



Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network

Helping People with HIV to Live Well

NEWSLETTER

Tucson, Arizona

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“The Support of a Committed Community”

by Scott Blades, Executive Director

Happy new year! I hope 2021 is treating you well so far. I have great hopes for a better year on all levels, but I'm also realistic enough to think that it's possible that 2021 will be similar to (but hopefully not worse than) 2020. Nevertheless, I am choosing to be optimistic!

Little did we know at the beginning of 2020 what the year held in store for us, and how important your support would be. 2020 turned out to be the most challenging year in our 26-year history as we strived to hear, understand, and respond to the needs of our community members. One of our CarePartners recently wrote to us thanking us for the meals, advocacy, emotional support, masks, CarePackages, and—most importantly they said—providing “the support of a committed community.”

Your support creates that “committed community” that has mounted such a vigorous response to support our CarePartners living with HIV during COVID-19. Despite the health challenges and the quarantining and precautions, you have provided the resources (practical, as well as love!) to keep TIHAN continuously assessing, innovating, and modifying existing and new programs to help Tucsonans living with HIV stay as safe and supported as possible during the pandemic.

Amazingly, our limited staff and volunteer pool, supported by generous donors like you, served more people living with HIV than ever, with more complex and creative support services to respond to the needs. 401 people living with HIV—primarily seniors who are poor and who have other underlying health issues in addition to their HIV—received an array of meals, CarePackages, emotional support, and more, even in the midst of a pandemic that forced us to stop in-person programs, events, and operations.

We are proud of our team for providing new and innovative support services to more people living with HIV than ever, under the extremely challenging circumstances of the pandemic. Thank you all for responding with such love.

As we step into 2021, I don't know what this year will bring, but I'm hoping it will bring its own set of challenges and opportunities, and that our volunteers and donors will do what you can to maintain the safety net of support to some of the vulnerable people we serve.

More Late-Breaking Tax News for TIHAN Donors! *Additional Universal Deduction for Donations Up to \$300/\$600*

For those who no longer itemize their charitable giving, the CARES Act and a late December addendum allow these individual taxpayers to deduct donations to charity of up to \$300 (or \$600 for married taxpayers filing jointly) on their 2020 federal tax return, even though they take the standard deduction.

Be Sure and Claim Your Arizona State Tax Credit—There's Still Time

Since TIHAN is a Qualifying Charitable Organization providing assistance to low income Arizonans, your donations to TIHAN entitle you to a state tax credit. And you can give by April 15, 2021, and still claim it on your 2020 tax return!

By donating to TIHAN, you can reduce your Arizona state tax liability with a dollar-for-dollar reduction (up to \$400/person, or \$800/married couple filing jointly).

Put your tax credit dollars where your heart is!

Invest in TIHAN and our programs and services, and direct some of your state tax dollars to TIHAN.

TIHAN's QCO Code is 20359, which you should include when you file your state tax return and claim your credit.



Please contact your tax advisor for more details.



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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!

Comments from a Recent Written Survey of Our CarePartners Living with HIV

We asked for a brief response to the question, "How has TIHAN impacted your life?" Our CarePartners living with HIV responded with their experiences and how your support has helped them. Here are a few:

"Poz Café, CarePackage supplies, cell phone, utility assistance."

"I love you guys so much. You gave me strength."

"I started receiving services with TIHAN about 3 months [ago], and it has been a great support. Seeing others caring about us is everything, especially during this hardship time."

"The monthly CarePackages and awesome support the staff provide. A friendly voice at the other end of the phone to listen."

"Gift cards for groceries. Many activities [that have] helped me stay clean and participate in sober fun."

"TIHAN has helped with the CarePackages and Poz Cafe luncheon. I have been able to meet people in my situation and didn't have to hide my diagnosis."

"TIHAN helped me find my voice."

"Very helpful and fabulous staff."

"Furniture, food, toiletries, [and] guidance helped me to bloom."

THANK YOU!



We greatly appreciate Larry sharing his story about living with HIV, and encouraging you to make an end-of-year donation in support of our work.

And we are so grateful that the Ralph L. Smith Foundation provided \$10,000 and Melinda Diebolt of Long Mortgage Company offered \$2,500 in funds to match each of your donations.

You responded, and contributed more than \$24,000 in donations in December in support of our programs and services.

Thank you all for what you make possible!

Honoring Empowerment of People Living with HIV

TIHAN's Empowerment Award is presented annually to one person living with HIV who exemplifies the amazing contributions of the many people living with HIV who exhibit exceptional courage and achievement.

