



Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network
Helping People with HIV to Live Well

NEWSLETTER

Tucson, Arizona

January 2018

Vol. 23, No. 1

Fulfilling Your Wishes to Offer Help and Hope

From Executive Director Scott Blades



On behalf of the people with HIV who we serve, thank you for your gifts in support of our mission, programs, and people. Through the work of TIHAN's staff and volunteers, your gifts are transformed into love, care, support, and advocacy for people in need—individuals and families living with and affected by HIV. We are grateful that so many people understand the need, and provide such kind support.

It is said that the character of a community can be known based on how it treats its most vulnerable members: the young, the elderly, the sick, the poor, the marginalized, the incarcerated, the “stranger.” When you reach out to people who are unjustly deemed to be—and often treated as—“the least among these,” you are fulfilling the commandments, and honoring the Golden Rule that is key to every great religious tradition and non-religious ethical practice: treat others as you yourself would want to be treated.

We are grateful that you choose TIHAN and the people we serve to be among the many beneficiaries of the gifts and blessings given to you.

Every day, people with HIV in our community are given help and hope because of people like you—volunteers and donors who care and who know that TIHAN is a powerful means of offering love and support to some vulnerable and too-often-stigmatized neighbors right here in our community.

Our work provides key practical support services to people in need. But in addition, we provide a sense of security, the ability to not just say it but to show it: that someone cares, that someone remembers you, that you—as a person living with HIV—are important and valuable and worthy. And that TIHAN is here to support you along your path of life.

By bringing together religious, secular, corporate and non-profit organizations, TIHAN creates an inclusive support network for people living with HIV. With your support, this network of support for people living with HIV can be even stronger!

Thank you for your work. Thank you for your support. Thank you for being part of this amazing community of care. We're grateful for the confidence you place in us to help create a future filled with life and love.

NEW WEBSITE!

Please take a look at our new,
updated, user-friendly website:

www.tihan.org



Thanks to volunteer Nkechi Esan (pictured right), we have a new site that is easier to navigate, mobile friendly, and more current! This site replaces the previous website that was well-managed for more than 10 years by webmaster extraordinaire Phil Moul (left) — thank you, Phil!

Celebrating the TRUE COLORS of amazing volunteers, donors, partners, and more!

Tuesday, March 13—see page 2 for details





Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network
2660 North 1st Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85719
(520) 299-6647
www.tihan.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Inside This Issue:

True Colors: Celebrating the Rainbow

Update on Programs, Services, and People

Robb and The Strength to Push On

Amazing people, fun events, life-affirming programs!

To make a contribution in support of our programs and people living with HIV, please send a check

to the address on the left,
or visit our website

www.tihan.org

and click on the “DONATE TO TIHAN NOW” button.

Only with your support
can we continue. Thank you!

Swinging@AIDS Benefit Golf Tournament and Concert

Swinging@AIDS is a golf tournament and benefit concert organized by the Center for Health and Hope to jointly benefit the programs and services of the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) and the Children of Africa Hope Mission School of Kenya.

Saturday, March 24 - the 4th annual Tucson Swinging@AIDS Golf Tournament and Silent Auction, taking place at the Conquistador Course at El Conquistador Golf & Tennis in Oro Valley (10555 N La Canada Drive). 12:30pm shotgun start, scramble format. \$125 entrance fee includes greens fees, meal, prizes, and a \$50 donation. This beautiful course takes you along winding paths through stunning desert landscapes of mystical, vast and open spaces with prickly vegetation and its beauty. Play through saguaro-capped hillsides surrounded by natural desert terrain, and enjoy manicured fairways and spectacular views of the Catalina Mountains and desert wildlife. www.elcongolftennis.com

