

Annual Report 2006

- Supporting people living with HIV
- Educating faith communities to address the stigma and encourage compassion
- Privately funded by the community, allowing flexibility to respond
- Working collaboratively with other providers
- Offering the largest regular gathering place in Southern Arizona for and with people living with HIV
- A compassionate interfaith response, free of prejudice or proselytism

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2006 was a year of growth for the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) as we worked to build our capacity for the future and successfully build upon the foundation established over the previous 12 years of our existence.

TIHAN provided **support services to 244 people living with HIV/AIDS** and their families. Poz Cafe, named in 2004 as one of the most innovative programs among Tucson nonprofits with a budget of \$300,000 or less, **served another 1,336 meals** to people living with HIV and their guests, while also providing a **hands-on AIDS education experience for 185 volunteers from 23 congregations** and groups. The **Poz MarketPlace expanded to provide 784 care packages** filled with needed toiletry and personal items for those we serve (a 56% increase over 2005).

In 2006, we continued our efforts to bring attention to and address the HIV crisis within the African-American community. In the Spring, TIHAN again organized the **local commemoration of the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS**, a national week of AIDS awareness organized by the Balm in Gilead, with four local Black churches participating. In the fall, TIHAN sponsored an **important community forum "HIV/AIDS and the Black Community: How Do We Save Ourselves?"** featuring a showing of the ABC PrimeTime Special "Out

of Control: AIDS in Black America."

In 2006, **our coalition grew to 39 faith communities** with the addition of Prince Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church (our first primarily Black church!) and Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. We collaborated with the Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteer program to work with a part-time intern. **We recruited and trained 84 new volunteers in 2006, with a continued focus on recruiting people of color** (11% Hispanic, 5% African-American, 2% Native American, 1% Asian, and 2% multi-racial).

Overall, **TIHAN's 2006 AIDS education and awareness programs reached 997 young people and 6,065 adults (a 230% increase over 2005!) with presentations about HIV and our message of awareness, care, and support.**

We hosted events and forums focused on the importance of responding to AIDS on both local and global levels, for both lay people and clergy/spiritual leaders. In addition to the community forum on HIV in the African American community, TIHAN also sponsored forums on HIV/Hepatitis C co-infection, and living successfully with HIV. Local media continued to highlight the need for education and support, as well as TIHAN's response, including a **new focus in 2006 on National HIV Testing Day**, for which TIHAN galvanized a group of clergy to get tested and issue a public challenge to their

congregations and the general community to find out their own HIV status as well.

TIHAN's **CareTeam program**, in its twelfth year of existence, continued to meet a vital need in the community. **Teams of congregational volunteers provided a host of non-medical support services to 28 persons living with HIV and AIDS**, providing in-home help, nursing home visits, transportation, social support, and more. Whether serving as a lifeline to help our CarePartners living with HIV regain their strength and independence, or as a vital support during end-of-life transitions, CareTeam volunteers continued to provide care and compassion, love and support.

The **Poz Breakfast program**, courtesy of Mother Hubbard's Restaurant, provided over **1,500 free breakfasts for people living with HIV in 2006**. This weekly breakfast program and TIHAN's monthly lunch program provided not just food and nutrition, but also



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opportunities for people living with HIV/AIDS to meet others for support and networking and to reduce the social isolation still facing many people living with HIV.

Other TIHAN services provided in 2006 included providing **emergency financial support and donated household items for 73 people** living with HIV/AIDS, as well as funding to help cover **burial and cremation expenses for eight persons who passed away; extensive information, referral and advocacy support for 176 people** living with HIV (an increase of 115% over the previous year); and working in collaboration with the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) to **brighten the holidays with gifts and an event for 37 families living with HIV/AIDS, along with a holiday party for 64 people** living with HIV/AIDS. TIHAN also delivered full **turkey dinners for the holiday to 34 people** living with HIV, and provided **back-to-school supplies for our CarePartners with children.**

All of these programs and services continued during a **major transition as TIHAN moved its offices in 2006.** In April, TIHAN moved into expanded office space to meet the growth in our organization.