We have so many amazing CarePartners living with HIV who we are so fortunate to know and work with, and we honor you. Last year, we selected one CarePartner for our 2020 Empowerment Award, representing so many of our CarePartners:



Darrin Woodring first came to TIHAN as a volunteer in 2015. He had been through multiple brain surgeries and had time to give while he recuperated, unable to work just yet. He donated hundreds of volunteer hours to TIHAN over the next few years.

Darrin's career was in nursing and nursing education, and he had been living with HIV for many years; and he was also very open about his struggle with—and triumph over—years of alcohol dependence. All of these personal perspectives gave Darrin invaluable contributions to TIHAN's Program Committee, helping to craft and evaluate our programs and services for CarePartners living with HIV, and the Grants Committee, helping to secure funding for those programs and services.

Darrin also helped with direct service, serving as a Link Specialist volunteer in the TIHAN office, signing CarePartners up for Living Well with HIV classes, and helping at those classes. He volunteered at events like Treasures for TIHAN and with administrative projects like newsletter mailings.

Darrin helped create the "Sharing Well" program, offering training with a professional speaking coach for CarePartners who wished to share their story. He shared his own story with dozens of faith community volunteers at Poz Café each month, providing them with a firsthand account of what it's like to live with HIV before they went into the field to serve a meal to TIHAN's CarePartners—another important part of TIHAN's mission, providing HIV awareness and education to the community.

When Darrin's neurologist cleared him to return to work in 2019, we were sad to lose him as a major contributor to TIHAN's programs, but happy that he could go back to his career and his passion in healthcare.

After experiencing significant challenges in his life, Darrin dove into helping others and supporting TIHAN and the HIV community in just about any way he could.

We are grateful for the time that Darrin has spent with us and the many projects and programs that he has supported, and we proudly present Darrin with TIHAN's Empowerment Award!

Brightening the Holidays for People Living with HIV

Due to an outpouring of support from our donors, TIHAN's CarePartners received a wonderful holiday meal, a CarePackage, a \$25 gift card to Target, and a holiday gift item at our December Poz Cafe. Thank you all! And a very special thanks to Edna Gray and Dave Johnson for the extraordinary funding to make this happen!

TIHAN's Wish List

Visit www.tihan.org and go to the DONATE tab, then drop down and select "Wish List" and you'll see our wish list of needed items, along with links to purchase the items on Amazon / Amazon Smile if you prefer. Thank you!

Giving Thanks: Somos Uno!

We are grateful to have received a \$20,000 grant award from the We Are One/Somos Uno CARES Act Nonprofit Continuity Grant Program to provide food support to people living with HIV who have low income.

Thank you, City of Tucson Mayor and Council, for designating funds to support vulnerable people in our community during the COVID pandemic, and ensuring that members of our community who are often marginalized and forgotten could receive care and support to keep them safe and supported during this challenging time.

We are grateful for the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona that administered this grant program and for your efforts to galvanize support from the community and get it to people most in need.

Thanks to Our Donors for Coming Through!

With many individuals, businesses, and faith communities feeling the financial burden from the impact of the pandemic, we were worried about how our donors would be able to help us meet the needs of our CarePartners in 2020.

Having to cancel most of our fundraising events in 2020 (and hold one major event virtually), we were concerned about how we would be able to respond to the increase in support needs.

Those of you who were able to respond with generosity did so—beautifully. Due to generous donations from so many of you, our supporters—including a record number and amount of emergency grant funding due to our pandemic response—helped us provide record numbers of services to more people than ever before!

We are especially grateful for a \$50,000 bequest given to TIHAN by Paul DeLair. Additional major gifts of emergency support from The Stonewall Foundation and Edna Gray and Dave Johnson helped us immensely.

Thank you all who contributed. Your generosity has helped so many people with HIV get through a very challenging year.

SHARE YOUR LOVE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Spread Your Gift into Monthly Contributions

Many people find it easier to make smaller monthly contributions. \$10 a month translates into an annual gift of \$120. And \$50 a month adds up to \$600/year. To make it easy, you can set it up as an automatic charge to your credit card each month, so it's less work for you (and easier for us)!

Whatever amount you choose to contribute each month, it adds up to many blessings for people living with HIV, providing support services that make a difference all throughout the year!

\$10/month \$25/month \$100/month

Please visit www.tihan.org to sign up to contribute online. **Thank you!**

Highlights of TIHAN's Programs and Services: 2020

Because of you, we were able to achieve a number of milestones and accomplishments over the past year:

We provided support services to a growing number of individuals living with HIV, reaching a record 401 people served in 2020.

