



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

## NEWSLETTER

Tucson, Arizona

September 2021

Vol. 26, No. 3

### Remembering An Exceptional Woman and Ally: Barbara Kaller-Cohen

*by Scott Blades, Executive Director*

My “second mom” passed away in May. **I met Barbara Kaller in 1990 on the most transformative weekend of my life.** That weekend was an occasion that Barbara helped me understand as an “enlightenment experience,” a spiritual moment where the past, present, and future of my life converged into a moment of clarity, filling me with peace, and a clear direction for what I needed to do. That weekend I received a clear “calling” to serve people living with HIV, and that weekend I met Barbara.

I was at a membership retreat for St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church, held at a cabin on Mt Lemmon. The retreat ended on a Sunday, and the closing was a “trust exercise,” where we were led outside with our eyes closed and, when we opened our eyes, we each had a person standing in front of us, assigned at random—someone from the previous membership class. **Standing before me was a woman with a radiant smile, welcoming me with open arms. Little did I know how that “random” assignment, that one instant, would change my life.** We sat down and shared lunch, and the bonding began.

The spiritual experience that weekend doesn’t really fit into words, so I don’t talk about it much. My commitment to myself at that retreat was to move through my fears and begin volunteering to help people with HIV/AIDS (something I had been putting off because of my trauma of losing my mentor and best friend Jerry to the disease). Little did I know how Barbara would play such an immense role in my journey—our journey. **Barbara was Jewish, but loved the spirituality, sense of community, and service to others that St. Francis was nurturing. And I was newly joining a church after spending much of my life vowing to never set foot in a church, angry at the hypocrisy and judgment.** Barbara and I connected on many levels, and together we began a journey of love and service.

Soon, we became co-chairs of the church’s reconciling program, the group that oversaw the congregation’s commitment to the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people\* (which was still ruled as being “contrary to church teaching” in the United Methodist Church). As part of our leadership, **we formed a non-proselytizing HIV/AIDS ministry that developed AIDS education and training programs, created support systems for people with HIV (most of whom were dying at the height of the AIDS crisis before effective medications were developed), and forged partnerships with other Tucson-area faith communities and local AIDS service organizations.** Neither Barbara nor I had experience in this area of organizing, but we were full of passion. I was a 20-something-year-old man finally coming to terms with my sexuality after teenage years of suicidality, and life as a young adult living a relatively closeted life. Barbara was a 50-something heterosexual woman who had been widowed and was seeking to explore new ways of being and helping.

Together, we thrived and grew. In 1993, we gathered a group from St. Francis to attend the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation, a large political rally--one of the largest protests in US history—and the accompanying display of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, with thousands of quilt panels laid out on the National Mall surrounding the Washington Monument. **We marched, we walked the acres of AIDS quilt panels, we celebrated, we cried, and deepened our commitment.**

As the church’s AIDS ministry expanded in 1994 into a nonprofit organization that would be named TIHAN, **Barbara was an ever-present volunteer and supporter, always preferring to stay in the background.** For many years, she volunteered in the office, creating the “thank you” letters for the donors to TIHAN.



Scott and Barbara



Kenny Cohen and Barbara Kaller-Cohen

*(story continued on page 3)*



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



**Inside This Issue:**

**Remembering an Exceptional Ally**

*Thanking All Who Contributed Items to Our Auction*

**Augustine Shares About Living with HIV, and How TIHAN Helps**

*So Many Ways to Be of Support!*

**Honoring Jim and Jill Rich**

*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](http://www.tihan.org) and click on the “DONATE TO TIHAN NOW” button. Only with your support can we continue. Thank you!

**2021 Treasures for TIHAN Sponsors**



**Barbie Adler & John Nemerovski**



**Dr. Seth Dubry & Mr. Todd Colwell**

**Linda Girard**

**Tina MacBeth**

**Morris A. Hazan Family Foundation**



**Dr. Randy & Susan Friesse**

**Donita Gross**

**Leslie Kahn & Susan Heinrich**

**Stuart J. Meinke**

**Roger Funk & Doug Noffsinger**

**Frank Ptak & Joe Heller**



**The Zarling Family**



**Carol Bogg**

**Dr. Kevin Carmichael, Dr. Tejal Parikh, & Family**



**Arlan Colton**

**Max McCauslin & John Smith**

**Jill Rich, Realtor Long Realty**

**State Farm / Chris Cronkhite Agency**



**With additional major support provided by:**

**Ted Adams**

**John Consedine**

**Frank & Lindi Laws Petroni**

**Thanks to our Treasures for TIHAN sponsors and supporters, people will live better, and receive support. Thank you for a great event that raised thousands for our programs and services. See inside for details!**

## Augustine Shares About Living with HIV

Augustine is a native Tucsonan. He's been living with HIV for 13 years, but his family doesn't know, and he's not ready to tell them. However, he knows they might find out someday.



