



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



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Tucson, Arizona

August 2024

Vol. 29, No. 3

Celebrating 25 Years of Our Life-Affirming Lunch and Social Program: Poz Cafe



It was 1999, and new anti-retroviral medications were suddenly having drastic impacts, keeping people with HIV alive.

TIHAN's CareTeam program—which had been functioning as a hospice-like support program to help people in their final days, months, or years—was no longer the greatest need.

Now, our role was to help people adjust to this wonderful new reality—learning more about HIV, meeting others for peer support, finding new ways of living on a limited disability income, and finding new purpose in life.

We looked at new program possibilities and, realizing the vast resources of faith communities and compassionate volunteers, set up a program where caring groups provided food and help. TIHAN brought people living with HIV to the table to socialize, feel the love of volunteers, enjoy a delicious and nutritious hot meal, and build a sense of community.

January 1999 was our first gathering of this new meal program which we called Poz Café (Poz—pronounced “pause”—is slang for positive, as in HIV-positive). It started with just a handful of people with HIV attending, but grew quickly. Poz Café has now served more than 36,000 meals to people living with HIV in a warm, welcoming, stigma-free environment.

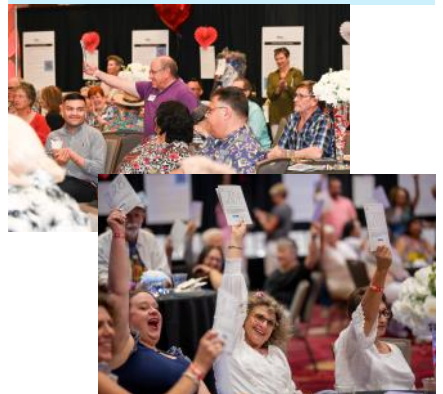
Thanks to all of our sponsoring faith communities and businesses, volunteers, and donors, and most especially our friends living with HIV who bring their love to Poz Cafe.

A Record-Setting Success! Treasures for TIHAN Brings Out the Love!

What a spectacular event, with over 230 supporters coming out to show your support, donating, bidding, volunteering, raising your paddles, sharing your hearts and your dollars to continue our programs!

It was an incredible mix of people—philanthropists, people with HIV, clergy, PFLAG moms, elected officials, business owners, nonprofit CEOs and Executive Directors, a handful of TIHAN's founding board members (some approaching their 90s), people from all over the gender spectrum, long-term HIV survivors, community activists, mixed in with volunteers newly engaged in the fight for care and justice. And record net income!

Whether you donated items, bid on items, sponsored our event, volunteered, attended in-person, bid online, performed, helped decorate, raised your paddle to donate, partnered with us, promoted the event, bought raffle tickets, served on staff to coordinate the details, came out to commemorate our 30 years of service, or just sent some love our way, you contributed to our success. Thank you!



Remembering and Honoring Iva



With great sadness, we share the untimely passing of Iva Todd, a longtime TIHAN volunteer and CarePartner living with HIV. Iva shared her story about living with HIV and how your support impacted her life. Below is a note from Iva from 2019. Iva is now reunited with her beloved husband, Michael, who passed away from cancer in 2020.

A memorial gathering for Iva will take place this fall. Please contact Gina Snyder, Lead Program Coordinator, at ProgramLead@tihan.org for more details.

TIHAN has shown me great compassion over the years, and I want to thank you! Here are just a few ways that you have impacted my life.

Your Poz Café lunch is a very important part of my support system. It gets me away from all the stresses of life and allows me to have time for ME. I get to meet other people who have the virus. It helps us remember we are not alone, and we can be positive role models for each other. No matter how I'm feeling, I try to get to Poz Café because the hugs and smiles really make a difference and bring me joy.

I really appreciate the Living Well with HIV classes that you hold. They have been very helpful to me, especially the nutrition class that has taught me about healthier eating.

And I want to make sure you know how much we appreciate the CarePackages filled with toiletry items. Sometimes when we have limited income, we can't afford to purchase these items, so it really makes a difference and helps with our budget and our quality of life.

These are a few of the ways that you—TIHAN—have shown compassion to me. Thank you for all you do to provide support for me, and for all of us with the virus. God bless you! — Iva, 2019



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Inside This Issue:

Your Support of Treasures for TIHAN Breaks Records!

Honoring and Remembering Iva

Lots of Great Photos and People

PrEP Usage Increases, Helping Prevent New HIV Cases

Poz Café: 25 Years of Great Meals and Socializing

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!

