



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



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Tucson, Arizona

March 2023

Vol. 28, No. 1

What They're Saying About Your Support

by Scott Blades, Executive Director

People living with HIV (our CarePartners) are grateful to you for your support. They may or may not know you personally, but they know you care and they know you give—whether it's your time or your donations (or both).

We ask each year when our CarePartners re-register, how you have helped them, and below are a few of their responses.

"Everyone at TIHAN has provided help with food, and bags of most useful household items. But most importantly, you all provide a place to socialize with old and new friends who also live with HIV."

"TIHAN has helped very much. They have helped with food, toiletries, their warm passionate smiles. They make you feel good and very caring."

"Not only do the supplies you provide me help me make it thru the month, your volunteers and staff are some of the kindest, most welcoming people I've ever met. I'm so grateful for everything TIHAN does for me and the rest of the community."

"I always feel comfortable with all the people, staff and volunteers that help me out. The meals, gift cards and essentials are truly helpful!"

"When I returned to school, TIHAN provided needed financial and social support after the death of my husband."

"Very inspirational information through e-newsletter, stories [about people living with HIV] that have given me hope to live a beautiful long life ahead."

"Yes, [TIHAN has] help[ed] me in so many ways. When I was down to my last [dollar] they were there and helped me with toiletries and food. They are great."

"TIHAN has been a great source of comfort to me. Whether it's just a kind word, coordinating services, providing a hotel meal once a month, toiletries, and an occasional gift card. The point is TIHAN has shown compassion, love, and validation to me throughout my time here in Tucson."

Our 2022 Program Results

by Deirdre Demers, Program Manager



Because of you, we achieved a number of accomplishments over the past year:

You provided support services to 405 individuals living with HIV.

You served 1,994 meals to 247 people living with HIV through our Poz Café lunch program.

You distributed 2,302 CarePackages to 307 people living with HIV.

You helped 365 people living with HIV with a variety of Link support services, connecting people to care and support.

You provided 2,262 grocery store gift cards for food (\$25 each) to address food insecurity to 298 people living with HIV.

You engaged 62 people living with HIV in one or more Living Well, Eating Well, or Planning Well class.

TIHAN staff helped make all this and much more happen, but it was possible only because of your contributions—whether financial, in-kind, or volunteer time. Thank you for helping TIHAN make 2022 another challenging but successful year of building upon our support system that helps people with HIV to live well!

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, 2023, and still claim it on your 2022 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.





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Inside This Issue:

People with HIV Thank YOU for What You Do

Claim Your Arizona State Tax Credit Now!

Torch Bearers 2022—Donors of \$1,000 and More

Treasures for TIHAN: A 70s Disco Party Benefit

2022 Highlights and Impact

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!

THE RED CONCERT

*a benefit supporting HIV awareness and care programs
both locally and globally*



featuring
GOOD TROUBLE

Sunday | April 2nd, 2023 | 5 PM

New location: Three Canyon

4999 N Sabino Canyon Rd, Tucson, AZ 85750

a beautiful outdoor venue with fire pits, food and spirits

Tickets: \$25



A Celebration of What Your Support Makes Possible

TIHAN's Annual Meeting Celebrates You and Your Impact!

**Tuesday, March 28
5:30pm-7:00pm**

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.

Our event theme this year is **Circles of Care**, and the event format will be different than previous years, helping us connect. The event is free and open to all, with food and drink and opportunities to meet and re-connect with each other.

St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
4440 N Campbell Ave (Northeast corner of
Campbell and River Roads)
In the Murphey Gallery

Ample parking is available in the church parking lot. RSVP so we can plan for food – 520-299-6647 or VolunteerCoordinator@tihan.org

Sponsorship levels range from \$100 to \$1,500. For information or to sponsor, contact event chair Jess Losoya at jesslosoya48@gmail.com

A Few 2022 TIHAN Highlights

Staff and volunteers provided support services to more than 400 people living with HIV in Southern Arizona

TIHAN's Program Committee developed, distributed, and tallied a CarePartner survey that was completed in April 2022 to assess CarePartner comfort regarding in-person services, as well as levels of food security and depression, and the need for emotional support

Secured funding for food gift cards for the entire year of 2022 and received a gift that will allow us to continue the food gift card program into April 2023

The distribution of our 25,000th CarePackage in December

Grant from Southwest Airlines allowing us to send 50 CarePartners on round-trip flights to anywhere in the country