"They know I am gay, but not about my HIV," he shared. "It's a very personal decision when someone is ready to tell your family or friends about their HIV status. I'm not ready yet, but if they find out, if they see this article about me, I know they'll love me no matter what."

It was May 3, 2008, when Augustine took a routine HIV test at a community health fair. "When it came back positive," he recalled, "I was shocked... devastated. But I found the strength in myself. I told myself I have to do what it takes to make myself well. I did some research about HIV treatments and started right away." He tried several medication regimens, and some made him feel sick, so he and his doctor at El Rio kept trying until they found one that worked. His HIV level is now undetectable, he proudly shared.

Augustine had been a volunteer with Wingspan's *Puertas Abiertas* program, and so he knew about resources for help. He had also volunteered with TIHAN for a while. After he tested positive, he immediately contacted SAAF and TIHAN to get support resources.

"TIHAN has been really great for me," he told us. His \$814 monthly disability check covers his rent for his Section 8 apartment, as well as his electric, cable, and phone bill. "The CarePackages, the gift cards to Fry's for food, the Poz Café — they have really helped me a lot."

Augustine misses the days before COVID, when Poz Café was a major social highlight of the month. "The Poz Café in person was very fun, when we could interact with everyone, meet new people, and have a great time together. It helped distract from the stresses of life and connect with friends who know what I'm going through. It was always very cheerful!"

Augustine himself is a very cheerful, outgoing, positive person, constantly smiling and laughing. "I've always been that way," he said. "I did get depressed for a while right after I was diagnosed, but Lady Godiva chocolates helped get me through that! Those always cheer me up!"

"TIHAN is just very welcoming and helpful to people, especially people who are newly diagnosed and afraid," he shared.

What does he wish for TIHAN? "I wish TIHAN had more volunteers to help take the load off of link specialists, so appointments could be scheduled quicker," he said. "Sometimes it takes a little bit of a wait for a callback to get an appointment scheduled for a CarePackage."

And, he continued, "I wish people would donate to support TIHAN, because they help me and everybody living with HIV. Thank you, TIHAN. It's a wonderful organization!"

## Program Results So Far in 2021

by Deirdre Demers, Program Manager

Our Care & Support Team shares with you the following program results from January through August of 2021:

- \* We provided 1,456 CarePackages to 279 CarePartners
- \* We provided 1,438 grocery store gift cards, for either \$50 or \$25, to 277 CarePartners
- \* We hosted a Poz Café pick-up event each month, attended over these months by 207 individual CarePartners
- \* We served a total of 1,040 Poz Café meals, both to those attending Poz Café and to CarePartners visiting the office in the days afterwards and receiving frozen meals
- \* We provided Link Specialist support to 372 CarePartners, including:

- emotional support, information, and referral
- re-engagement of individuals who either hadn't registered with TIHAN for the current year or who had lost contact with us due to bad phone numbers or mailing addresses
- 33 CarePartners received weekly check-in calls
- six people received financial assistance referrals
- eight people received vouchers for furniture from Goodwill stores
- 15 CarePartners received Starting Over Supply (SOS) Kits from the Assistance League of Tucson

In total, we served 393 individuals living with HIV from January through August of this year – all with your generous support.

We have also been collecting COVID-19 vaccination information from those CarePartners who are willing to share, and we are happy to report that 83% of CarePartners who responded are fully vaccinated.

Thank you for helping us to reach these kinds of achievements, providing important services to Tucson's HIV community, during challenging pandemic times and always!

