



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



## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Tucson, Arizona

February 2024

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### What They're Saying About How Your Support Makes Life Better

*by Scott Blades, Executive Director*

People living with HIV (CarePartners) are grateful 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. Our support happens only because of YOU.

We ask each year when our CarePartners register, how TIHAN has helped them, and below are a few of their responses.

"They helped me get stronger (food gift certificate), wiser (pamphlets, classes). I've got more confidence in talking with people."

"Having the monthly Poz Café nice lunch, CarePackages are great, very helpful, and especially the staff. I get checkup calls. Thanksgiving [was] a real BLESSING. Thank you."

"TIHAN has been a Godsend for me. They help with everything in their power and they also helped me fly to see my daughter and grandkids which I am so grateful for, like I said they are a Godsend!!"

"Unbelievable — helped me within my transition from homelessness."

"I don't really get out around people a lot so the Poz Cafe is great and with the economy the care packages make sure I don't go without the useful supplies you provide. And the staff and volunteers are the greatest people around."

"TIHAN saved my life."

"CarePackages, Poz Cafe, utility help, finding my own voice, family day, networking. All of these have been vital at one time or another for my family and me."

"Hope for the future and sense of community."

"TIHAN has helped me with toiletries [and] food cards which I'm very grateful for. They always bring a smile to my face because TIHAN cares for all their individuals."

"When I went back to school, the CarePackages were really helpful in meeting monthly household needs, and the social opportunity to meet others living with HIV helped me deal with social isolation."

"[TIHAN helped me] to overcome social phobias and stigmas of living with HIV."

30 YEARS

## serving the community

This year, TIHAN will commemorate 30 years of serving the community. We have grown and changed and listened and learned and adapted as the needs of the HIV community changed.

After several years of supporting people with HIV/AIDS, we gave our group a name in 1994 and began serving in a more formal way.

None of our founding group members expected that TIHAN would still be needed 30 years later. The only way we could survive those difficult years was to hold on to the hope for a cure and to fight for our lives and the lives of our loved ones. The cure, we said, would come soon.

Through ever-present grief and anger as we watched our friends die, we kept doing all we could to educate more people about this misunderstood disease, engage more people to volunteer and donate to the cause, and to help provide love and support, dignity and community to our friends with the virus.

Thirty years later, we're still here, serving the changing needs of people living with HIV, still educating and engaging and serving.

Throughout the course of this 30th year, we will create ways to honor and remember, to celebrate beautiful lives and impact, and to continue to show the world what love looks like, and how to overcome hate and stigma through acts of kindness and compassion.

Our hearts are filled with love as we reflect on the past 30 years, and realize that more love is still needed—especially today. **Thanks for the love you give!**



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## Inside This Issue:

**People with HIV Thank YOU for What You Do**

*Claim Your Arizona State Tax Credit Now!*

**Positive Experiences Pilot Program Success**

*Remembering Tina MacBeth*

**Commemorating 30 Years of Service**

*Amazing people, fun events, life-affirming programs!*



## TIHAN's Annual Meeting Celebrates You and Your Impact!

**Monday, March 18  
5:30pm-7:00pm**

Please join us as we acknowledge and celebrate you and your impact! With this year's event theme "Love Lives On," 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, with food and drink and opportunities to meet and re-connect.

**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](mailto:VolunteerCoordinator@tihan.org)

## The Red Concert

*featuring*

**LITTLE HOUSE OF FUNK**

**Sunday, March 3, 2024**

5:00 to 8:00 pm MST

Three Canyon

4999 N Sabino Canyon Rd  
Tucson, AZ 85750

Advance Tickets \$25.00

(\$30 at the door, if seats still available – no refunds.)

*Enjoy great music (and order delicious food) while supporting the work of TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) and the Center for Health & Hope in supporting people living with HIV/AIDS locally and worldwide. The venue is an outdoor patio with shade covering.*

*Buy tickets at our website: [centerforhealthandhope.org](http://centerforhealthandhope.org), or scan the QR code below.*



Sponsorship levels range from \$100 to \$1,500. For information or to sponsor, contact Jess Losoya at [jesslosoya48@gmail.com](mailto:jesslosoya48@gmail.com)



SAVE THE DATE!

**June 8, 2024**

## for a very special event **Treasures for TIHAN**

commemorating 30 years of service

### **Volunteer Orientations—Your Time and Energy Makes a Difference!**

We have multiple great 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 Heaven Rendon at (520) 299-6647 or [VolunteerCoordinator@tihan.org](mailto:VolunteerCoordinator@tihan.org)



### **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 credit. Simply donate by April 15, 2024, and still claim it on your 2023 tax return!

By donating to TIHAN, you can reduce your Arizona state tax liability with a dollar-for-dollar reduction (up to \$421/person, or \$841/ 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.



## **Positive Experiences Pilot Program a Great Success! Thank You, Aunt Rita's Foundation!**

Last fall, Aunt Rita's Foundation provided a \$4,000 grant to TIHAN to decrease isolation and increase socialization opportunities for people living with HIV, especially people over the age of 50.

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, social isolation, transportation barriers, and other health-related concerns increased separation and loneliness. With the reduction in Covid-19 cases in 2023, this pilot program was designed to give people living with HIV the opportunity to attend free social events, and develop support systems with their peers.

As HIV physician Dr. Sudha Nagalingam, Medical Director at El Rio Special Immunology Associates (Southern Arizona's largest HIV medical clinic), shared last year with TIHAN's Board of Directors, research shows that seniors who live alone and are isolated are more likely to experience mental and physical health issues, and there is a gap in providing support services to this population locally.