We served 1,663 meals to people living with HIV through our Poz Café lunch program, a 61% increase over the previous year.

Partnering with locally-owned restaurants, we provided an additional 1,998 meals to people living with HIV.

We provided 2,341 CarePackages to people living with HIV, a 43% increase over 2019. These CarePackages were stocked with additional essential items including hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and face masks as available.

We helped 357 people living with HIV with a variety of Link support services, connecting people to care and support.

We provided 1,279 grocery store gift cards (\$40 or \$50) to address food insecurity among people living with HIV.

In 2020, we served our 30,000th meal at Poz Café, and provided our 20,000th CarePackage.

All of this was possible because of your donations—whether financial, in-kind, or volunteer time. Thank you for helping TIHAN make 2020 another record year of increasing our support system that helps people with HIV to live well!

Welcoming Tony Freeman, TIHAN's Program Coordinator

Please welcome TIHAN's new Program Coordinator, Tony Freeman. He brings a great deal of experience—over 20 years of successfully managing programs and volunteers, including working with diverse populations in a wide range of secular and faith-based settings.



Tony has worked in both for-profit and nonprofit settings, including as the Executive Director of the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation. Tony has pastored local churches in the MCC (Metropolitan Community Church) denomination. He also served as the Global Director of the Office of Church Life & Health for the denomination of more than 200 churches.

"Throughout my career," Tony shared, "I have been engaged in HIV ministry and programs. This goes as far back as the early 1990's when I was doing my internship for the ministry in Key West, Florida, during the height of the AIDS epidemic. Our days were filled with home and hospital visits, and the unfortunate yet endless and necessary task of planning and performing funerals. More recently, at MCC of the Palm Beaches, we offered meaningful programming for Long Term Survivors."

In his role as Program Coordinator with TIHAN, Tony will be overseeing our Link and Living Well programs that support people living with HIV. Please join us in welcoming him! He can be reached at 520-299-6647 ext 207 or ProgramCoordinator@tihan.org

Acknowledging Gifts Made to TIHAN in Honor of and in Memory of Loved Ones

(Gifts received October 16—December 31, 2020)

Gifts Received in Honor Of

All frontline workers
 Scott Blades *
 Rachel Briggs
 CarePartners living with HIV
 Arlan Colton*
 Barb and Kenny Cohen *
 China Collins *
 Commander Sins *
 Elizabeth Daum
 Justin Deeper-Love *
 Diva *
 Don't Blink Burlesque *
 Isis D. Frost *
 Linda Girard *
 Carrington Hall-Dubois *
 Jenny Hartung *
 HOK *
 Lucinda Holliday *
 IBT's *
 Lindi Laws *
 Harry Lewis
 Jess Losoya and Scott Blades
 Craig Masters
 Robert Markley
 Katie Meismer-James
 John and Betty Miller
 Mom and Dad
 Tom Mohr *
 Han Nguyen *
 Brenda Nowlan
 John Payne
 Natalie Perry
 Katie Popiel *
 Jill Rich *
 Jill and Jim Rich
 Dr. Cal R Roberts
 Mark Rosenbaum
 Ian Roberts
 Frank Sharp
 John Somero
 Janee' Starr *
 Claudia Svarstad and Beckie Harkey
 Nancy Tomlinson
 George Vissichelli *
 Don Wenig

Gifts Received in Memory Of

Anthony James Apodaca
 Debbie Barnette *
 Jethro and Mabel Battle
 David Barker
 Art Boehm *
 Neal Brady
 Guenther Braun
 Helen and Robert Brink *
 Paul Castellano
 Chris
 Dr. Don Dwyer
 Derek Fowler *
 Uncle George
 Jim Girard *
 W. Ted Giles
 Eric Holmstrom
 Joanne and Donald Hochberg *
 Richard Holcomb
 Ron Holland
 James
 Josephine
 Justin, John, Paul, David, Dan,
 and Clifford
 George S. Landry, Jr.
 Lacey Laws
 Many friends lost to AIDS
 Noel Matkin
 Bill McManus *
 Floyd Meeks
 Myron Morris *
 John Odegard Jr
 Butch O'Daniel *
 Donald Paugh
 Mark Patton and Rick Guild
 Allen Powell
 Robert Polinsky
 LaVerne Rahn
 Robert
 Ronald Schuyler
 Jim Sincox and Noel Matkin
 Ken Stratton
 Steve Trujillo
 Victor
 Michael Vining *
 David and Anita Wade
 Don Wenig

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

Remembering Supporters We've Lost

Bucky Hazan



Dick Rehse



Gwen and Mike Elbert



Lou Dennis Petroni



Dianne Gundersen



Stephany Brown



Dick Kampa



Don and Doris Wenig



Jim Rochester



Jane Conway



May their memories be blessings.