## TIHAN in the News

Arizona Daily Star writer Loni Nannini profiled our Treasures for TIHAN event and TIHAN volunteer/supporter Tina MacBeth: "TIHAN celebrates 25th anniversary of helping people with HIV/AIDS." We've also been featured recently on the "Lifestyle Tucson" program on Lotus Communication stations KLPX, KFMA, La Caliente, La Buena, ESPN Tucson, and 94.9 Mix FM, featuring an interview of TIHAN Board President Dan Uroff and Executive Director Scott Blades.



## Remembering Barbara (continued from Page 1)

Eventually, **Barbara married Kenny Cohen, and they connected with Temple Emanu-El, a reform synagogue.** Their journey took them away from the Tucson area—to Phoenix, then more recently Coronado, California—but their support of TIHAN never wavered, helping TIHAN become the largest non-government-funded provider of support services for people living with HIV in the state of Arizona. **Barbara and Kenny are among the greatest supporters of TIHAN in our 27-year history.**

Barbara was a dear friend, and my “second mom.” She stood up for me at my commitment ceremony in the 1990’s, and she was there for me after we separated. She nurtured me through many personal and professional challenges and celebrations, and I presented her with opportunities to support more people and serve as a **“PFLAG mom,” which so many in the LGBTQ and HIV communities need and deserve.**

PFLAG is an international movement, the first and largest organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people, their parents and families, and allies. PFLAG moms are known for their unconditional love, courage, and advocacy. **So many people need a supportive and accepting mom like Barbara, and she was happy to be a fierce ally and advocate for them, and to show them the love they need to thrive.**

Our connection, the strengths that we brought out in each other, has helped provide support services to more than 1,000 people living with HIV, and continues to build a more just and caring community. In addition to her impact on me and my husband Jess and the people she helps through TIHAN, **Barbara’s legacy lives on through her husband Kenny, her daughter Sharon, her son Roy and daughter-in-law Deb, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, daughter-of-choice Beth and her wife Carrie, in-laws, and a whole multitude of more family and friends.**

**One instant can change your life. In 1990, it happened to me when this beautiful woman Barbara appeared before me. I feel so blessed to be a part of her magnificent journey.**

*\* Note regarding the term “LGB” of the 1990’s: Regrettably, it took many of us far too long as individuals, institutions, and as a community to fully acknowledge, embrace, and include our trans and non-binary members in our LGBTQ+ community.*



Scott and Barbara in DC in 1993, preparing for the March on Washington

### Shampoo, Cleaning Supplies, and More Items Sought for CarePackages for People Living with HIV

Because of donors like you, people living with HIV can receive a CarePackage each month, filled with toiletry and cleaning supplies.

Some of the most requested items for these CarePackages are shampoo and household cleaning supplies. As the demand for CarePackages increases, can you help us ensure that every bag includes shampoo and cleaning supplies, too?

Paper towels, soap, deodorant for men, toothpaste, disinfectant—our CarePackages contain these and more toiletry items that cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps). Since most of the people we serve are on limited income, these CarePackages really help people make it through the month.



Please bring donations to the TIHAN office at 2660 North 1st Ave during business hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm. Our office is always open during those times, and we have a touch-free drop off table for you out front (and you can complete a donation form to get a receipt). Thank you!

**Remote  
Volunteer  
Orientations—  
You Can  
Zoom into  
Being a  
Volunteer!**



Although some of our volunteer roles are “on pause” right now for safety, we do have a few essential and remote volunteer opportunities, and we have monthly orientation sessions for people interested in volunteering.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, and signing up to attend an upcoming Volunteer Orientation via Zoom, please contact Greg Christian at [VolunteerCoordinator@tihan.org](mailto:VolunteerCoordinator@tihan.org) or (520) 299-6647 ext 204.

## Thank You to Auction Item Donors to Our 2021 Treasures for TIHAN

Please support our donors, as they support our community!