Sunday, March 25—Swinging@AIDS Benefit Concert. Join us to enjoy The Ronstadt “Brothers”—\$20 admission includes cover charge and a \$15 donation to TIHAN and the Center. Petie and Bobby Ronstadt along with Alex Flores and a multitude of other excellent musicians play music exemplary of southwest cultures. Multi-instrumentalists and solo performers in their own right, they present an exciting repertoire that preserves the traditional Southwestern and Mexican songs of their heritage while offering innovative original material. The show is at 6pm, but come early at 5pm to enjoy dinner, appetizers, or drinks before the show on the Courtyard Stage outside at the Monterey Court Café (505 W Miracle Mile). 10% of all your food and beverage orders will benefit people living with HIV. Ample free parking (with a parking attendant) available just west of Monterey Court. Visit www.montereycourtaz.com for details about the unique historic concert setting.



SWINGING@AIDS
March 24, 2018

To purchase tickets, reserve your spot, or get more information, contact Claudia Svarstad (303-594-8027 or csvarstad1@gmail.com) or Pat Fox (520-850-9203 or pfox12@cox.net). www.centerforhealthandhope.org

Celebrating the Colors of the Rainbow

Annual Meeting & Appreciation Party

Tuesday, March 13th

Reception begins at 5:30pm
6:00pm -7:00pm:
Year-in-Review Slide Show, and
Award Presentations

**St. Michael and All Angels
Episcopal Church**

602 N. Wilmot (corner of 5th
Street and Wilmot)

A PARTY TO SAY **THANK YOU**



RSVP to (520) 299-6647
or VounteerCoordinator@tihan.org

Featuring hors d'oeuvres, our annual slide show highlighting the people and events of 2017, a presentation of the 2018 Board of Directors, and our volunteer recognition awards.

Come join the party and meet and mingle with our staff, board, and volunteers, as we recognize outstanding contributions.

TIHAN will be presenting awards at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, and you can help by nominating one or more of TIHAN's wonderful volunteers and supporters! Go to www.tihan.org, click on "Volunteer" at the top of the page, scroll down on the left, and click on "Nominate a Volunteer for an Award." You can also pick up a nomination form at the TIHAN office, or contact Dennisse Ley at VolunteerCoordinator@tihan.org or 299-6647 ext 206 and she will send you one. The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, February 20th.



A Benefit for TIHAN: Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, the Musical!

Join us for a benefit for TIHAN at the Pima Community College production of PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT, the musical! We're especially excited because TIHAN Board President Dan Uroff has the lead role!

The show takes place at the Proscenium Theatre at PCC's West Campus (2202 West Anklam Road). You have two shows to choose from that benefit TIHAN:

Saturday night, March 3rd, at 7:30pm, or

Sunday afternoon, March 4th, at 2:00pm

Tickets are \$30 each, with \$14 of each ticket benefitting the programs and services of TIHAN. Or you can purchase 4 tickets for \$100 (\$9/ticket benefit TIHAN). And perhaps consider purchasing a few tickets to donate for people living with HIV to attend the show.

Based on the smash hit movie "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert," this musical features dazzling, outrageous costumes, wigs and hairpieces; eye-popping special effects; and a bus named Priscilla—all creating a visual feast onstage. The adventures of two drag queens and a transgender woman on their way to perform a drag show in the remote Australian desert town of Alice Springs is at times both funny and poignant. Yet hidden in the story is an uplifting message of tolerance and diversity.

Limited seats available – to reserve your spot, call or stop by our office with payment, or send a check payable to TIHAN to 2660 North 1st Avenue and let us know which performance you want to attend.



Highlights of TIHAN's Programs and Services from 2017

By Deirdre Demers, Program Manager

We are excited to share that, with your support, TIHAN was able to achieve a number of milestones and accomplishments over the past year:

We celebrated the third "Living Well with HIV" graduating class.

We welcomed 10 new presenters to the Living Well with HIV program, furthering TIHAN's community engagement and partnerships.

We held the first Sharing Well program, allowing individuals living with HIV to develop their personal story that they wish to share with the community.