Collecting Rolls of Paper Towels and Toilet Tissue (Two-Ply) for CarePackages for People Living with HIV



We start 2021 filled with gratitude for all the donations you provided in 2020. Thanks to your generosity, we've been able to keep our shelves stocked full of paper products and hygiene supplies. We are currently running low on paper goods, and would appreciate your donations. Would you consider picking up a few additional rolls, packages, or cases of paper towels or toilet tissue (two-ply, please!) during your next trip to the store, or order for online shipping to our office? Donations can be dropped off at the TIHAN office Monday through Friday, between 8:30am and 4:30pm.

Honoring David Cormier's Excellence in Caring

by Scott Blades, Executive Director

I first met David Cormier about 30 years ago, in the days before TIHAN, when we were a project of St Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church, helping people in their final time of life. Dick Pletcher, a friend of David and a member of St. Francis, was dying of AIDS. We all were pitching in and helping to give our friend Dick the best support we could during those difficult days.

After Dick passed way, David committed to getting involved after he retired from his job as the Budget Director for the City of Tucson. True to his word, after he retired, David came to TIHAN and started volunteering. He had a very successful career, and wanted to give back to his community.

He joined the TIHAN board of directors in 2011, and became our Board Treasurer, as well as chairing the Finance Committee. Under his leadership for the past eight years, TIHAN thrived, experiencing increases in income, in our annual budget, and most importantly in the number of programs and services and in the number of people served.

David has been a key donor for TIHAN's programs and services, and has served as a sponsor for many TIHAN events over the years. He has involved his friends and other groups he is part of. He has been a strong advocate for our CarePartners and the programs and services that help them live well.

As our Treasurer, David implemented new budget planning processes and tools, and helped keep TIHAN stable during the recovery after the great recession. He helped us develop key policies to ensure bequests would continue to serve their purpose, long after the gifts were made.

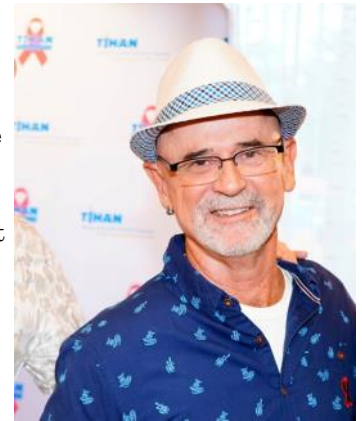
David spent literally hundreds of hours volunteering with TIHAN each year. His leadership helped make TIHAN stronger and better able to serve more people.

In his eight-plus years on the board, David helped us grow and serve more people and add new programs. Under his leadership over those eight years, we served more than 13,500 meals and distributed over 12,000 CarePackages. The number of people we served increased by 24% during his tenure. David helped us establish our Living Well with HIV program and a new focus on supporting people to live well.

During David's years on the board, he helped us raise over \$3 million for HIV support services for people living with HIV here in Pima County. And his financial leadership led us to establish a stabilization reserve fund and a five-year financial projection tool, as well as strategic initiatives for the coming five years. David chaired our Finance Committee, served as Treasurer, and was an ever-present voice of reason and compassion for eight years on the Board of Directors.

Since his term ended, David has continued to serve as a volunteer on our Finance Committee and assisted and supported our new Board Treasurer.

For his years of service and leadership, and his impact in creating a stronger support network for people living with HIV, TIHAN proudly presents our highest honor, the Myron Morris Excellence in Caring Award, to David Cormier.



Make Volunteering a Part of Your Life in 2021!

Would you like to get to know your community better, develop new skills, and improve your resume? Volunteer with us—with all the COVID protocols we have in place to keep everyone safe! Sign up for one of our Volunteer Orientations, which take place via Zoom.

Please consider joining TIHAN in one of these roles:

- **Link Specialist volunteer** (especially if you speak Spanish)
- **Operations Assistant** (front desk receptionist)
- **Finance Committee** volunteer
- **Marketing Committee** volunteer
- **Program Committee** volunteer (program management and evaluation)
- **CarePartner Program Support** volunteer
- **Admin Support** volunteer (running errands)
- **Data Entry Team** members
- **Social Media** volunteer
- **Finance Committee** volunteer (nonprofit accounting)

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 questions, or would like additional information or to sign up to get involved, please contact us at VolunteerCoordinator@tihan.org or 520-299-6647.