David Adix  
Affirm Wealth Advisors  
Lisa Agababian,  
FuschiaDesigns.com  
Alfonso Olive Oil & Balsamics  
Ancient Oak Cellars  
Anonymous  
Arizona Cardinals  
Mrs. Audrey's Academic  
Achievement Tutoring  
John Barnes  
Barrio Bread  
Dee Bates  
Beadecked & Beaddicted  
Jean Beck  
Pat and Gary Becker  
Bella Jewels Designs  
J Benanti & R Weese  
Frank Bergen  
Best Lil' Hair House in Tucson  
Beyond Bread  
Bistro 44  
Scott Blades and Jess Losoya  
Fran Braverman  
Karen Brown  
Tim Brown – Farmers Insurance  
Jim Buckwalter  
Dee Buizer  
Canyon Ranch  
The Estate of Gene Carlson  
Rose Carmichael  
Children's Museum of Tucson  
Edward Coderre  
Noreen Conroy  
Serena & Dennis Coon  
John Cooper-Lara  
Costco Wholesale  
The Crochet Guy  
Dedicated Gluten Free Bakery &  
Coffee Shop  
Desert Botanical Garden  
Desert Leaf Magazine  
Dickscouvertes Art Gallery  
Mickey Dixon  
Shirley Duffy  
Eclectic Cafe  
Eegee's  
Dr. Bella Eibensteiner,  
Chiropractor  
El Chinito Gordo Restaurant  
Elvira's  
Feast  
Betty Fink  
Roberto Flores  
Four Winds West  
Pat Fox  
Susan Friese  
Roger Funk and Doug  
Noffsinger  
Gadabout Salon Spas  
Gallery of Food Bodega and  
Catering  
The Gaslight Theatre  
Katherine George  
Goldman & Goldman, PC  
Judy Gomez  
Robert Gomez  
Virginia Hall – Artist  
Eileen Hamm

Mary Hansen  
Rowena L.  
Hardinger  
Mike and Jenny  
Hartung  
A Healing Grace  
Audrey Holland  
Hotel McCoy  
Howard Paley  
Photography  
Hughes Federal  
Credit Union  
Invisible Theatre  
Jewell Livers  
Massage Therapist  
Johnny Gibson's Downtown  
Market  
Dale Jones and Rex Crouse  
Bill Jones and Alan Storm  
The Estate of Barbara Kaller  
Kendra Scott  
Murray Keshner  
Kief-Joshua Vineyards  
Kingfisher  
KNG—Karin Newby Gallery  
Kay P. Korn  
Barbara Kuzara Art  
KVOA-TV  
KXCI Community Radio  
La Indita Restaurant  
Brent Land  
Ronda Lane  
Laughlin Mercantile  
Lone Mountain Turquoise  
Company  
Tina MacBeth  
Madaras Gallery  
Mama's Famous Pizza & Heros  
Marriott Tucson University Park  
Hotel  
Jack McLain  
Stuart J. Meinke  
The Mini Time Machine of  
Miniatures  
Made for a Queen  
Ronen More  
Mostly Mosaic  
Cheryl Muller  
Janet M. Munson  
Hal Myers  
Victor Navarro Fine Art  
Kurt Niece  
Douglas Nielsen  
Old Presidio Traders  
Stephen Oscherwitz, MD &  
Lorraene Crawford  
Jane Perri  
Petroglyphs  
Frank and Lindi Laws Petroni  
Phoenix Art Museum  
Plunkett's Office Products &  
Hallmark  
Marco Prado  
PRP Wine International  
Ross Purcell  
Purcell Gallery  
Reid Park Zoo  
Estate of Richard Reilly  
Renee's Organic Oven

## THANK YOU!

Your support of our Treasures for TIHAN benefit created rainbows of support for people living with HIV

*You make our world even more beautiful!*



We are so grateful to all who made our 2021 Treasures for TIHAN Benefit—"Rainbows in the Desert"—such a great success! It was 10 fun days of bidding via an online auction, plus a one-hour livestreaming event filled with passion and generosity!

Fantastic sponsors and donors, generous bidders, great businesses and individuals contributing auction items – it all added up to a successful event that

is creating rainbows of support for people living with HIV here in our community.

Because of your support, it was the most important evening of the year for our CarePartners living with HIV as you gave generously to fund vital programs and support services. Powerful testimonials from Kyle, Ed, and Joe; wonderful welcomes from Lupita Murillo and Dan Uroff and Caroline Lochner; fantastic entertainment from Brian Justin Crum from America's Got Talent; and amazing work from our emcee and auctioneer Bobby D!

Thank you to our event co-chairs and our great team of volunteers who pulled together our first major virtual event, and to everyone who joined to make it a wonderful success!

For the list of sponsors, major supporters, and planning team members, visit <https://tihan.org> and click on Treasures for TIHAN!

