

Join us as for an evening of fun and fundraising as we celebrate community, 25 years of impact, and how we make a difference together!

Early bird special—save \$10 if you purchase event tickets by May 21

www.tihan.org



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

Inside This Issue:

Some Milestones and Memories from TIHAN's 25 Years

Ruben Transforms from Existing to Really Living

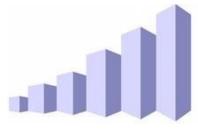
Sparkle & Silver: Our New and Exciting Treasures for TIHAN Event

Amazing people, fun events, life-affirming programs!

OUR 2018 ANNUAL REPORT:

Community Matters

Your support makes an impact!



Last year, we supported more people living with HIV than ever before in our 25 years.

And already in the first four months of 2019, we're on track to exceed that level of support.

Thank you for helping people with HIV to live well!

We're grateful for your impact!





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 <u>your</u> support can we continue. Thank you!



Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network

Helping People with HIV to Live Well

NEWSLETTER

Tucson, Arizona May 2019 Vol. 24, No. 2

THANK YOU!

by Scott Blades, Executive Director

25 years ago—May 1994. Our friends were dying, the fear and stigma around HIV were stifling, and the support network for people with AIDS was a courageous core of amazing

people who had built an infrastructure to address the immediate crisis in our community.

In May 1994, a small group of members of the AIDS ministry program at St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church were beginning the outreach and inviting representatives from 450 faith communities in Tucson to a meeting in June to talk about how we could collaborate and support each other in addressing AIDS. We were hoping for a great turnout at the event. Only eleven faith communities responded and sent a representative. We were devastated that the silence and stigma, fear and apathy kept so many faith communities from joining us.

But those eleven faith communities that did show up began a conversation that would form a new network of support to enhance AIDS awareness and engage more of Southern Arizona's community in being part of the solution.

It was at that June meeting when the movement began that would soon become TIHAN. 25 years later, we're still here. So much has changed, and we've worked to evolve and adapt our response as the landscape of AIDS has changed in so many ways. We never expected or wanted to be here 25 years later. We were sure there would be a cure long before now... We still wait for that day, and we serve while we wait.

It's been heart-breaking. And exhausting. Inspiring. Devastating. Infuriating. Empowering. Provoking. Galvanizing. Invigorating. And heart-breaking.

As our coalition of individuals, businesses, faith communities, and nonprofit groups now commemorates 25 years of serving the HIV community, it's important for us to remember where we've been, the people and relationships that have touched us, and the amazing love and care you've offered to honor, remember, and transform lives.

25 Milestones and Memories

- 1994 Initial organizing meetings held, leading to the formation of TIHAN
- 1995 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awards a \$25,000 startup grant to TIHAN as part of their Faith in Action initiative
- 1996 After a nationwide search, Scott Blades hired as Executive Director
- 1997 TIHAN decides to remain independent as three other AIDS organizations merge to become SAAF
- 1998 Myron Morris and Bertie Lozano initiate the Treasures for TIHAN benefit (first auction raises \$3,800)
- 1999 TIHAN organizes a display of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt at Fort Huachuca, believed to be the first time the quilt was displayed on a US military base
- 2000 TIHAN helps form the Kente Project, a coalition to address the disproportionate rate of HIV in the African-American community
- 2001 TIHAN's administrative office moves from donated space (300 sq ft) at St. Francis UMC to an 1,110 sq ft office on Alvernon and 5th St
- 2002 Beloved community member Lacey Laws passes away, leading to a sustained legacy of AIDS awareness and support for TIHAN
- 2002 TIHAN's HIV+ staff member Jim Valiton selected to participate in the Olympic Torch Run through Tucson
- 2003 TIHAN conducts a clergy roundtable to increase HIV understanding
- 2004 Poz Café named by the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona as one of the three most innovative nonprofit programs
- 2005 Kalyn Stith and Lindi Laws take Treasures for TIHAN to a new level, with a marked 39% increase in income
- 2006 TIHAN organizes Tucson clergy to take HIV tests and write a newspaper Op-Ed as part of National HIV Testing Day
- 2007 TIHAN collaborates on the local commemoration of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, and our volunteer Consuelo Lucero receives the Community Leadership Award
- 2007 TIHAN provides the keynote presentation at Arizona's 2007 White House Conference on HIV and Community Initiatives (Phoenix)
- 2008 An endowment fund established at the Community Foundation by Dr. Myron Morris provides its first annual funding to TIHAN

