



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Tucson, Arizona

March 2022

Vol. 27, No. 1

Your Gifts Make Love Happen

by Scott Blades, Executive Director

I am so grateful to our donors, and want to take a moment to highlight three groups of donors.

Candle Lighters are donors who make a regular recurring gift—either monthly or quarterly—to TIHAN. This greatly helps with cash flow and continuity. You can sign up to make a gift online now and set it to recur as often as you'd like. Visit www.tihan.org and click on “donate.”

Torch Bearers are donors who make gifts to TIHAN totaling \$1,000 in a year. Their generosity helps sustain us, and we are highlighting our 2021 Torch Bearers inside this newsletter.

And, finally, Circle of Light is our giving group made up of donors who have arranged to make a planned gift, designating TIHAN in their will or estate plans. Their gifts will help carry on their legacy, while also ensuring a future of support for people in need in our community.

If TIHAN's mission and programs are important to you, please consider including TIHAN in your estate planning so that, even after you are gone, your support of TIHAN and your support of people living with HIV will carry on, and help us carry on.

Be Sure to 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 qualify you for a state tax reduction. Simply donate by April 18, 2022, and still claim it on your 2021 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.



Comments from Our CarePartners Living with HIV

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



***"TIHAN and all the folks there are wonderful.
Always a smile, and kindness and [creating] ways
to be with other HIV people. Even with COVID,
you call, and check on us and keep us engaged.
Thank you so much!!!"***

"I've gotten great service and the staff here is amazing!!"

"TIHAN has provided a place of comfort, lunches, and CarePackages. On a monthly basis they provided a place to gather with other people like myself [who are] HIV positive."

"TIHAN has been a big bridge during my difficult times. They are always there with a kind word with food and toiletries, store gift cards as needed, and just being a helping and supportive nonjudgmental friend to me. TIHAN is truly a godsend."

"TIHAN helps out with monthly gift cards and household supplies. It really helps out every month. Plus if I have any kind of problems finding information on different things the people here have been very helpful. And they always follow up too."

"Great services and kind staff. For example, they have helped when I've been between jobs or had no food in the house. They have provided emotional support too. I love TIHAN."

"TIHAN is an incredible resource. A huge blessing with amazing people."



Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network
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Tucson, Arizona 85719
(520) 299-6647
www.tihan.org

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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!

Thanking Dan, Welcoming Leslie as TIHAN's Board President

The TIHAN Board of Directors welcomes a new President! Dr. Leslie Kahn has been elected to lead the Board and serve as President. A retired mathematics teacher educator, Leslie has served on TIHAN's Board of Directors for more than seven years, and also serves on TIHAN's Program Committee.

Leslie takes over from Dan Uroff, who has completed a record seven years serving as president. Under Dan's leadership, TIHAN has grown substantially in terms of budget and numbers of people served. We are grateful that Dan will remain on the TIHAN Board, serving as Vice President as well as staying on TIHAN's Development Committee.

Thank you, Leslie and Dan, for your leadership!



CONNECTED IN SERVICE



TIHAN's Annual Meeting Celebrates Volunteers, Donors, and Groups Serving Our Community

**Tuesday, March 22
5:30pm-6:00pm
Via Zoom**

Please join us as we acknowledge and celebrate you and your impact! We will reflect on TIHAN's dedicated volunteers and community business, faith and organizational partners, with some personal words from our CarePartners living with HIV.

The event is free and open to all who want to know how, together, we made a difference during 2021.

TIHAN's Annual Meeting, & Celebration of Impact
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89273471971>

Meeting ID: 892 7347 1971

Passcode: 2021

Our 2021 Program Results Are Impressive!

by Deirdre Demers, Program Manager

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

We provided support services to a growing number of individuals living with HIV, helping a record 429 people in 2021, a 4.5% increase over the previous year.

We served 1,388 meals to people living with HIV through our Poz Café lunch program.

We provided 2,292 CarePackages to people living with HIV.

We helped 381 people living with HIV with a variety of Link support services, connecting people to care and support. This was 7% more than ever before.

We provided 2,267 grocery store gift cards for food (\$25 or \$50) to address food insecurity among people living with HIV.