Jill and Jim Rich  
Roadhouse Cinemas  
Christina Rossetti, Arbonne  
Independent Consultant  
Robert and Patricia Ruiz  
The RumRunner  
Sabino Pottery  
Kevin M. Schmidtke  
Scordato's Pizzeria  
Jim Seidman  
Shift Kitchen & Bar  
Bruce and Bettina Shore  
Ricci Silverman  
Simons Physical Therapy  
Skate Country  
Snooze AM Eatery  
Sonoran Glass School  
Sparkle Cleaners  
Mike Steinberg and Alan Taylor  
James Stevenson  
Stone Dragon Studio – Dyna  
Chin, Artist  
Sunrise Jewelers  
Alistair Symon  
Sally Stevens-Taylor and Ralph  
Taylor

TIHAN Development Committee  
Today's Patio  
True Concord Voices &  
Orchestra  
Jose Trujillo, Artist  
Tubac Golf Resort  
Tucson Botanical Gardens  
Tucson Clay Co-op  
Tucson LGBTQ+ Museum  
Tucson Museum of Art  
Tucson Pride  
Tumerico  
Verde Canyon Railroad  
Westward Look Wyndham  
Grand Resort & Spa  
Ray Wood and Bob Guthrie  
Joseph Yukish  
Zarpara Vineyard  
Zelen's Art Studio  
Zio Peppe  
Zona 78 Italian Kitchen-Enoteca



Soozie, Jill, George, and Thom prepare CarePackages for distribution to people living with HIV at our midtown site, Cornerstone Fellowship



Janice distributes a to-go meal to a CarePartner at the Poz Café drive-by site at our original location, St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church



Our friends at St. Mark's United Methodist Church provide 10% of their income to outreach programs, including TIHAN, to whom they gave \$2,500



Link Specialist Katie gets things organized as CarePartners start arriving for their gift card for food as well as their CarePackage and a "to-go" meal

## So Many Ways to Provide Support—Which Ones Are Right for You?

Just as there are so many needs in the community, there are also many ways you can help. In addition to volunteering, you can contribute financially, by sending a check or donating online at <https://tihan.org>. And below are many more creative ways to give. However you choose to contribute, your gifts make a difference!

**Sustaining Gifts:** Set up your recurring gift, a donation by credit card or debit card, with an ongoing payment of a specific amount—monthly, quarterly, or annually, at <https://tihan.org>

**Fry's Food Stores Community Rewards:** You can link your Fry's VIP Rewards card to TIHAN, and Fry's will donate a percentage of your purchases to TIHAN (our Fry's ID number is SH655).

**AmazonSmile:** You can designate TIHAN to receive a portion of your purchase total from Amazon! You can also order our wish list items and have them shipped safely and directly to the TIHAN office. Connect your Amazon account to the charity of your choice: [smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0819574](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0819574)

**Vehicle Donations:** TIHAN accepts donations of cars, boats, motorcycles, any vehicle—whether it's newer, older, or even if it's not in running condition.

**Facebook Fundraising:** You can create a fundraiser for TIHAN in honor of your birthday, or any occasion or non-occasion, and encourage your friends on social media to contribute.

**Workplace:** Your employer may have the option to match your charitable contributions! Check with your company and see if they offer matching funds for employees' gifts to nonprofits like TIHAN.

**Raffle Tickets:** You can purchase a raffle ticket that will give you a chance to win amazing prizes (a new car, a trip across the globe, and \$5,000 cash), and TIHAN gets to keep all the proceeds from ticket sales.

**Gifts-in-Kind:** You can donate needed items to us—everything from toiletries for our CarePackages, art for our auction, office supplies, holiday gifts, and more. Our wishlist can give you some ideas: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/genericItemsPage/2XBTH7G6MOHFQ>

**Planned Gifts/Bequests:** When you leave your assets to charitable organizations like TIHAN, you can create a legacy that will help you continue to make a difference, even after you are gone. You ensure that programs and services important to you will continue, perhaps in your name.

**Corporate and Foundation Grants:** Businesses and foundations (including family foundations) can contribute, usually for specific programs or purposes after a proposal has been submitted. Gifts from family foundations and donor-advised funds can also make a tremendous difference in supporting nonprofits such as TIHAN.