The large outpouring of gifts and donations for the 2022 holiday support program

Under the leadership of chair Jake Raskob, our Program Committee made recommendations to the Board concerning the criteria to return to in-person services, and supported staff in beginning transitions back to in-person Living Well classes, meetings between CarePartners and Link Specialists, and Poz Café as conditions were deemed safer

Board approval of a SIMPLE IRA retirement plan for staff, as recommended by HR Committee

The hiring of an Operations Manager, Jackson Mileur

The re-starting of in-person Volunteer Orientations and meetings with potential volunteers

Nominating Committee's addition of Rick Franco to the board, under the leadership of chair Denise Nagy

Operating with 75% staffing most of year, and with only 25% of our pre-COVID volunteer numbers

The return of in-person community events where TIHAN could have a presence, including the All Souls Procession, the Pride Parade, Arizona Gay Rodeo Association, the tabling booth at the Pride Festival, Queer for Good Alliance Fund event, SAAF's OUT Brunch, LGBT Chamber of Commerce events, and more

Return to some in-person Board/Committee meetings and TIHAN fundraising, educational, and social events

Completing an independent audit, with the outsider auditor giving a clean "unqualified" opinion, stating that TIHAN's financial condition, position, and operations are fairly presented in the financial statements.

Leslie Kahn's leadership as Board president, with a smooth transition made possible by former President Dan Uroff staying on to support as Vice President, and (almost) the entire board continuing to serve

Human Resources (HR) Committee's advocacy for staff salary/benefits, led by chair Tom Muller

Addition of a new fundraising event (benefit organized by Patricia Ruiz at the Fraternal Order of Eagles)

Under leadership of Dan Uroff and Caroline Lochner, a very successful Treasures for TIHAN, with the highest ever net income, and featuring recording star Billy Gilman (thanks to Jess Losoya)

Investment policy created by Finance Committee, under the leadership of treasurer/chair Arlan Colton

Joint Board and committee chair leadership retreat

4th consecutive year in which income exceeded expenses!

"TIHAN has been a blessing for me and for other people I know. 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. 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... Thanks to TIHAN, I have a reason to keep going in my life."

"When I really needed you—I had no one and nothing, dumped by everyone—TIHAN was there. And now today too. It's the little things you do that really help us get through. I know it's a lot of work and hard work... but I want you to know how important your help is to me."

"I'm thankful for every bit of help TIHAN has given me. It's one less thing on my plate to think about whether I will have hygiene or cleaning supplies or just an ear to listen. The [Poz Café] luncheons are great because you get to meet people in the same boat as you. All the positive vibes that flow through the people and those lunches give you the hope and belief that it's going to get better. And I'm grateful for the great volunteers and staff who give their time, always with a positive attitude. That reminds me that I am not alone during the times when I don't feel good."

Volunteer Orientations—Your Time and Energy Makes a Difference!

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, please contact Jackson at (520) 299-6647 or VolunteerCoordinator@tihan.org



25,000! CONGRATS!

We recently distributed our 25,000th CarePackage, and Basile, pictured here, was the lucky recipient. In addition to the CarePackage, he received a special \$50 gift card to Target. Congrats, #25,000!

Toilet Paper, Cleaning Supplies, and More Items Sought for CarePackages

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 toilet tissue and household cleaning supplies. Can you help us ensure that we have enough so that everyone receiving a CarePackage has the times they most need?

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. Thank you so much!



Torch Bearers 2022

Recognizing Donors Contributing \$1,000 or More

616 GC, LLC
Ted Adams
Barbara Adler and John Nemo
Amity Foundation
Anonymous
Arizona Gay Rodeo Association
Chris Arnot and Randy Branca
Aunt Rita's Foundation
Banner - University Health Plans
Colette Barajas and Kristen Birner / Centra Realty
Dr. Kay Bauman
Bears of the Old Pueblo
Joseph Benanti and Randolph Weese
Scott Blades and Jess Losoya
Ryan Boas
Carol Bogg
Kimberly Bond and Patti Haring
Connie and Rodney Boorse
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
Frank Brosius
William Clyatt and Jorge Sanchez
Kenneth Cohen
Arlan Colton and Jeff Ramos
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
Cornerstone Fellowship
David Daniell and Joseph Chambers
Eileen Davis
Desert Diamond Casinos
Melinda Diebolt / Prosperity Home Mortgage
Dr. Friese for Arizona
Dr. Seth Dubry and Mr. Todd Colwell
El Charro Restaurants
El Rio Health Center
Deborah & Peter Francis / Pete Francis Fitness
Fraternal Order of Eagles Benefit
Roger Funk and Doug Noffsinger
Gilead Sciences
Linda Girard
Charles Gonzales
Edna Gray and Dave Johnson
Donita Gross
Jenny and Michael Hartung
Joe Heller and Frank Ptak
Edward Hudson
Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona / Morris A. Hazan Foundation