The new location, which almost **doubled the amount of office space we had**, is located in the Craycroft Plaza complex on 2nd Street and Craycroft (one block south of Speedway). Our new office is located on two major bus lines, and the 2,088 square feet of space allows us much better working conditions as TIHAN continues to grow. (It's hard to believe that only five years ago TIHAN was moving from our 300 square foot space at St. Francis into a seemingly immense 1,100 square feet at 5th and Alvernon.)

Many volunteers came forward to help with the daunting task of packing and moving and preparing the new space, and we are very grateful. In May, we had an **open house for the community, complete with blessings of our new space by clergy** and spiritual leaders.

In 2006, TIHAN commemorated our 12th year of responding, educating, and serving

TIHAN's donors continued to be generous in supporting what has become Arizona's largest privately-funded provider of support services to people living with HIV.

In addition to grants from supporting foundations such as the **Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, Long Realty Cares Foundation, AGRA, and Until There's A Cure Foundation**), the majority of TIHAN's 2006 income came from individuals, businesses, congregations, and fundraising events (Turnabout for TIHAN, and new fundraising efforts including special online auctions of a weekend at Miraval Life in Balance Resort and an autographed Lance Armstrong poster). Under the leadership of co-chairs Terri Zarling and Kalyn Stith, **"Treasures for TIHAN" was once again our biggest fundraising event, raising a record-breaking \$106,000 to support our programs and services!**

Our amazing team of volunteers continued to dedicate their time and talents to provide AIDS education and awareness, and to provide support services to people living with HIV. **In 2006, an astounding 557 volunteers dedicated their time and energy through TIHAN, and for that we are tremendously grateful.**

TIHAN's team of staff in 2006 coordinated the efforts of our volunteers. Administrative Assistant **Leslie Johnson** continued her faithful service to TIHAN, and coordinated major milestone events of TIHAN's move to new offices and a new database. **Juanita Molina** celebrated her one-year anniversary serving as our Director of CarePartner Support, overseeing TIHAN's support services for people living with HIV. In March, Director of Education **Diane Williams** left TIHAN to pursue her graduate studies in Massachusetts, and in April TIHAN was fortunate to recruit **Jess Knutson** to join our staff as our new Director of Education and Community Relations, TIHAN's second full-time staff person.

Sarah **"Uppie" Updegraff** completed her one-year internship as a Program Associate. **Leanna Stetson** continued to serve as our part-time Poz Cafe Kitchen/Menu Supervisor. In 2006, a **grant from Sharon and Larry Malcolmson funded a vital new part-time staff position for TIHAN: Volunteer and Congregational Coordinator**, a 20-hour/week position that was filled part of the year by **Cherwee Hughley** and then by **Judy Lynn**. TIHAN's founding Executive Director **Scott Blades** continued in his 12th year of service to TIHAN.

In addition to increasing our office space and adding a half-time Volunteer and Congregational Coordinator, we implemented two changes to increase our ability to bring in more volunteers through a **weekly drop-in evening**

The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network

- ...providing HIV education and awareness to over 7,000 people
- ...offering support to 244 people living with HIV/AIDS
- ...involving 557 volunteers to be part of the solution
- ...serving as a steward for the hundreds of donors in our community who invest in TIHAN as a means of building a healthier and more compassionate community
- ...providing a voice for people living with HIV/AIDS
- ...working to end the stigma of HIV within religious communities
- ...building bridges of hope and support

event for volunteers during office extended hours on Tuesday nights, and **monthly volunteer orientations** to help get people connected quickly. Additionally, we implemented **new evaluations** to ensure that we are meeting the needs of those we serve with our education and support services, and initiated two focused **“Called to Care” weekends** where we devoted our efforts to be more visible within our member faith communities. Another 2006 innovation was our new reader-friendly **monthly e-newsletter designed to increase communication.**

With support from staff, TIHAN's **volunteers continued working towards fulfilling the mission of the organization:** *fostering awareness and education to prevent the spread of HIV infection and to decrease the level of fear and stigma, providing care and support for all of us infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, and catalyzing the religious community towards a compassionate*

response to this crisis affecting our families.