**Gifts of Appreciated Stock and Real Estate:** You may find there are tax benefits for contributing stock or real estate to TIHAN. (And we'd love a donation of a new office building!)

**Faith Community Giving:** Congregations may contribute to TIHAN, either through a set amount in their budget, a freewill offering, hosting a fundraising event for TIHAN, endowment funds, or contributing in-kind gifts.

**Minimum Required Distribution from an IRA (Individual Retirement Account):** Required Minimum Distributions are minimum amounts that a retirement plan owner must withdraw annually when they reach age 70 1/2 or 72. A Qualified Charitable Distribution is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA, payable directly to a qualified charity, providing you with tax benefits.

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

(Gifts received May 16—August 31, 2021)

### Gifts Received in Honor Of

David Scott Allen  
 Scott Blades \*  
 James Chapman  
 Arlan Colton \*  
 Deirdre Demers  
 Shelly Gallichio  
 Ramses Gaona Jacobo  
 Robb Gonzales  
 Jenny Hartung  
 Barbara Kaller-Cohen and Kenny Cohen \*  
 Dawn Lee  
 Jess Losoya  
 Pat Small  
 Susan Tiss \*  
 Bobbie Vandegriff

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

**“Thank you all for the hard work and dedication through this summer and all year long. Also for the meals and bags of items, so very artfully done. All you do I appreciate so very much!”**

—TIHAN CarePartner living with HIV

### Gifts Received In Memory Of

A good friend and great woman  
 Stephen Andre  
 Debbie Barnette  
 Charles Burton  
 Albert F Callahan  
 Jim and Elaine Cooper \*  
 Jim Crouch  
 David  
 Tony “TJ” Duffy  
 Gwen and Mike Elbert  
 Shane Ewing  
 Derek Fowler \*  
 Calvin Wayne Fulton  
 Jim Girard  
 Hermelinda Gonzalez  
 Gus  
 Trung Hua \*  
 John  
 Justin  
 Barbara Kaller-Cohen \*  
 Lacey Laws  
 James Leos  
 Mark  
 Richard McLean \*  
 Bill McManus \*  
 Myron Morris \*  
 Michael Mulholland  
 James Reiter \*  
 Ronald Schuyler  
 James David Stobaugh  
 Steve Trujillo  
 Bobbie Vandegriff \*  
 Michael J Vining  
 Wayne

### Remembering Donors and Volunteers We’ve Lost



Elaine Cooper



Lois Olsrud



Troy St. John



Jorge Reyna

**Barbara Kaller-Cohen**  
*(see article on page 1)*



**THE RED CONCERT**  
*a Benefit for*  
**TIHAN & Center for Health and Hope**  
*Sunday, October 3rd*  
**6 PM**  
**Monterey Court**  
*505 W Miracle Mile, Tucson*

Requires proof of vaccination or negative COVID test within 72 hours. Outdoor concert. Doors open at 5pm, show at 6pm. Reserved seating. Full menu of food and drinks available. Concert sponsorship levels range from \$50 to \$1,500 and are available at [www.centerforhealthandhope.org](http://www.centerforhealthandhope.org)

Tickets are \$20, available at [www.montereycourttaz.com](http://www.montereycourttaz.com)

### Staffing Update: September 2021

**Program Manager, Deirdre Demers** ([ProgramManager@tihan.org](mailto:ProgramManager@tihan.org))  
 Manages all of TIHAN’s support services and programs that care for people living with HIV, including Poz Café

**Program Coordinator, Ramses Gaona Jacobo** ([ProgramCoordinator@tihan.org](mailto:ProgramCoordinator@tihan.org))  
 Coordinates the Link program serving people living with HIV, and oversees the Living Well with HIV program

**Operations Manager, Greg Christian** ([OperationsManager@tihan.org](mailto:OperationsManager@tihan.org))  
 Oversees the administrative operations of the office and the onboarding of new volunteers

**Executive Director, Scott Blades** ([scott@tihan.org](mailto:scott@tihan.org))  
 Supervises the administration, programs, and strategic plan of the organization, including fundraising, accounting, marketing, and community outreach

## Collecting Holiday Gifts for People Living with HIV

The holidays can be a difficult time for many. The season often carries a lot of meaning and a lot of memories. It can be even more difficult for people living with HIV. Many of our CarePartners are rather isolated due to physical or mental health challenges, or being cut off from their families of birth. Many survive on disability income, and some lack the networking and socializing opportunities that a work life can provide.