LOOK FOR

25 MORE

MILESTONES AND

MEMORIES

IN THE NEXT

NEWSLETTER!

- 2011 For the first time, the number of people living with HIV served by TIHAN exceeds 300 in one year
- 2011 TIHAN holds its first Resource Fair for people with HIV at Poz
- 2011 Dr. Noel Matkin, a two-term president of the Board of Directors, receives our Excellence in Caring Award
- 2013 TIHAN holds its first "Living Well with HIV" class
- 2013 Our greatest benefactors Ken Sullivan and Jerry Geller pass away, leaving their legacy: a \$900,000+ gift provided over multiple years
- 2014 Poz Café serves its 20,000th meal, with Tim Haver receiving the milestone meal
- TIHAN and Scott Blades receive the United Methodist Church's Global AIDS Leadership Award at a conference in Portland
- 2019 TIHAN commemorates 25 years of serving the community



Master of Ceremonies **Lupita Murillo** from News 4 Tucson



Live Auction and Paddle Raise by Bobby D



Special musical performance by Crystal Stark



New this year!

Our live auction has been moved to the middle of the event instead of the end.

We're adding a paddle raise to the fun.

Crystal Stark will perform to wrap up the evening at 8:30pm!

JOIN US:

- ◆ <u>Donations</u> of auction items are now being accepted!

 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 lots of perks at each supporting level!)
- ◆ <u>Volunteer opportunities</u>—in advance, as well as on the day of the event. Marketing, errands, event setup, silent auction monitors, and more!
- ◆ <u>Event Tickets</u>: on sale for \$65 in advance or \$75 at the door, but if you purchase by May 21, take advantage of our early bird price and save \$10: two tickets for \$120! Event tickets available online at <u>www.tihan.org</u>
- ◆ <u>Raffle tickets</u>: 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) raffle tickets available online at <u>www.tihan.org</u>

For more information or to support Treasures for TIHAN 2019, contact Scott at (520) 299-6647 ext 202 or scott@tihan.org

Really Living, Not Just Existing: Ruben's Journey with HIV

Ruben has been living with HIV since 2003, but credits his involvement with TIHAN with helping him to more fully live his life. "TIHAN has breathed new life into me. I'm living now, not just existing," he says, because that has not always been the case.

Ruben recalls getting his HIV diagnosis over the phone. It didn't register at first; he remembers it feeling like an out-of-body experience. He remembers the shock and then the feelings of despair. "I remember feeling like, wow, my life is over," he shares. Assuming that his life was over, Ruben didn't care anymore and turned to drugs and alcohol to cope — until he decided he just couldn't live that way any longer.

It was during this time that the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) referred Ruben to TIHAN for financial

assistance. "At the time I found TIHAN, I was still in the 'gloom and doom' phase and didn't want to do anything," he says. Eventually, Ruben sought out therapy for his mental health needs and the depression surrounding his diagnosis, and he began seeing a therapist at El Rio's Special Immunology Associates. He started coming to TIHAN each month to receive a CarePackage filled with household essentials.

Ruben says the impact of a CarePackage is tremendous. "If you haven't been in need, you don't realize that everyday items can feel like the gold at the end of the rainbow," he says as he talks about not having to worry anymore about being able to buy things like toilet tissue, soap, and shampoo.

