



Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network

Helping People with HIV to Live Well

NEWSLETTER

Tucson, Arizona

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New Beginnings for Poz Café Lunch and Social Program

*A Note from
Executive
Director
Scott Blades*

Poz Café offers healthy meals, socialization opportunities, and a safe place for people living with HIV (our CarePartners) to connect with their peers. Since we started this program, we’ve served more than 37,000 meals! (The word “poz” is pronounced “paws” and is slang for positive, as in HIV-positive.)

St. Mark’s Presbyterian Church graciously provided a home for Poz Café post-pandemic, for which we will be eternally grateful. We’re now excited to announce that Poz Café has moved to a new home: Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, on Campbell Avenue, just north of Speedway. We now have a larger and newer space that is located on two major bus lines for our CarePartners who use public transportation, and it’s closer to the bus stops for ease of walking in Tucson’s extreme weather.

Pastor Amalia Vagts of Our Saviour’s welcomed TIHAN and our CarePartners at our first edition of the new Poz Café: *“We are excited to have you all here. You are welcome here **because** of who you are. You are treasured here **because** of who you are. May your time here today fill you up so much that you can’t help but to share with others when you leave here.”*

We had a packed house of CarePartners join us for the event, all treated to a delicious lunch of lasagna, roasted vegetables, tossed salad, garlic bread, and apple pie. A big thank you to the Culinary Arts Team at Amity Foundation who prepared the meal, and to October’s sponsoring groups: Saint Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church, Congregation M’kor Hayim, Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, and Amity Foundation. Thanks also to the volunteers and donors who made it happen, and our Lead Program Coordinator Gina Snyder, who coordinates it all.



Pictured above: Pastor Amalia Vagts and Gina Snyder.
Below: Rick Small and Scott Blades.

We had a special presentation of thanks to Rick Small and The Stonewall Fund at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona for their major support of Poz Café. In addition, we had some fun games of bingo, and distribution of CarePackages, and we were very happy to offer an unannounced surprise for our CarePartners in attendance: a \$25 gift card, courtesy of our friends at Walmart Pharmacy! The day also featured 10 nonprofits tabling at our annual Resource Fair designed to make it easier for CarePartners to make connections and access additional services.



It was a full day of fun, friends, food, resources, and community building in our beautiful new space for Poz Café.

Due to health department permit requirements relevant to the spaces we’ve been using post-pandemic, we have had to use disposable plates and plasticware, and single-use water bottles, which do not provide the full experience we would love to offer.

With our new location, we are working with the church and the Pima County Health Department to make the changes needed to meet the county codes and obtain the necessary permit that will allow us to offer real plates, silverware, and drinking glasses at Poz Café. We know from CarePartners that using disposable items hearkens back to stigmatizing experiences they’ve had with family/colleagues who asked them to not eat on their “real dishes” out of fear of transmission of HIV, which is demeaning—and of course factually/scientifically wrong.

We’re excited about the wonderful new location for our monthly Poz Cafe lunch and social program, and all the improvements we’ll be making in the near future! And we’re rolling out new programs soon.

More good things are emerging, and **you** make it happen!

2024 Poz Café Resource Fair Participants

- Amity Foundation (treatment for addiction and trauma)
- Chicanos Por la Causa (advocacy, housing, economic support)
- Emerge Center Against Domestic Abuse
- Lions Club (eye exams and eyeglasses)
- NAMI Southern Arizona (mental health support)
- Pima Council on Aging (supporting people to age well)
- Resilient Health/Art Awakenings (expressive art therapy)
- Sonoran Prevention Works (substance use harm reduction)
- Southern Arizona Senior Pride (supporting LGBTQI+ older adults)
- Step Up to Justice (legal help for non-criminal matters)



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Brightening Spirits During the December Holidays

TIHAN Donors Eligible for Increased Arizona Tax Credit!

Celebrating Impact and Community

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!

Donating Holiday Gifts to Brighten the Spirits of People Living with HIV

The holidays can be a difficult time. Most of the people whom we serve live on limited disability income, below the poverty level. Many face isolation and depression, especially at this time of year.



