearly 200 people in attendance, including the Gin family, sponsors, volunteers, and bowlers, the final event raised more than \$8,000 for the programs and services at SAAF. Throughout the evening, guests were able to enjoy several games of bowling and had a chance at winning great raffle prizes.

On Saturday, January 20, 2018, SAAF hosted the 9th and Final Bowling for Tommy at Fiesta Lanes, and what a fiesta it was!

Special Thanks to our 2018 event sponsors Kristie Graham; EMCOR; and Waterfall Economidis, Caldwell, Hanshaw & Villamana, PC; and our amazing volunteers. A BIG “Thank You” goes out to all of you.

SAAF: An Accredited Charity by Better Business Bureau

By Travis Craddock, Director of Development

Based on the BBB Wise Giving Alliance’s 20 Standards for Charity Accountability, SAAF has officially become a BBB Accredited Charity!

Review Program to our nonprofit sector allowing for Charity Accreditation. SAAF understands the value and we’re thrilled to be one of the first organizations taking advantage of the opportunity to showcase the trustworthiness of our non-profit.”

These standards set guidelines for charities based on best practices in governance, measuring effectiveness, financial management, fundraising, and communications.

At SAAF, we’re proud of our 30-year history of excellence serving Southern Arizona, and we are committed to continuing to manage our programs responsibly and sustainably. Thank you for trusting us and for all you are doing to make our vision of a healthier and stigma-free community a reality.

Wendell Hicks comments, *“I am thrilled that our local BBB has re-launched the Charity*



“Mary knows that she still has barriers to overcome, but she has proven to herself that she has both the desire and the strength of character to make it.”



CLIENT QUOTE

Housing Services Success Story

Mary came to the United States as a refugee from Rwanda.

In her first years in this country her English had not progressed passed a few basic words. She reported that she was keeping unhealthy male company because they spoke her native language, and due to her lack of English, she thought it better than feeling isolated.

Mary did not look for work, as communicating with a potential employer was daunting, and her depression made it difficult to get out of bed. Mary and her case manager discussed her goals and ways in which the case manager could lend support. She wanted to stay in touch with her children, access proper nutrition, keep better company, learn English, and find a job.

Her case manager at SAAF let Mary know about SAAF’s free, healthy food bags, which she has since accessed monthly, and assisted Mary in getting enrolled in a free English language learner program. Mary has made great progress in the past six months. Mary worked hard in her English classes and can now have basic conversations. She explained that her focus on studying has kept her from keeping unhealthy company, and her English skills helped her find a part-time job starting in February 2018.

Mary knows that she still has barriers to overcome, but she has proven to herself that she has both the desire and the strength of character to make it.

“SAAF and the programs they have brought to my school have done so much for my life. On multiple occasions, SAAF and its staff have been my support system and have helped guide me in the right direction. The ALLY Program has given me the tools to help myself and others. Pertaining to suicide, instead of panicking in stressful situations, I’m able to handle the situation and actually help. And if I can’t help, I know who to call. I honestly don’t know where my life would be if SAAF hadn’t provided me with the skills I’ve used. Thank you.”



Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

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Tucson, Arizona 85719

The SAAF CONNECTION

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The reason we give to support our future.

Please Save the Date! AZ Gives Day is April 3rd!



The 6th annual Arizona Gives Day is April 3rd and we hope that you will consider giving to SAAF on that day.

SAAF is a qualifying charity for Arizona's Charitable Tax Credit. Your donation to SAAF can qualify for a dollar-for-dollar income tax credit from the state of Arizona. Married couples may now receive a credit up to \$800, single filers up to \$400. Plus, your donation can be made up until April 17th, 2018 to receive the credit on your 2017 tax return.

Please note that it is no longer necessary to file an itemized return to take advantage of this tax credit and you can take this tax credit in addition to the School Tax Credits and other Arizona Tax Credits.

Take Advantage of the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit!
Give on April 3rd at www.saaf.org