Jim Click Automotive Team
Leslie Kahn and Susan Heinrich
Roy and Deb Kaller
Marilee Kelsey and Edward Farrell
Dr. Minta and Kevin Keyes / Cat Hospital of Tucson
Lora and Michael King
Leveler Foundation
Liesl Love Fund
Long Realty Cares Foundation
Tina MacBeth
Judy Manelis
Max McCauslin and John Smith
Stuart J. Meinke
Dr. Yvette Miller
Mitzvah Corp
—Ruth and Jon Tepper
—Congregation Kol Ami
Adrian Molina
Philip Moul and Robert Stolarski
Rod Mullen
Cheryl and Tom Muller
Denise and Tibor Nagy
C.L. Nine
Kathleen Norton
Suavis Nzohabonayo
Dr. Steven Oscherwitz and Lorraine Crawford
Peter Ott and Sarah Showard
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Sam Parrish and Steve Dahlem
Jane Pendley
Sonia Pesqueira
Lindi Laws Petroni and Frank Petroni
Ralph L. Smith Foundation
Xavier Ramirez and Michael Strait
The Raymond Chavez and Rupert Keesler Jr Fund at The San Diego Foundation
Jim and Jill Rich
Saguaro Christian Church
Donald Schmidgall
Carol Schneiderman and Rod Frable
Jan Schoemaker
Jeff Schuchart and Bob Plymyer
Patricia Small
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation
Southwest Gas Corporation
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
Sally Stevens-Taylor and Ralph Taylor
Claudia Svarstad and Beekie Harkey
Gene and Marilyn Tobey
Treasures for TIHAN Team
Don VandeGriff
Cherie Wescott
The Zarlign Family

If we inadvertently omitted you from this list, we apologize. Please let us know.



TIHAN volunteers and members of Amity Foundation's culinary arts team serving up delicious meals for the Poz Café lunch event for people living with HIV



Thanks to the Bears of the Old Pueblo social group for making a \$1,695 donation to support TIHAN's programs and services



Volunteer Marianne helps prepare CarePackages to distribute to CarePartners living with HIV



Members of TIHAN's Board of Directors gathering for a social event



TIHAN honored the lives of our friends and supporters who have passed away by participating in this year's All Soul's Procession, also putting a tree with lighted lanterns displaying the photos of our friends who have gone before us.



SAVE THE DATE!

A 70's Disco-Themed Treasures for TIHAN benefit and party!

Saturday, June 3, 2023

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've got lots of exciting changes, including

- An afternoon event (2-5pm) rather than an evening event
- Our silent auction will feature primarily gift cards and gift baskets
- An exciting new venue: the ballroom at Desert Diamond Hotel & Casino in Tucson, on Valencia and Nogales Highway
- Tickets are \$100 each, or a special — buy two tickets for only \$150!
- Accompanied by an Online Auction taking place from May 26-June 3

Tickets are available by scanning the QR code here.

We have event sponsorship opportunities, with levels ranging from \$500 to \$15,000. For information about sponsoring, please contact Scott Blades at scott@tihan.org or (520) 299-6647 ext 202.

We are now accepting donations of auction items, including experiences, tickets, hotel stays, gift cards and certificates, and gift baskets. (Note: we are not accepting donations of wall art this year.)

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/>



**Silent Auction * Entertainment
Dancing * Appetizers
70s Costume Contest**

Scan. Donate. Done.



paybee.io/@tihan@9



Patricia Ruiz and her team of friends who put on a fundraising event at the Fraternal Order of Eagles



Stuart J. Meinke was honored with TIHAN's 2022 Spirit of Philanthropy Award for his community contributions.