We served the 25,000th meal at Poz Café.

We welcomed a new sponsor for Poz Café, St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, joining the other 37 sponsoring groups for 2017.

We served our largest crowd at Poz Café, with 232 individuals present at the December 2017 Poz Café Holiday Dinner Party.

We served a growing number of individuals living with HIV, reaching 350 people served by the end of 2017.

All of this is possible because of your donations—whether financial, in-kind, or volunteer time. Thank you for helping TIHAN make 2017 another record year of supporting people living with HIV to live well!



Volunteers serving at Poz Café

Matching Funds?

Family Foundation?

Endowment Fund?

Please let us know if you, your company, faith community, family, or other affiliations might have resources that we can apply for.

Your connection and support can mean the world to people we serve!

The Strength to Keep Pushing Forward

Robb had spent years working as an advocate for people living with HIV before he learned that he too was living with the virus. Even with this experience, the diagnosis was difficult to face. He had seen the hardships that friends had to endure (especially the fear and stigma), and now found himself dealing with the same stigmas he had been working so hard to break.

Shortly after Robb's diagnosis in 2003, his partner left him, and life as he knew it began to spiral out of control. Robb had to file for bankruptcy and soon became homeless. There were negative health effects as well, including pneumonia, shingles, and weight loss.

Fortunately, Robb's support system activated. He was connected with an amazing case manager and HIV doctor, who helped him begin to find his way back to "normal" and connected him with resources, including TIHAN.

Robb vividly recalls his first encounter with TIHAN. "My Case Manager was angel sent," he says, "and invited me to Poz Café nearly 14 years ago. When I got there, I recognized many faces from the community. After attending the luncheons a few times, I got up enough nerve to go on my first date [since being diagnosed]!" He refers to that as a big step in his own journey to acceptance.

Over the years, Robb has stayed connected to TIHAN and our programs and services. He still looks forward to the monthly luncheons, and he has always felt supported by volunteers and staff over the years. "TIHAN was able to help me with an electric bill," he recalls. "And you once gave me a gift card for groceries after I was robbed in my own home." Robb's gratitude overflows. "I also appreciate the time and effort that volunteers put into giving us CarePackages and making the weekly check-in calls. I am grateful for all of the help from TIHAN. You have all given me the strength to push on and to reach out to others."

Robb continues to be a strong advocate in the community and believes that there is still a lot of work to be done to decrease (and hopefully eliminate) the stigma around HIV. With the support of TIHAN, his partner, and family members, Robb is determined to continue speaking out and helping others who are dealing with the hardships that can come with living with HIV. Robb, thank you for helping TIHAN to make a positive difference in the lives of those affected by HIV in our community!



Acknowledging Gifts Made to TIHAN In Honor Of and In Memory Of Loved Ones

(Gifts received October 16—December 31, 2017)