“Fiesta Fundraiser” for TIHAN

Eat at Charro Chico (Campbell & Prince Road) on any of the August dates below, and 22% of your check amount will be donated back to TIHAN!*

Friday, Aug 16—Sunday, Aug 18
 Friday, Aug 23—Sunday, Aug 25
 Thursday, Aug 29



3699 N. Campbell | (520) 372-1922
 menu: charrochico.com

* Must present this printed note, or show a TIHAN email or social media post about this offer. To qualify for this promotion, you must pay by cash or credit only—no gift cards allowed for payment for this promotion. Cannot be combined with other offers. Discounted items/UofA Red Cards/Happy Hour specials are not included. Any takeout/to-go orders must be made directly with the local restaurant to qualify for this promotion.

VOTE?

If you live in Arizona and want to register to vote, change your address or update your voter registration, or just check to make sure you are registered to vote, please use this QR code to go to the State of Arizona’s Voter Registration and Motor Vehicle website. It’s quick and easy (and in both English and Spanish, too)!



Timelines

In commemoration of our 30th year of serving the community, we created a timeline for TIHAN’s major milestones since our founding in 1994, as well as a timeline for HIV since the first reports in 1981. These two timelines are available on the home page of our website: TIHAN.org



Treasures for TIHAN 2024 Sponsors

DESERT DIAMOND CASINO
An Enterprise of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Soozie, David, and Ashley Hazan
The Morris A Hazan Family Foundation

Barbie Adler
and John Nemo



Scott Blades
and Jess Losoya



Dr. Seth Dubry and
Mr. Todd Colwell



Five Sisters
of TIHAN!

Joe Heller and
Frank Ptak



Stuart J.
Meinke

Jill and
Jim Rich



Carol Bogg

Dr. Kevin Carmichael
and Dr. Tejal Parikh



Roger Funk

Linda Girard

Cheryl and
Tom Muller

Jeff Ramos and
Arlan Colton



The Talerico
Family



Team TIHAN! Scott Blades, Susan Friese, Susannah Myerson, and Gina Snyder!



The team of volunteers from Citi Pride Network, which sponsored Poz Café in June.

Volunteers from Jewish Community Relations Council, Casas Adobes UCC, and Amity Foundation serving up delicious desserts at Poz Café.



Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church volunteers preparing CarePackages filled with toiletry, personal care, and cleaning items that cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits.

A team of pharmacists, store managers and team members from two Walmart stores (Grant and Alvernon, and 1st Avenue and Fort Lowell) sponsored Poz Café in July for the first time!



TREASURES 2024!



States With Greater PrEP Use See Fewer New HIV Diagnoses

The increase in usage of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is associated with declining incidence of new HIV diagnoses!

PrEP is a medication that people at higher risk of contracting HIV can take to prevent them from getting HIV, even if they are exposed. It can be taken by mouth or now by injection.

According to the May 2024 issue of POZ Magazine, “states that had the highest levels of pre-exposure prophylaxis coverage also saw the largest declines in new HIV diagnoses from 2012 to 2021.”

According to the article reporting results of a study from the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, “Oral and injectable PrEP are highly effective, reducing HIV acquisition by 99% or more if used consistently. PrEP use has risen steadily... with around 364,000 users in 2022.”

PrEP is life-saving, and is becoming better known and used, especially among white gay and bisexual men, but it is still underutilized among women, trans and non-gender-conforming folks, and Black men who have sex with men.

Next Volunteer Orientation September 5, 1:00pm

Contact Susannah to get info or sign up!

Welcome, Susannah!

Please join us in welcoming Susannah Myerson, our Manager of Operations and Programs, to the TIHAN team!



Susannah (she/her) has a bachelor’s degree in Economics and a master’s degree in Public Administration. For more than 20 years, she worked in corporate finance and banking in the housing industry for seniors. Susannah has also been an active volunteer for several organizations in the Tucson community, and in her free time, She can be found outdoors hiking or paddleboarding, reading a book, or cheering on the University of Arizona women’s basketball team.

Susannah can be reached at (520) 299-6647 ext 204 or OperationsManager@tihan.org

Are You Interested in Being a Poll Worker?

Our country’s election system includes 117,000 polling locations across 3,000 counties, requiring about a million poll workers. Faith-based and civic organizations can play a vital role in recruiting nonpartisan poll workers to meet this need.

There’s a need for poll workers to help on Election Day in November. Please consider playing a role in helping the 2024 elections run smoothly by signing up to become a poll worker in your community at

<https://www.powerthepolls.org/faithinelections>