All of this was possible because of your contributions—whether financial, in-kind, or volunteer time. Thank you for helping TIHAN make 2021 another record year of building upon our support system that helps people with HIV to live well!



JC on Living with HIV:

“I Learned the Hard Way How Important It Is to Love Myself and Protect Myself”



His motto is “love yourself and protect yourself.” You’ll realize why when you hear his story.

JC was in a four-year relationship with someone who was HIV-positive, but never shared that fact with JC. After they split up, JC found out. “My partner knew he was positive and didn’t tell me,” he recalls. “He was not being honest with me. I thought I was in love, but I found out he had been lying to me.” JC was angry and hurt. “But, I realized I cannot blame only him. It was my fault too for not protecting myself.”

JC thought it was the end of the world. “I didn’t know anything about services or medications or what HIV would do to me,” he remembers. “I was thinking the worst: I am going to die. I wondered how am I going to tell my family and friends and what will their reaction be? It was a lot of fear, about my health, being accepted. I was thinking about

suicide, to cut my pain. It was so hard for me to accept it.”

Eventually, JC did find out there were services available, and there was hope. “I did some counseling, talked to other people with HIV, started volunteering.” JC said he decided not to press charges against his ex, saying he felt “it was in God’s hands.”

His biggest fear, he recalls, was being rejected by his mother. “I went to her house and told her. She was shocked. I thought she was going to tell me to get out. But she didn’t. She said, ‘I told you to be careful with him. I knew he was hiding something. So now what are you going to do?’ She was mad, but she didn’t reject me.”

Today, most of JC’s close family members and friends know about his HIV status, and they are supportive, but sometimes they are still a bit afraid.

“Thank God, I am still healthy, undetectable, I eat healthy food. I am taking my pills, and go to the gym, have some time outdoors. I learned to love myself. Protect myself. To take care of myself and my family and friends. Here I am, it’s a miracle that I am still alive. I have hope, I have faith, and I did find another family that will always take care of us—TIHAN. Thanks to TIHAN, I have a reason to keep going in my life.”

“TIHAN has been a blessing for me and for other people I know,” he shared. “At TIHAN, I found support, true friends, a place to call if I need something. It’s like another family that I can lean on if things are going bad, or I need to talk to someone. You guys are my second family. Thank you for your friendship and all your help. I know it’s a lot of work, and a lot of challenges during COVID. I’m very grateful, to be honest. Sometimes we really do need to say thanks.”

JC has been in a relationship for 12 years now. “We have a lot in common and we have good communication. And my mom loves him! She told me I finally found the right person who cares for me and accepts me and loves me.”

JC doesn’t want to use his real name because he doesn’t want some people to know about his HIV status. “It’s still hard, because I don’t know how some people will take it. People close to me know, but other people I don’t tell unless they need to know. If they ask, I will be honest.”

JC’s advice: “Live the best that you can. And be honest with other people. What happened to me—don’t do that to someone else. Love yourself and protect yourself, because you can’t rely on someone else to do it.”

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

We do have several volunteer opportunities, and we have monthly orientation sessions for people interested in volunteering.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, and to sign up to attend an upcoming Volunteer Orientation via Zoom, please contact us at (520) 299-6647 ext 206 or VolunteerCoordinator@tihan.org



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 household cleaning supplies. In January 2022, we distributed more CarePackages than during any January in the past, so the requests continue to rise. As the demand for CarePackages increases, can you help us ensure that every bag includes cleaning supplies, too?

Paper towels, soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste—our CarePackages contain these and many 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 so much!