From September to December, TIHAN quickly planned and carried out Positive Experiences, a pilot program to address the social needs of people living with HIV. 43 CarePartners attended at least one of the four Positive Experiences social events. The participants were diverse in their backgrounds, and representative of TIHAN's CarePartners.

90% of program participants were people living with HIV who are seniors (over 50 years of age), and 74% were seniors who live alone.

Through the grant, we were able to offer Lyft rides for people who needed transportation to our social events, and 20 CarePartners accessed rides.

From surveys conducted at the end of the grant period, 92% of participants responded "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" that they are less isolated because of the program, 88% stated they are less lonely because of the program, and 92% said their quality of life has been improved because of their participation in Positive Experiences. Friendships were made, and new connections were formed:

"I've been to all of the Positive Experience events and they each have had something to offer in helping me feel and be more connected to my community (HIV). Thank You!"

"The 1st dinner was very tasty! The 2nd was Zoo, very interesting. The museum was awesome. This movie was as good as I saw with the same theme as a child! I'd love to enjoy more next year as we need the positive interactions together! Thank you so much!"

"All good. All Positive. Good socialization stronger bonds. Enjoy getting together often."

The pilot was a great success, and we are exploring additional improvements. We will be seeking out funding sources to continue the program as it meets key needs among people living with HIV. Thank you, Aunt Rita's Foundation, for providing funds for this pilot program to address critical needs in our local HIV community.



I am STUFFED! The Positive Experience Dinner was amazing. I had some excellent food and met some really fun people. I think I'm finally finding my way in the world again. Thanks, everyone who made it possible ❤️



## Meet TIHAN's Staff

### Gina Snyder (they/them or she/her), Lead Program Coordinator

After earning bachelor's degrees in psychology and gender studies from Pacific Lutheran University, Gina returned to Tucson. They have a passion for making meaningful connections and building community. Gina now oversees Poz Café, CarePackage Pickup Day, and additional TIHAN support services for people living with HIV.



### Heaven Rendon (she/her), Manager of Operations and Programs



Heaven earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Arizona, and worked with youth programs with her previous employer, which she helped grow during her 4.5 years there. Heaven now oversees TIHAN's office and administrative functions, volunteer recruitment and onboarding, and programs.

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

(Gifts received November 1—December 31, 2023)

#### Gifts Received In Memory Of

All who have died  
Stephen Andre  
Naya Arbiter \*  
Chris Barco  
Debbie Barnette \*  
Bob and Helen Brink \*  
Marc Brunelle  
Charles Burton  
Gregory H Cortez  
Dan  
Roy DeBise  
Randy Decker  
Bruce Eggers  
Earl, Kevin and Larry, Peter, Rob,  
Bob, and many more dear  
friends  
Kalman Fisher  
Marcia and Kal Fisher  
Jim Girard \*  
Kevin Hall  
Tom Ham  
Bobby Hughes  
John Joy  
Justin and John  
Barbara Kaller-Cohen \*  
Mitchell Lester  
Richard Long  
Tina MacBeth \*  
Richard McLean  
Ross McGuire  
Bill McManus  
Myron Morris \*  
Mary O'Callaghan  
Butch O'Daniel  
Rob  
Mike Russler  
Steve Trujillo \*  
Bobbie VandeGriff  
Michael Vining \*  
David and Anita Wade \*  
Dotty and David Woody  
Dotty Woody

#### Gifts Received in Honor Of

Carol Bogg  
Scott Blades \*  
Kim Bond and Patti Haring \*  
Kenny Cohen  
Roger and Rose Carmichael  
Elizabeth Daum  
Jessica T Devereaux  
John  
Leslie Kahn  
Jess Losoya and Scott Blades \*  
Lindi Laws  
Steve McInnis  
Frank Petroni and Lindi Laws  
Jill and Jim Rich  
Claudia Svarstad and Beckie  
Harkey  
TIHAN Staff (Gina Snyder,  
Heaven Rendon, Scott  
Blades) \*  
Nancy Tomlinson  
TIHAN staff and volunteers  
Wayne

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

## Remembering Tina MacBeth

We give thanks for the life of an amazing TIHAN volunteer who passed away in November. Tina MacBeth was one of our longest-serving and most -loved volunteers.



Over the past 18 years, she served on CareTeams, helped with our Poz Café lunch and social program, served on our Nominating Committee, volunteered on the Treasures for TIHAN planning teams, helped in the office, and much more. Tina was a major sponsor of many TIHAN events, and a fantastic ambassador and spokesperson. We honored her in 2021 with our Excellence in Caring Award, the highest honor we bestow.

Tina truly did love TIHAN, our programs, our volunteers and donors, and our CarePartners, and she loved us very well...

Tina presented about 20 years younger than her actual age of 82, and people were always amazed when she disclosed her age, especially in light of her active workout and volunteer schedule, as well as her appearance and energy as she participated in book clubs and classes at OLLI, and led events at her retirement community, The Hacienda at the Canyon.

Since the sudden onset of seizures in 2023, Tina was forced to step down from volunteering, and TIHAN's love kicked into high gear. TIHAN volunteers and staff, current and former, were in touch with her through her medical challenges, hoping for her recovery. CarePartners and volunteers at Poz Café signed cards for her which we delivered to her when she was not up for visitors. When it became clear that her time was rapidly approaching, TIHAN friends streamed in to pay our final respects.

As is fitting, Tina had TIHAN friends and volunteers present with her on the morning she took her last breath. Tina is now with the angels, but really she always was one. We give thanks for the love and light that Tina shared so generously with our CarePartners, volunteers, and staff.

## Remembering Supporters We've Lost



**Dan Nunez**  
Founding Board Member



**Irene Walden**  
Former Staff Member



**Richard Long**  
Longtime Volunteer