Gifts Received in Honor Of

Barbie Adler	Lew Harper	Carol Schneiderman
Naya Arbiter and Rod Mullen	Jenny and Mike Hartung	Jeff Schuchart
Terry Bagwell	David and Ashley Hazan	Frank Sharp
Sara Baker	Soozie Hazan	Melinda Sims
Kristin Barnes	Peter Helman	Janet Smith
Curt Beall	Traci Hockett	Karen Sparks
Judy Berman	Ron Holland	Pastor Karla Spence
Scott Blades*	Patrick Holt	Laura Stehle
Carol Bogg	Katie James	Mike Steinberg and Alan Taylor *
Sandy Bryant	Ellie Johnson	Kalyn Stith
Jeanna Butler	Warner Jones	Claudia Svarstad and Beckie
Joel Byko	Leslie Kahn	Harkey
Andres Cano	Barbara Kaller-Cohen and Kenny	Kim and Dan Talerico
Gene Carlson	Cohen *	Lynn Taylor
Nicole Cohen	Allen Kinzey	TIHAN CarePartners living with
Arlan Colton	Ray and Karen Kressley	HIV
Jill Conway	Caroline Lochner	Tihan Staff
Dorothy Copps	Jess Losoya	Vicky Torrens Bermudez
David Cormier	Tina MacBeth *	Diane Tyron
Gerry Cox	Terry Maloney	Dan Uroff
Rex Crouse and Dale Jones	Jefferson Manzano	Magdalena Verdugo and John
Beth and Bryan Daum *	Annyce and Glen Meiners	Buttery
Cathy Davis *	Rev. Dr. Don and Bonnie Messer	George Vissichelli
Roy DeBise and Rolly Loomis	Larry Moore	Nate Wade
Randy Decker	Phil Moul and Robert Stolarski	Wednesday Happy Hour Group
Andrea Campa Duncan	Tom and Cheryl Muller *	Don and Doris Wenig
Harriet Dworkin	Lupita Murillo	Liane Wong
Leslie Edwards	Vicki Myers	Darrin Woodring
Gwen Elbert	Jim Nation	Jim Yancey
Lloyd Engle	Loraine Nordlinger	Jessica Zarling and Jeremiah
Nkechi Esan	Araceli Olivas	Thomas
Marco Felix	Dan Orozco	Jim and Terri Zarling
Noel Floresca and Jon Stetson	Jane Perri	David Zinke
Dr. Randy and Susan Frieze	Sara, Jim, and Mary Alice Pratt	
Friends of TIHAN	Vanessa Quinn	
Mary and Russell Garrett	Jill Rich	
Linda and Jim Girard	Mark Rosenbaum and Bruce	
David Goff	Cameron	
Dianne Gundersen	Patricia and Robert Ruiz	

* denotes those for whom multiple gifts have been received during this period of time

Gifts Received In Memory Of

Ralph Anderson
 Stephen Andre
 Prospero "Pope" Balderrama Santana
 Barton
 Barton Bogg
 Guenther Braun
 Bob and Helen Brink *
 Marc Brunelle *
 Albert Callahan
 Mark Foley
 Derek Fowler *
 Sandrine Gasq-Dion
 Jimmy Giarusso
 Eric Holmstrom
 Bruce Keck
 Kevin, Frank, Anita, and Marc
 James Lucas
 Noel Matkin *
 Bill McManus *
 Johnny Miranda
 Myron Morris *
 Butch O'Daniel *
 Larry and Robert Pollock
 Kristin Rahn
 Randy
 Ronald Schuyler
 Michael Simmons-DeFord
 Justin Smith
 Steve Spires
 Jim Stobaugh
 Mike Vining
 David and Anita Wade
 Ella Berresford Waltz

Sharing the Message about HIV Today



Four TIHAN volunteers living with HIV (Miguel, Ron, Gwendolyn, and Ed) shared their stories with almost 300 University of Arizona students (primarily first-year students). The students were attentive and listened and learned about living with HIV today, as our volunteers shared their perspectives of learning to live as well as possible with HIV.

In addition to the vital HIV awareness, prevention, testing, and support messages, speaking engagements like this help empower people living with HIV to share their truths, their experiences, and their strengths.

It takes courage to stand up in front of a few hundred people and be vulnerable while speaking from the heart and answering questions about very personal and sometimes painful experiences. The students were very grateful, and so are we, to have great educators and agents of change!

A Bequest to TIHAN: Dr. Noel Matkin Leaves a Legacy

Recently, we received a \$20,000 bequest from one of the greatest heroes and advocates in TIHAN's history. Noel Matkin, PhD, was a great man, leader, friend, and mentor who passed away in 2016 at age 84. Noel was survived by his partner of almost 25 years, as well as by his daughter, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

In preparing his will, Noel was careful to make arrangements for his beloved family as well as for the charitable causes closest to his heart.

With Noel's generous bequest, his wish that people living with HIV receive support services will be honored. We were blessed during his life to receive his gifts, and now—even after he's gone—Noel will continue to help people in need and make Tucson better.