Torch Bearers 2021

Recognizing Donors Contributing \$1,000 or More

616 GC LLC
Ted Adams
Barbara Adler and John Nemerovski
AIDS Healthcare Foundation
The Alfred and Harriett Feinman Foundation
David Scott Allen & Mark Sammons
Anonymous
Naya Arbiter and Rod Mullen
Arizona Complete Health
Mark Bahti
Banner - University Health Plans
Colette Barajas and Kristen Birner
Dr. Kay Bauman
Joseph Benanti and Randolph Weese
Scott Blades and Jess Losoya
Carol Bogg
Connie & Rodney Boorse
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
The Cat Hospital / Dr. Minta Keyes
Center for Health and Hope / The Red Concert
Susan Chandler
Ruth Cherrick and Timothy Wunz
William Clyatt and Jorge Sanchez
Kenneth Cohen and Barbara Kaller-Cohen
Arlan Colton
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona:
* Burbank-Talanquer Fund
* Hellene Henrikson Fund of the Lutheran Church of the Foothills
* Myron Morris Fund
* The Stonewall Fund
John Consedine
Beth and Carrie Cooper-Petrucchi
Cornerstone Fellowship
Rex Crouse and Dale Jones
Bryan and Elizabeth Daum
Estate of Paul A DeLair
Desert Diamond Casinos
Melinda Diebolt
Dr. Seth Dubry and Mr. Todd Colwell
El Rio Health
Barry Ellis
Dr. Dennis Embry
Estate of Lloyd Engle
Deborah and Peter Francis
Dr. Randy and Susan Friesse
Roger Funk and Doug Noffsinger
Katherine George and John Duclos
Linda Girard

Charles Gonzales
Edna Gray and Dave Johnson
Donita Gross
Jenny and Michael Hartung
Susan Heinrich and Leslie Kahn
Joseph Heller and Frank Ptak
Anthony Juniper
Roy and Deb Kaller
Shirley and Philip R. Kananen
Marilee Kelsey and Edward Farrell
Lora and Michael King
Lindi Laws and Frank Petroni
Judi and Lee Levin
Trista Loops
Tina MacBeth
Kristine and Richard Marsh
Max McCauslin
Stuart Meinke
Dr. Yvette Miller
Millwood Foundation
Morris A. Hazan Family Foundation
Philip Moul and Robert Stolarski
Cheryl and Tom Muller
Denise and Tibor Nagy
Kathleen Norton
Daniel and Danielle Orozco
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Sam Parrish and Steve Dahlem
Ralph L Smith Foundation
Xavier Ramirez and Michael Strait
Lynn Ratener
The Raymond Chavez and Rupert Keesler Jr Fund at The San Diego Foundation
James and Jill Rich
Mark Rosenbaum & Bruce Cameron
Carol Schneiderman and Rod Frable
Southwest Gas Corporation
Speedway Veterinary Hospital / Dr. Kayla Boyer
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
Ralph and Sally Stevens Taylor
Temple Emanu-El
Gene and Marilyn Tobey
Treasures for TIHAN Team
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Roberta "Bobbie" VandeGriff
Dr. Kelly Vollmer
Estate of Norm Weber
Jim Yancey and Jack Durham
The Zarling Family



Program Coordinator Ramses Gaona Jacobo talks to local media about the 100 Southwest Airlines vouchers awarded to TIHAN to distribute to people living with HIV to visit loved ones. TIHAN was one of 52 organizations chosen from throughout the U.S.



George Vissichelli and his sisters Marianne and Renie organizing holiday gifts for CarePartners.



The Red Concert at Monterey Court, a benefit for TIHAN and the Center for Health and Hope, raised almost \$20,000.



TIHAN celebrated the birthday and the eight-year anniversary of Program Manager Deirdre Demers working with TIHAN.

SAVE THE DATE!

TIHAN's Signature Fundraising Event

Saturday, June 4, 2022

Last year's online benefit was a great time and raised funds to create rainbows in the desert to support people living with HIV.

We're gearing up for our 2022 signature fundraising event, and looking for your support! Get ready for a one-hour virtual celebration of impact, packed with entertainment, fun, and a live and silent auction.

We have **event sponsorship opportunities** (ranging from \$500 to \$15,000).

Visit this site: <https://tihan.ejoinme.org/sponsor>

We are now accepting **donations of auction items**. This year, we are seeking donations of items for us to auction off including experiences, trips, tickets, hotel stays, gift certificates, sweets, baskets, services, ceramics, jewelry, collectibles, and antiques.

To let us know you have an item to donate, you can complete the information via our online donation form:

Visit this site: <https://tihan.wufoo.com/forms/auction-item-donation/>

If you'd like to sponsor our benefit and/or donate items for our auction, please contact Scott Blades at scott@tihan.org or (520) 299-6647 ext 202.



Volunteers John Wilson and Pat Fox from St. Francis in the Foothills prepare CarePackages to distribute to CarePartners living with HIV.