2006 also saw TIHAN continue its role as a **collaborator with other agencies in the HIV/AIDS community in Southern Arizona.** Working together with SAAF, TIHAN worked to ensure coordinated care and support for many persons living with HIV/AIDS, as well as advocacy where needed. Collaborative programs and events with SAAF, Cope Behavioral Services, Wingspan, and other groups provided opportunities to share TIHAN's message of a faithful, compassionate response to the AIDS crisis. TIHAN continued to be involved with other community HIV programs, including the Pima County HIV/AIDS Consortium, a coalition of organizations working to address HIV service issues in Southern Arizona.

TIHAN's unique coalition of congregations continued to make inroads towards destigmatizing HIV/AIDS and

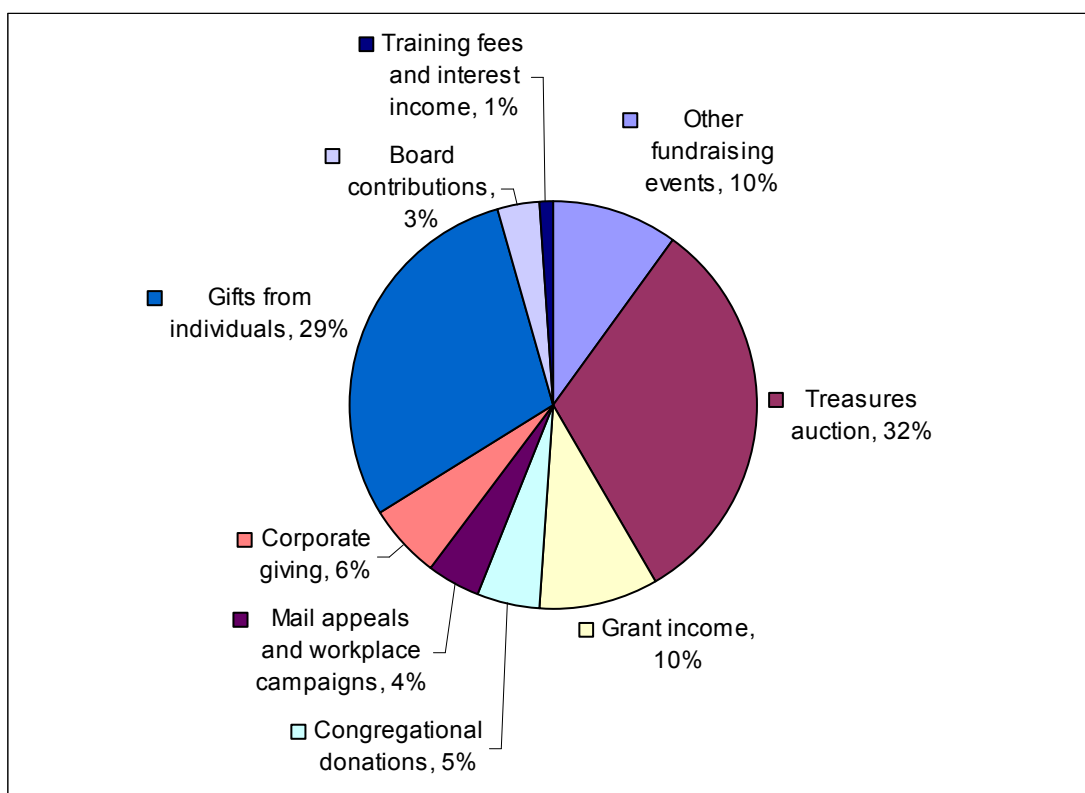
fostering awareness and compassion within our religious community, bringing more people and more resources into the fight against AIDS. TIHAN continued to provide referrals to HIV-sensitive clergy who, upon request, make pastoral visits, provide the sacraments, and conduct memorial services. And through a series of interfaith worship services focusing on healing and hope, persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS received the embrace of the community.