For Ruben, receiving CarePackages is what encouraged him to start volunteering at TIHAN. If something as simple as a CarePackage could made such a difference, he thought, then he too could give back—even in a small way—and still make a difference. Ruben got more involved with TIHAN a few years later, and has been a regular face at TIHAN in numerous roles since 2017. "Giving back helps boost my emotional well-being," he says, crediting that boost to his getting more involved socially with TIHAN outside of volunteering.

At this year's Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Event, TIHAN honored Ruben for his volunteer impact in administrative and educational roles, and he was nominated for the Empowerment Award, which recognizes people living with HIV/AIDS who have demonstrated exceptional courage and achievement. Ruben was excited to bring members of his family and his best friend to the event, as he says that they have recognized the impact that TIHAN has had on his life and the joy he experiences by being involved here.

"TIHAN is my home for volunteering," Ruben shares. "It feels like a family." Although the smaller size of TIHAN is what initially drew Ruben to volunteer, he knows that the size of an agency doesn't necessarily reflect its impact. "Just because TIHAN is a smaller organization, doesn't mean it doesn't do big things for CarePartners," he says. "Sometimes just having someone to talk to is a huge help."

Remembering Volunteers We've Lost

Debbie Barnette



Tj Duffy



Sending love and gratitude for the impact you have made.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 21	Early Bird deadline for savings on Treasures fickets
May 28 Jun 4	Eating Well class on food and nutrition Planning Well class on budgeting for people
Juli 4	living with HIV
Jun 14	Last day to purchase advance tickets on sale
Jun 15	Treasures for TIHAN Auction and Party!
Jun 20	Poz Café Lunch and Social Event
Jun 27	Living Well with HIV Class: Latest HIV Info
Jun 27	National HIV Testing Day
Jul 18	Poz Café Lunch and Social Event
Jul 20	Volunteer Orientation
Jul 24	Living Well with HIV Class: Memory Loss
	and HIV

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 Community Matters

Our Network of Support Makes a Difference

TIHAN is a collaboration of individuals, families, businesses, groups, and faith communities whose mission is to build a community where there's no HIV stigma, where people get tested and treated, and where people with HIV can live as well as possible.

We are proud that, with the support of so many caring friends in 2018, TIHAN provided support services to more people living with HIV than in any year in our history. Thank you for making it possible for us to help so many people.

Because of you, we've been able to stay focused on the needs of our community, and connect those needs with the vast resources of caring people and groups who want to help.

We know that the stigma of HIV makes people less likely to get tested, enroll in care, stay on treatment, and maintain a suppressed viral load. We know that there is still discrimination against people with HIV, and that depression and isolation continue to be major barriers. The fear and judgment still too often associated with HIV is wrong, and we continue our efforts to bring accurate information and loving support to Southern Arizona.

I recently saw a quote, from an unknown author, that speaks to the importance of our work:

"Community is the safety net from an unjust world."

In the face of stigma and injustice, in the context of poverty and co-existing conditions that make it challenging for too many people living with HIV to thrive, a caring community comes together through TIHAN to be part of that safety net. To be that network of love and support that provides a framework for change—not only in the circumstances of individual lives, but also to make change in the broader social conditions that exist. Together, we do this.

As we move into 2019, when TIHAN will commemorate 25 years of serving the HIV community, we continue to build partnerships of support that provide hope and help for people living with HIV.

In 2018, our Poz Café partnerships included 37 faith communities and groups, as well as 21 community agencies at our annual resource fair to ensure our CarePartners living with HIV are engaged with as much help as possible.

Our Living Well with HIV program partnerships included 15 agencies assisting, and an advisory committee with representatives from six community groups.

In fact, every single program and event at TIHAN involves partnerships. It's as essential to TIHAN's philosophy as is our focus on involving volunteers. And it's one of the things that makes TIHAN unique in our community. It's not always the easiest or fastest way. Building partnerships and engaging volunteers are time-consuming tasks that require lots of attention and communication.

But we know these efforts are worthwhile. They involve more people, build stronger systems, and create lasting impacts.