This holiday season, can you help brighten the day for TIHAN’s CarePartners living with HIV? We are collecting donations of new, unused holiday gifts with a value of \$15-\$25, as well as \$25 gift cards to stores like Target, Walmart, and Fry’s. Donations can be brought to the TIHAN office during business hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm. Please plan to bring all donations in by the priority deadline of Wednesday, November 24 – or at the very latest, Tuesday, November 30. Thank you for sharing your gifts with others to brighten their holidays!

## Honoring the Spirit of Philanthropy of Jim and Jill Rich



TIHAN joins the local commemoration of National Philanthropy Day to honor Jim and Jill Rich for making a difference in the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS and so many others in our community.

Jill and Jim have been married for 40 years. Serving together and giving back, they agree, is an important part of their union.

Jill has served as TIHAN's liaison with their faith community Temple Emanuel, as well as with one of the many organizations they are involved with, the Jewish Community Relations Council. Although Jill is often the more public face of their work, Jim is always there helping behind the scenes.

Together, they have organized many fundraising efforts and secured funding and thousands of items for CarePackages for people living with HIV, and helped serve the meals and recruit many volunteers and donors to help TIHAN.

They also help with the Primavera Foundation, where they provide a meal for 100 homeless men twice a year. The Mitzvah Corporation is another nonprofit that they are involved with: Jill is also the administrator, and Jim is a key supporter and volunteer, of this group that provides financial support to people in need throughout the community.

Jim and Jill also have a rich history of assisting the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Red Cross, aiding with disaster support efforts by helping people after a flood, fire, or other disasters.

Jim is active with the Temple Emanu-El Men's Club, helping support children and youth programs, as well as blood drives for the Red Cross.

Helping welcome and showing love is part of Jim and Jill's genetic makeup. They fostered and adopted two children from Vietnam. They also helped re-settle 54 Lost Boys of Sudan here in Tucson, supporting them in becoming more accustomed to our country and fulfilling their educational goals. They are also active with Lutheran Social Services, serving as mentors for a Syrian family. Jim and Jill are now looking to be of support to new arrivals from Afghanistan who are being relocated to Tucson.

Whether providing funds for shoes for migrants, serving meals to people in need, delivering paperwork and checks for emergency rent assistance, mentoring, or any of their vast charitable efforts, Jill and Jim give generously of their time, talents, and treasures.

"I feel it's my duty to contribute to the common good of society," Jim shared. "People need to be supported and loved, and then they can begin to thrive." Jill added, "What's important is to encourage each other to repair the world, improve our community and all people. We can all make a difference."

With gratitude, TIHAN recognizes Jim and Jill Rich with our 2021 Spirit of Philanthropy Award, to be presented at the National Philanthropy Day event held virtually this year on November 12.

*The Spirit of Philanthropy Award recognizes people for their generous spirit, evidenced in their contributions of time, efforts, and/or resources. These people demonstrate extraordinary leadership and vision in support of charitable agencies' goals. Their contribution makes a better community a reality. We honor them and are grateful for their spirit of giving. They truly inspire us all.*

Thank you, Jim and Jill, for changing the world with your giving hearts!

### SHARE THE NEWS!

# U=U

## Undetectable Equals Untransmittable

### What does this mean?

If someone is living with HIV and takes anti-retroviral medications to reduce the amount of virus in their system, their HIV level can become "undetectable" (still present, but at a very minimal level), and they cannot transmit HIV to their partner through sexual contact.

**People with HIV who take HIV medicine as prescribed and get and maintain an undetectable viral load have effectively no risk of transmitting HIV to their HIV-negative sexual partner.**

\* The possibility of people who inject drugs and have undetectable HIV transmitting the virus through sharing needles has not yet been determined, but is expected to prove to be reduced risk.



wishlist

amazon smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

To see the items on our wishlist, visit [www.tihan.org](http://www.tihan.org), then click on "donate," then "wishlist."

You can easily order many of our items through your Amazon account or AmazonSmile account, and have it shipped directly to TIHAN. Thank you!