This holiday season, can you 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.**

Gift ideas include practical items such as: toaster ovens, bath towel sets, crock pots, pots and pans, coffeemakers, blankets, pillows. (Remember, most of our CarePartners are age 50+ and live alone.)

Also, TIHAN hopes to provide each of our CarePartners with a **\$25 gift card to Target or Walmart so they can buy a holiday gift** – perhaps something they need, or a gift for their partner/friend/family member.

Donations can be brought to the TIHAN office during business hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm. Please bring all donations in by the priority deadline of Monday, December 2.

Thank you for sharing your gifts with others to brighten their holidays!

The December holiday season is a time when people are seeking to gather and feel a part of a community of people who care, and we are grateful that you make this possible through your support of TIHAN.

Donate Up to \$938 to TIHAN, and Get the Same Amount Back as an Arizona Tax Credit!

New 2024 Amounts Announced!

Since TIHAN is a Qualifying Charitable Organization providing assistance to low income residents of Arizona, your donations to TIHAN entitle you to a state tax credit.

By donating to TIHAN, you may be eligible for a tax credit that will reduce your Arizona state tax liability with a dollar-for-dollar reduction (up to \$470/person, or \$938/ married couple filing jointly). **Note increased 2024 amounts!** Put your tax credit dollars where your heart is. Invest in people, and in TIHAN's programs and services. The state of Arizona will give you a tax credit for doing so!

Give local, keep local, and direct some of your state tax dollars to TIHAN.

Our QCO code is 20359, which you should include when you file your taxes and claim your credit. Please contact your tax advisor for more info. Thanks for giving to TIHAN, and making a difference in the lives of so many people living with HIV.

Honoring the Spirit of Philanthropy!

TIHAN joins the local commemoration of National Philanthropy Day to honor amazing folks making a difference in the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS in our community: Lindi Laws Petroni and Dr. Frank Petroni.

With gratitude, TIHAN recognizes them with our 2024 Spirit of Philanthropy Awards, to be presented at the National Philanthropy Day event held this year on November 15 at the Tucson Marriott University Park.

Lindi Laws Petroni and Dr. Frank Petroni have been among the most significant supporters of TIHAN and our programs to help people with HIV to live well. They have exemplified philanthropy by being major annual donors to TIHAN, with a strong commitment to supporting TIHAN's support services and advocacy. Lindi and her beloved husband Frank, before his untimely passing earlier this year, have been strong advocates for HIV awareness and support for people living with HIV, having experienced the struggles and strength of their daughter Lacey, a healthcare worker who contracted HIV after suffering a needle-stick and died in 2002 from AIDS-related complications at the age of 32. Lindi and Frank's support continues as Lindi carries on their legacy



of love and honor for Lacey and others impacted by HIV. For 25 years, Lindi and Frank have shown their love for the people and programs of TIHAN, and their gifts from the heart support hundreds of people in our community living with HIV.

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, Lindi and Frank, for changing the world with your giving hearts!

Your donations are needed as we build upon our 30 years of serving the community. Thank you for your support!

A New Resource for People Living with HIV

Eyeglasses and Eye Exams for people living with HIV



Generously Sponsored by Tucson Cyber Lions



Make an Impact AND You'll Also Benefit from an IRA Required Minimum Distribution Gift

If you are age 73 or older and have a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you can save on taxes and make a charitable rollover gift from your IRA. With a direct transfer from your traditional IRA to a qualified charity such as TIHAN, you satisfy your minimum required distribution for the year. IRA Charitable Rollover transfers are free of income tax.

TIHAN is a qualified 501(c)(3) charity, and our nonprofit tax ID number is 86-0819574.

If you'd like to make a contribution from your IRA to TIHAN, please contact your IRA plan administrator to send the contribution directly to TIHAN. To not count as taxable income to you, a charitable gift from your IRA must be issued in the charity's name and sent directly to us by your IRA plan administrator.

Leaving a Legacy Through a Bequest



We are forever grateful to our friends who have included TIHAN in their estate plans.