We are grateful for your donations, your voluntarism, and your partnerships with us over the past 24 years, and especially today.

Thank you for helping end HIV stigma and supporting people with HIV to live as well as possible.

Partnering with faith communities, nonprofit groups, for-profit companies, families, and individuals, we create meaningful opportunities to connect and support.

Thank you for being part of this amazing organization that works to build a community where everyone is included, embraced, and supported to live well.

Scott Blades. Executive Director





Board of Directors

Dan Uroff President Jill Rich Vice President Jefferson Manzano, MSW Secretary David Cormier, CPA Treasurer

Arlan Colton, FAICP Rev. Peter Helman, SCP Leslie Kahn, PhD Denise Nagy, MS Daniel Orozco, LPC Bobbie Parrish, MD Carol Schneiderman, PharmD George Vissichelli

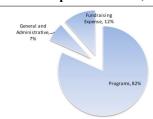
TIHAN's Staff Team

Scott Blades Executive Director Deirdre Demers Program Manager Maggie McCann Operations Manager John Bass Poz Cafe Kitchen/Menu Supervisor

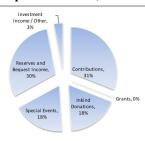
(as of December 2018)



2017 Expenses of \$392,605 *



Revenues Supporting 2017 Expenses of \$392,605 *



^{*} Source: TIHAN's final financial statements for 2017. TIHAN's final financial statements for 2018 have not yet been prepared. We will publish 2018 statements once they are completed.

TIHAN'S PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: 2018

Linking People to Resources and Care – TIHAN's Link Specialist volunteers connected 314 CarePartners with a variety of support services including home and hospital visits, weekly check-in phone calls, emotional support, transportation and shopping support, and a host of information, referral, and advocacy support. This represented a significant increase (15%) over the number of people served with Link Specialist support last year. The hundreds of hours of support from TIHAN's volunteers helps keep our CarePartners sustained and engaged in medical care, increasing the likelihood that they will stay adherent to life-saving anti-retroviral medications that can reduce their viral load and minimize the possibility of HIV transmission.



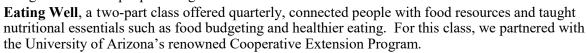
Poz Café Lunch Program – Our monthly lunch and social program served 199 people living with HIV, and



their guests. In 2018, we served 1,650 meals, including providing our 27,000th meal at Poz Café! In addition to the nutritious meals, peer support, and socialization opportunities for our CarePartners living with HIV, Poz Café involved 206 volunteers from 37 faith communities and groups with opportunities to learn and serve. After spending a day receiving HIV education and experiencing a hands-on service project, volunteers returned to their faith communities and groups to share the message of love and service to people who have too often borne the brunt of discrimination and marginalization. This program would not be possible without the generous support of St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church.

CarePackages -- We distributed 1,562 CarePackages to 287 people living with HIV. TIHAN's CarePackages (grocery-sized bags of toiletries, hygiene, and cleaning products which cannot be purchased with an EBT card) made life a lot easier on those we served, the vast majority of whom live below the poverty level. Packages were distributed monthly at the TIHAN office, at Poz Café, and via home delivery to those in need. In 2018, we distributed our milestone 15,000th CarePackage!

Living Well with HIV - Living Well with HIV—a curriculum designed to support people in becoming more active participants in their own physical, emotional, and spiritual health and wellbeing—reached 68 people living with HIV who attended one or more of our 24 classes.





Planning Well, a budgeting class available quarterly, taught effective goal-setting tools to manage bills, build and repair credit, reduce debt, and more. This class was done collaboratively through a partnership with professionals from Hughes Federal Credit Union, and supported in part by Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Living Well, an ongoing series of classes, offered a different topic of interest each month, such as HIV

disclosure, aging with HIV, learning to live with grief, advocating and navigating, and community involvement.