Celebrating the birthday of TIHAN's Operations Manager Jackson Mileur

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

(Gifts received October 16, 2022—February 15, 2023)

Gifts Received in Honor Of

All of our brothers and sisters of the St. Francis in the Foothills support group
Chris Arnot and Randy Branca
Sue Basso
Scott Blades *
Kenny Cohen *
Arlan Colton and Jeff Ramos *
Steve Dahlem *
Elizabeth Daum
Don Dwyer
Everyone
Linda Girard *
Timothy Grivois *
Jenny and Michael Hartung
Susan Heinrich
Eleanore Johnson
Leslie Kahn *
Tina MacBeth *
Robert Markley
Steve McInnis *
Stuart Meinke *
John X and Betty Faison Miller
Tom Muller
Denise Nagy
Beverly Pollock
Jill and Jim Rich
Carl Roberts
Scott, Staff, and Volunteers
Those who continue to fight the disease
TIHAN Staff *
Mary Wald
Doug Wingert *

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

THANK YOU! We greatly appreciate Tom 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 Melinda Diebolt of Prosperity Home Mortgage, Judy Manelis, Ruth and Jon Tepper, Randolph Weese and Joseph Benanti, Barbie Adler and John Nemo, and "K" offered a combined \$15,000 in funds to match each of your donations in December. You responded, and contributed generously in December in support of our programs and services. Thank you all for what you make possible!



Gifts Received In Memory Of

Stephen Andre
Dr Terry Anspach
Naya Arbiter *
Debbie Barnette *
Tim Beardslee
Melvin Boffman
Phil Bohlender
Dave Braun *
Guenter Braun
Bob and Helen Brink *
Charles Burton
Albert Callahan Jr *
Betty Castaneda
John Cannell
Dolores Frances Cherrick
Gregory Cortez
Roy DeBise
Everyone
Family and Siblings
Marcia & Kalman Fisher *
Msgr John Fitzpatrick
Mike Flores
Derek Fowler
Fernando Garcia
Jim Girard *
Bill Haller *
Michael Haliziw *
Marshall Helgeson
George Hoge
Justin
Barbara Kaller-Cohen *
Kenneth
Denise Krapf Fireng
Margaret Mare'
Bill McManus *
Floyd Meeks
Myron Morris *
Butch O'Daniel *
John Odegard Jr
Kristin Rahn
Jim Rochester
Ronald Schuyler *
Bobby Shaw
Marty Sims
Janet Smith
Karen Sparks *
Ken Stratton
Ralph Taylor
Steve Trujillo
Bobbie VandeGriff *
Michael Vining *
David and Anita Wade
Don Wenig *
Sally West

Remembering Supporters We've Lost



Karen Sparks

Remembering Janet Smith

Janet was one of the longest-serving and most iconic volunteers in TIHAN's 28+ years. We first met Janet in 1994. Her son Eric had recently passed away, at age 29, from AIDS-related conditions. The priest at Janet's church, Father Bill Dougherty of St. Cyril's Catholic Parish, had provided pastoral care and support to Janet throughout his illness.



One of the most heartbreaking and galvanizing moments in Janet's life was asking Eric in his final days if he wanted a priest to give him last rites. Eric, who was gay, responded plainly: "They didn't want me. I don't want them."

Those words would forever be with her. She knew his words were his truth, and she understood the pain he felt. It motivated her to action.

It was during her time of mourning his passing and the trauma of him not being accepted by some within her denomination, that an interfaith AIDS group was forming, soon to become TIHAN. When Father Bill received a letter asking his parish to send a representative to an organizing meeting for a new support network to engage compassion ate faith community members, he asked Janet to attend, hoping it would help her, and help the parish better understand and support to people living with HIV.

Janet became one of the founding Board members of TIHAN, and volunteered in a variety of roles with us over the next 25+ years.

She was also one of the founders of TIHAN's Poz Café, a lunch program that Janet held close to her heart, a means of gathering caring people from Tucson-area faith communities to come, learn about HIV, and offer support, a hug, a safe and welcoming space, and a warm meal for people with HIV.

With Janet's guidance and support, Poz Café grew from a handful of attendees gathered around one table, to the largest regular gathering place for people with HIV in Southern Arizona, having served more than 34,000 meals. Janet was passionate about providing a most outstanding experience and meal and treating our guests as the most special people they are. Poz Café would not be a cafeteria style soup kitchen—she made sure it was a dining experience with linens and center pieces. She would carefully instruct the volunteers from sponsoring faith communities each month to fold the napkins just so, reminding them that this Poz Café meal is their version of La Paloma Resort. This is their meal, she would remind them, prepared by us to make everyone feel cared about, worthy of love, and extra special.

Janet Smith is one of the most beloved and consequential leaders in TIHAN's history. Her smile could light up a room, and in fact it did—over and over and over.

As she was present with TIHAN and our CarePartners for all these years, so too were her TIHAN friends present with Janet in her final times, surrounding her with love and care.

Rest in peace and power, Janet, and thank you for your love.