Tremendous supporters during their lifetimes, they made arrangements to create a legacy through ensuring TIHAN's programs and services will continue to help people well into the future.



Please contact Scott Blades for more info.

Please save the date for Wednesday, December 18, from 4:00-6:00pm for our Holiday Open House and Cookie Exchange. We are inviting volunteers, donors, CarePartners, and friends to stop by, enjoy a treat, and get to know each other! TIHAN staff and some of the Board of Directors will be participating; and it's a great way to get started on your holiday cheer!



Feel free to bring your favorite cookies to share—one or two dozen is plenty! Everyone will be able to take some cookies home with them. Please provide ingredient information if the cookies contain nuts, as some people have allergies. We'll provide coffee, cider, and hot chocolate.

Please RSVP to Susannah Myerson, Manager of Operations and Programs, so we know how many people to expect: 520-299-6647 ext 204 or OperationsManager@tihan.org

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

(Gifts received January 1—September 30, 2024)

Gifts Received in Honor Of

All of those still in the fight
Margaret Beem
Scott Blades *
Carol Bogg *
Kimberly Bond *
Brett Christenson *
Arlan Colton *
Noel Floresca and Jon Stetson
Linda Girard *
Jenny and Mike Hartung
Leslie Kahn *
Jess Losoya and Scott Blades *
Jess Losoya *
Tom Muller
Lupita Murillo and Don Gutzler
Lupita Murillo *
Bobbie Parrish
Jeff Ramos and Arlan Colton *
Jill and Jim Rich *
Patricia Ruiz
Carol Schneiderman
Jeff Schuchart
Pat Small
Steve
TIHAN's hardworking staff
TIHAN's 30th Anniversary *
Susan Tiss *
Mary Wald
M Williams
Doug Wingert *

Gifts Received in Memory Of

Anthony Apodaca
Debbie Barnette *
Ben
Joe Beyer
Art Boehm
Barton Bogg
David Brady
Guenther Braun
John C
Stanley Colton
Roy DeBise
Mickey Dixon
Leslie Duke
Bruce Eggers *
Marcia and Kal Fisher *
Paul Fuschini
Ralph Geror *
Jim Girard *
Michael Haliziw *
Justin and John
Barbara Kaller-Cohen
Tim Kasting *
Lacey Laws
Mitchell Lester
Tina MacBeth *
Jerry Mason
Noel Matkin and
Jim Sincx
Richard McLean
Bill McManus *
Floyd Meeks *
Brigitte Michael
Myron Morris *
Butch O'Daniel *
Frank Petroni *
Kristin Rahn
Sister Mary
Randy Soderstrom
Earl Thomas
Andrew Thorne
Rev. Roger Trott
Steve Trujillo *
Irene Walden *
Diane Wilson *

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

Thank you to St. Mark's Presbyterian Church for your generous hospitality in welcoming Poz Café to your space during our time of need when we were returning to in-person programs. We will be forever grateful for your kindness in hosting us!

**Save the Date:
December 1
5:00pm**

World AIDS Day

**Catalina United
Methodist Church
2700 E Speedway**



**A community
gathering on
TIHAN's 30th
anniversary to:**
~Honor~
~Remember~
~Educate~
~Act~

\$25 Gives You a Chance to Win Three Amazing Prizes

Every ticket we sell will help fund our programs!



2024 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon
4xe Plug-In Hybrid

Two First Class Airline
Tickets to Anywhere



“Millions for Tucson” Raffle

Buy your tickets online at tihan.ejoinme.org/win
or call us at 520-299-6647

100% of proceeds from our ticket sales benefit TIHAN's programs
and services for people living with HIV

\$25 each, or 5 tickets for \$100. Purchase your tickets and we will fill out
your ticket entry and then mail the ticket stub(s) to you.

Tickets are available only through December 6, 2024, and the drawing will be held on
December 12, 2024. You must be 21 years of age to purchase raffle tickets.
You do NOT have to be present to win. Maximum of 120,000 tickets distributed.