CareTeams -- While the death rate from HIV has declined substantially, there are still occasions when CareTeam support is much-needed. It's a lifeline to those regaining strength or experiencing end-of-life transitions. And because HIV continues to impact people emotionally and physically, TIHAN CareTeams remain available to provide a variety of non-medical support services, providing in-home help, transportation, social support, visits, shopping, and — most importantly — compassion and love. Though the need has changed, we remain ready to respond when called upon. And we provided especially needed CareTeam support to two CarePartners with HIV in 2018.



Collaborations – TIHAN collaborated with many community organizations to bring our

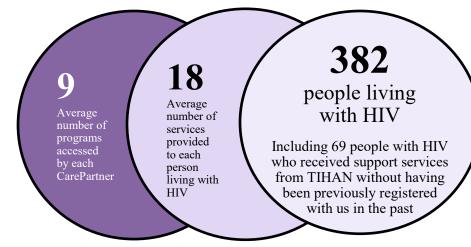
message of hope to those living with HIV and to support HIV awareness and prevention.



TIHAN participated in community events such as National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, World AIDS Day, Tucson Pride in the Desert, AIDS Candlelight Memorial, Coalition for African American Health and Wellness, Ward 3 Resource Event, University of Arizona Coming Out Resource Fair, Explore the World of Resources Provider's Summit, and more.



In 2018, TIHAN provided services to a record 382 people living with HIV—6% more than we've ever served in a year.







Holiday Support Programs – In collaboration with the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, TIHAN brightened the

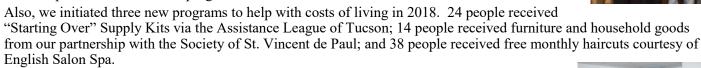


holidays for 36 families living with HIV/AIDS and their 52 children under the age of 18. Faith communities, groups, and individuals contributed gifts for the children and adults, along with a holiday gathering for families living with HIV to connect and find ways to establish new traditions.

In addition, because isolation and depression are especially common around the holidays, the December Poz Café was a special holiday dinner for adults living with HIV. Designed to create new ways of connecting with chosen family/friends, the party included a chance to celebrate, socialize, dance, and receive a holiday gift donated by generous friends of TIHAN.

Additional Programs and Support Services for People Living with HIV

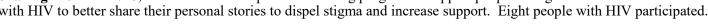
Emergency Financial Support - TIHAN expedited connections with providers to secure emergency financial assistance to 21 people living with HIV, helping primarily with rent and utility costs. In the spirit of collaboration, we partner with Interfaith Community Services (ICS) and Temple Emanu-El for this program.

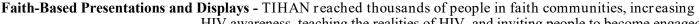


Transportation Support - TIHAN provided 104 rides to persons living with HIV to help them attend Poz Café, along with other rides for shopping and appointments.

Clergy HIV Awareness and Referral Network - Supportive clergy from many faiths are oncall to provide pastoral counseling and support, as well as assist with memorial services for persons living with HIV, if requested.

Sharing Well - In 2018, we continued our speaker's training program to support people living with HIV to better share their personal stories to dispel stigma and increase support. Eight people with HIV participated.







HIV awareness, teaching the realities of HIV, and inviting people to become engaged in the solution. Through presentations to congregations at worship services and meetings, and by attending events with tables of information, we helped stop silence, fear, myth, and stigma, and enhance resources, advocacy, and support.

Faith Community Liaisons - Through quarterly meetings and regular communication, TIHAN supported faith communities as they expanded perspectives, put faith into action, and served the needs of the wider community. TIHAN worked with the appointed liaison from each participating

faith community to keep us abreast of congregational happenings and to convey information about HIV, support services, and events helping the HIV community.



"I had experienced lots of stigma, marginalization, and fear, so it was very unusual to find a group of people who were just like me. It was exciting to find such a group... I felt I had found a compassionate and non-judgmental community to be a part of." — a grateful program recipient living with HIV





Volunteer Impact

In 2018, TIHAN recruited and trained 31 new volunteers, engaging them in our mission and equipping them to make a difference.