Noel Matkin's legacy lives on through his family and friends who carry on his spirit and his work, and through the people and programs that are stronger because of Noel's support and love.



Some of our awesome faith community liaisons!



Saturday, June 2

Tucson University Park
LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION

*Save
the
Date*



**The year's
biggest party
and
fundraising
event to
support our
programs
and services!**

JOIN US:

- ♦ **Donations of auction items** are now being accepted!
Please consider helping with your donation!
Gift certificates, trips and travel, celebrity items, jewelry, gift baskets, textiles, event tickets, and more!
- ♦ **Event sponsorships** available, at various levels, starting at \$500 (with perks!)
- ♦ **Volunteer opportunities**—in advance, as well as on the day of the event.
Planning Committee members, item solicitors, marketing, errands, event setup, silent auction monitors, and more!
- ♦ **Event Tickets:** on sale for \$65 in advance or \$75 at the door.
- ♦ **Raffle tickets:** For only \$5, get a chance to win \$1,000 cash and other great prizes!
(or buy 5 tickets for \$20, or 15 tickets for \$50)

For more information or to get involved with Treasures for TIHAN 2018, contact Scott Blades at (520) 299-6647 ext 202 or scott@tihan.org

Thank you and best wishes to Roy DeBise, our Poz Café chef for many years and many great meals, as he relocates to California!



A warm welcome to John Bass, our new Poz Café chef!

We're fortunate to have staff with such wonderful experience, culinary skills, and care!



TIHAN'S STAFF TEAM

(left to right): Poz Café Chef John Bass, Program Manager Deirdre Demers, Program Coordinator Christiana Owusu-Ankomah, Volunteer Coordinator Dennisse Ley, Operations Manager Maggie McCann, and Executive Director Scott Blades.

In November, TIHAN honored Eric Galbreath of Eyelink Design Services with our Spirit of Philanthropy Award in conjunction with the National Philanthropy Day lunch at the Westin La Paloma Resort. Thank you, Eric, for your many years of generous support of TIHAN!



VOLUNTEERING IS A WORK OF HEART!

Would you like to get to know your community better, develop new skills and improve your resume? Volunteer at TIHAN today! Sign up for our March 3rd Volunteer Orientation, which takes place from 8:30am to 12:30pm. We are recruiting volunteers for both administrative and Care & Support roles. Please consider joining TIHAN in one of these roles:



- “Treasures for TIHAN” Auction Planning Team Members
- “Treasures for TIHAN” Auction Item Solicitors
- Operations Assistants (Front Desk Receptionist)
- Graphic Design Volunteers
- Database Entry Team Members
- Newsletter Coordination Volunteers
- Community Ambassadors (Information Booth Volunteer)
- Link Specialist Volunteers, especially Spanish-speaking
- Golf Tournament Support
- Grants Team Members
- Faith Community Liaisons
- Marketing Committee Volunteers
- Maintenance Technician Volunteers
- Program Coordinator Support Volunteers
- Admin Support—Errands
- Newsletter Folding Volunteers

You can also find the complete list of our current volunteer openings by visiting www.TIHAN.org, clicking on “Volunteer,” then on “Volunteer Opportunities.” One of them might be just right for you! If you have additional questions, please contact Dennisse Ley, Volunteer Coordinator, at 299-6647 ext 206 or VolunteerCoordinator@tihan.org

Help Us Stay Connected to YOU!

TIHAN strives to keep our records as current as possible, so if you would like to update any of your contact information, please contact Maggie McCann, Operations Manager, at 520-299-6647 ext 204 or OperationsManager@tihan.org

We recently transitioned to a new database, so if you are receiving duplicate newsletters, would prefer to receive your newsletters electronically instead of through the mail, or your newsletter address label contains errors, please cut the mailing label from your newsletter and mail it back to us, along with your requested changes. Incorrect/duplicate labels should be mailed to:

TIHAN
Attn: Maggie McCann
2660 N. 1st Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85719

Helping us keep our contact records up-to-date ensures that you stay informed about TIHAN news and events and allows us to keep our postage budget low so that we can focus our financial resources on our Care and Support programs and services.