Jill and Jim Rich were honored with TIHAN's 2021 Spirit of Philanthropy Award for their community contributions.



For World AIDS Day, TIHAN held a small private gathering with a candle lighting ceremony featuring Curt Beall performing his original song "I'll Remember You."



Amity Foundation's Chef Mattea and volunteers plating delicious to-go meals for the Poz Café.

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

(Gifts received Sept 1, 2021—January 31, 2022)

Gifts Received in Honor Of

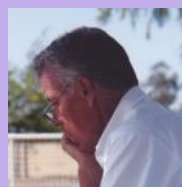
Barbie Adler and John Nemorovski
All who have died of AIDS
All who have suffered from HIV
Scott Blades *
Arlan Colton *
John Consedine
Steve Dahlem *
Eleanor Johnson *
Leslie Kahn and Susan Heinrich
Lindi Laws
Tina MacBeth *
Robert Markley
Steve McInnis
Katie Meismer-James
Pauli Monkman
Tibor Nagy
Kim Orton
Beverly Pollock
Jill and Jim Rich *
Carl Roberts
Mark Rosenbaum
Claudia Svarstad and Beckie
Harkey
TIHAN Staff
TIHAN Volunteers
Doug Wingert *

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

Remembering Supporters We've Lost



Kal Fisher



LeRoy Doyle



Will Scott

Gifts Received In Memory Of

Cliff Aberham
Stephen Andre
John Aucott
Debbie Barnette *
Tom Berresford
Helen & Robert Brink *
Gunter Braun
Albert F Callahan *
Paul Castellano
Rev John Child
Gregory Cortez
Jim Crouch *
Randy Decker
James E Doherty Jr *
John Leroy Doyle *
Janet Duffy
Tony "TJ" Duffy
Mike & Gwen Elbert
Kalman Fisher *
Derek Fowler *
Friends who have passed from
HIV/AIDS
Gary
Peter Guadagnoli
Tom Ham
Paul Hanno and all clergy who have
died of HIV
Lew Harper
Ron Holland
James
Barbara Kaller-Cohen *
Philip Kananen Jr
Curry Johnson
Kyle
Lacey Laws
Michael M
Marcus
Noel Matkin and Jim Sincos
Richard McLean
Bill McManus *
Myron Morris *
Joe Nohl
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Stephen Rask
Ronald Schuyler *
Will Scott
Colum M Sorensen
Troy St John
Ken Stratton
Steve Trujillo
Fenner Urquert
Bobbie VandeGriff
Michael J Vining *
David and Anita Wade *
Don Wenig *
David Woody

**"It is not how
much we give,
but how much
love we put
into giving."**

—Mother Teresa



TIHAN's Executive Director Scott Blades to Receive Honor

The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) has announced that TIHAN Executive Director Scott Blades is the 2022 recipient of the Godat Lifetime Achievement Award for extraordinary long-term contributions to the LGBTQ+ community in Arizona.



"Tucson would not be what it is today without the decades of dedication and hard work that Scott Blades has provided through his ongoing leadership at TIHAN," said Alan Taylor and Mike Steinberg in their nomination letter.

"I'm honored to receive this award, being in the company of amazing people I greatly admire: Colette Barajas, Bob Ellis, Alexander John Goodrum, Craig Snow, Alan Storm, Noel Matkin, Kent Burbank, Miki Odawa, Erin Russ, Liane Wong, and many more," Scott said. "I have learned so much from amazing leaders in the LGBTQ+ community, and feel so blessed to be able to work and make a difference as best I can."

The Godat Award will be presented to Scott at SAAF's Out Brunch After Dark benefit event held outdoors on April 23 at the Kino Sports complex.

Three more honorees will be recognized this year:

The Honorable Karen Uhlich

Richard Elias Public Servant Award

Southern Arizona Senior Pride

Steve Hall Outstanding Volunteer Award

Dr. Kay Bauman

Dr. Jean Baker Ally Award

Congratulations to all of this year's honorees, and to Scott for this community recognition of his work with TIHAN and other LGBTQ+ groups and efforts.

For more information or tickets, please visit:

<https://outbrunchaz.saaf.org/>