Our awesome volunteer team continued to dedicate their time and talents to our highest priorities: AIDS education and awareness, and supporting people living with HIV.

Documenting 12,291 volunteer hours, an amazing 522 volunteers showed that there is amazing support for our cause!

The Independent Sector, a national nonprofit that serves the charitable community, estimates the average dollar value of a volunteer hour at \$24.69. This means that the **volunteer hours** donated to TIHAN in 2018 are valued at \$303,465!

We are proud to have an incredible community of people making a difference, including these people who we honored in 2018: Tina Krug (Empowerment Award), Ellie Johnson (Myron Morris Excellence in Caring Award), Frank Ptak and Joe Heller (Spirit of Philanthropy Award), Natalie Perry (Stonewall Award), Dr. Kevin Carmichael (Heart Award), and Linda Girard (Leadership Award).

TIHAN's volunteers personify our mission: fostering awareness and education to prevent the spread of HIV and to decrease the level of fear and stigma; providing care and support for all of us

living with and affected by HIV so that we can live well: and catalyzing a compassionate response.





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

2660 North 1st Avenue Phone: 520.299.6647 Tucson, Arizona 85719 www.tihan.org

Special Recognition

We wish there were space enough here to thank all of our many donors who invest in our work and help people with HIV to live well. Please know that your gifts are appreciated and put to good use. As an organization that receives no public funds, TIHAN greatly appreciates your love and support, regardless of the amount of your gift.

Heartfelt thanks to the following individuals, organizations, foundations and businesses who made major contributions* to TIHAN in 2018:

Ted Adams David Adix

Barbara Adler and John Nemerovski Anonymous

Arizona Complete Health/Centene Management Co.

Arizona Gav Rodeo Association Estate of Ann Baldwin Colette Barajas and Kristen Birner

Kathy Belk Beyond Video / Glen and Annyce

Meiners Scott Blades and Jess Losoya Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS

Gene Carlson Casas Adobes Congregational UCC Center for Health and Hope

Centra Realty / Coreal LLC Arlan Colton

David Cormier Dove of Peace Lutheran Church

Dr. Seth Dubry and Todd Colwell Darlene Edminson-O'Brien and Jack O'Brien

English Salon Spa Eyelink Designs/Eric Galbreath Linda and Jim Girard

Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church Donita Gross

Jenny and Michael Hartung Joseph Heller and Frank Ptak Intuit, Inc./Pride Network

JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort and Spa Leslie Kahn and Susan Heinrich Barbara Kaller-Cohen and Kenny

Cohen Lutheran Church of the Foothills Tina MacBeth

Stuart Meinke Dr. Yvette Miller Morris A. Hazan Family Foundation Cheryl and Tom Muller

Myron Morris Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona

Denise and Tibor Nagy Catherine O'Brien Savnor Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Marco Prado and Dr. Richard

Feldman James and Sarah Pratt

Purcell Galleries of Fine Art Ralph L Smith Foundation, UMB

Bank, n.a., Trustee Jill and James Rich

Rincon Congregational Church UCC Mark Rosenbaum and Bruce Cameron

SavOn Flowers/Dynamite Event Design and Management

Jan Schoemaker

Carol Schneiderman and Rod Frable

Scott Schoen Patricia Small

Speedway Veterinary Hospital / Dr. Kayla Boyer and Mary Specio-Bover

St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Michael Steinberg and Alan Taylor

Vicky Stromee and Margo Barnes Kim and Dan Talerico

Target Corporation Temple Emanu-El

Jim and Terri Zarling

* includes cash and inkind gifts



Bequest Gifts

We are especially grateful for generous bequests given to TIHAN from the Estate of Jerry Geller and Ken Sullivan, and the Estate of Ann Baldwin

Tremendous supporters during their lifetimes, they made arrangements to leave their legacy through ensuring TIHAN's programs and services would continue to help people into the future.

We will be forever grateful.