In 2006, TIHAN continued to take the lead in Southern Arizona:

- * offering HIV awareness and education programs within religious communities and congregations
- * providing volunteer-based non-medical support, socialization, and nutrition programs for people living with HIV
- * recruiting, training, coordinating, and supporting congregational volunteers to serve persons living with HIV/AIDS
- * forging partnerships between local congregations, people of faith, AIDS service organizations, and people living with HIV/AIDS

Thank YOU for making all this possible!

Sources of Income and Support: 2006



Programs and Services

CareTeams

Groups of several volunteers (usually four or five) who are assigned to one CarePartner (a person who is living with HIV or AIDS). Team members take turns meeting with and supporting the CarePartner, providing non-medical support.

Poz Cafe

Once a month, volunteers from local Tucson congregations provide a nutritious lunch for people living with HIV. After lunch, participants go to our Poz MarketPlace and pick up a care package that is filled with donated toiletries and personal care items.

Poz Breakfast

Offering free weekly breakfasts for people living with HIV, courtesy of Mother Hubbard's Restaurant.

Memorial Fund

Assisting families with the costs of burial and cremation after the loss of a loved one due to the effects of HIV/AIDS.

Information, Referral, and Advocacy

Working closely with other service providers and agencies to advocate for people living with HIV/AIDS, and to make sure that people living with HIV are aware of all their options for support.

CarePartner Support Programs

Providing emergency financial support to persons living with HIV/AIDS, and helping make the holidays brighter for those living with HIV/AIDS—through gifts and events for Thanksgiving and the December holidays.

Congregational Attainment

TIHAN started in 1994 as a coalition of 11 congregations committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, and that number has grown to 39 faith communities.

Congregational HIV Awareness and Displays

Providing HIV/AIDS education programs within the settings of faith communities to dispel the fear, stigma, and myths about this disease, and to provide visibility to AIDS as an issue important for faith communities to address.

Clergy HIV Awareness

Focusing specifically on providing accurate HIV information to clergy and to engage them in becoming active participants in our work.

Continuing Education Programs

Conducting continuing education programs throughout the year to keep people up-to-date on the latest news about HIV and an informed, compassionate response.

Volunteer Recruitment and Training

Providing volunteer recruitment, orientation, and training for prospective volunteers. After conducting outreach about TIHAN and the needs of people living with HIV and how volunteers can put their faith into action, TIHAN produces comprehensive full-day training sessions.

Interfaith Services of Healing and Hope

Conducting quarterly Interfaith Services of Healing and Hope which serve as memorials and means to remember and grieve as well as to inspire and renew the commitment to AIDS awareness and action.

Congregational Liaison

In order to assure on-going communication between TIHAN and its member congregations, each faith community is asked to formally designate one of its members as a congregational liaison to TIHAN.

Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network

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A compassionate interfaith response to AIDS

2006 Member Faith Communities

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
Bodhisattva Institute (Tibetan Buddhism)
Campus Christian Center
Casas Adobes Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)
Carondelet Health Care Corporation of Southern Arizona
Catalina United Methodist Church
Church of the Apostles (Episcopal Church)
Church of the Painted Hills United Church of Christ
Congregation Ner Tamid (Reform Judaism)
Congregation Or Chadash (Reform Judaism)
Cornerstone Fellowship
First Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)
Grace St. Paul Episcopal Church
Green Valley Community Church (United Methodist)
Lutheran Church of the Foothills (ELCA)
Mosaic United Methodist Church
Newman Center/St. Thomas More Catholic Parish
Prince Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME)
Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Rincon Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)
Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church
Santa Cruz Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Shalom Mennonite Fellowship
Southside Presbyterian Church
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
St. Cyril Catholic Church
St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church
St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
St. Pius X Catholic Church
Temple Emanu-El (Reform Judaism)
Tucson Multi-Faith Alliance
Unitarian Universalist Church of Northwest Tucson
Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson
Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church

Staff (as of December 2006)

Executive Director—Scott Blades

Director of Education and Community Relations—Jess Knutson

Director of CarePartner Support—Juanita Molina

Volunteer and Congregational Coordinator—Judy Lynn

Poz Café Kitchen/Menu Coordinator—Leanna Stetson

Administrative Assistant—Leslie Johnson



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