Keeping The Shelves Stocked with Critical Supplies

Paper goods are a key staple of the CarePackages that are distributed each month from the TIHAN office, with paper towels and toilet tissue being the top two requested items to receive in a CarePackage. Right now, TIHAN has plenty of paper towels in stock, but we could really use your help in bolstering our supplies of toilet tissue. Please help us best serve our CarePartners by delivering the services that they need most. Whether you can donate a pack of 2 rolls from the grocery store, or a pack of 30 rolls from Costco – every donation is very much appreciated. Donations can be brought to the TIHAN office at 2660 N. 1st Ave during regular business hours, Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm. Two-ply tissue only, please!



Arizona Residents: Remember to Claim Your Tax Credit For Your Donation To TIHAN!

TIHAN is certified by Arizona as a Qualifying Charitable Organization, and by donating to TIHAN, you may be eligible for a tax credit and reduce your state tax liability with a dollar-for-dollar reduction (up to \$400 per person, or \$800 per married couple filing jointly).

Remember that, if you file taxes in the state of Arizona, you can utilize your gift to receive a state tax credit. You are not required to itemize in order to take the tax credit. All you need to do is complete form 321 when you file your Arizona taxes, and list your gift to TIHAN there (our federal tax ID number is 86-0819574). Please contact a tax advisor for more information on this credit.

Thank you for directing some of your tax dollars to support TIHAN and our programs and services!

P.S. You still have time to claim it — the law says you can contribute by April 17, 2018 and still be eligible to take the credit on your 2017 tax return for the state of Arizona.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Jan 30	Care & Support Training
Feb 1 / 2	Faith Community Liaison Meetings
Feb 15	Poz Café Lunch
Feb 17/18	Arizona Gay Rodeo (Phoenix)
Feb 21	Living Well with HIV Class: Peace of Mind for the End of Life
Mar 1	Planning Well with HIV Class on Budgeting
Mar 3	Volunteer Orientation
Mar 3 / 4	Benefit Show: "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" Musical
Mar 5/19	Eating Well Classes, Part A and Part B
Mar 13	True Colors: Annual Meeting and Appreciation Event
Mar 15	Poz Café Lunch and Resource Fair
Mar 20	Care & Support Training
Mar 24	Swinging@AIDS Golf Tournament
Mar 25	Swinging@AIDS Benefit Concert
Mar 28	Living Well with HIV Class: Sleep Well, Live Well
Apr 30	Target date to receive auction item donations
Jun 2	Treasures for TIHAN Auction and Party

Reminder About Pets and Service Animals

We love our pets—they are part of our families, and for many of us, a very important part of our support system. However, for safety, hygiene and allergy reasons, we can't have pets at the TIHAN office or at TIHAN events. The only animals permitted in the office and/or at events are service animals.

A service animal is a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. If you bring your service animal to the TIHAN office or a TIHAN event (such as Poz Café, a volunteer training/event, or a Living Well class), our staff may inquire if the dog is a service animal and ask what task the dog has been trained to perform, per federal guidelines.

TIHAN is committed to ensuring the safety and hygiene of the environment for our CarePartners, service animals, volunteers, and guests. Thank you!

Submit Your Volunteer Hours Online!

It's time to make sure all your volunteer hours are entered for 2017 - and now you can do it online! Go to www.tihan.org:

In the dark blue bar at the top, click "Volunteer"

On the drop-down menu, click "Log Your Volunteer Hours"

You're still welcome to use the paper version of the Volunteer Impact Report, but no matter how you report your volunteer hours, thanks for being part of the TIHAN family and helping us document your impact!

