

Impact: 2014



Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network
A Compassionate Response to HIV/AIDS

*Commemorating 20 Years of
Supporting People in
Living Well with HIV*

TIHAN provided **support services to 306 unique people living with HIV/AIDS** and their families throughout 2014.

Poz Cafe, TIHAN's popular lunch program, **served 1,618 meals** to 187 unique individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their guests. In October, we celebrated serving our 20,000th meal at Poz Café!

In addition to the critical nutrition and socialization components of Poz Cafe, the program also provided a **hands-on AIDS education and service experience for 198 volunteers from 33 faith communities** and groups. And 31% of these congregational volunteers were serving at Poz Café for the first time.

In 2014, TIHAN **provided 1,280 care packages** filled with needed toiletry and personal items for those we serve, more than we've ever provided.

Our Link Specialist volunteers helped connect CarePartners with support services provided by TIHAN and other agencies. During the year, these Link Specialist volunteers devoted more than **1,336 hours in direct service and were responsible for providing information, referral, and advocacy to 299 people** living with HIV/AIDS (an increase of 38% over the previous year). Our Link Specialists provided 1,972 units of service in 2014.

TIHAN's **CareTeam program**, in its 20th year of existence, continued to meet a vital need in the community. **Teams of volunteers provided a host of non-medical support services to persons living with HIV and AIDS**, providing in-home help, nursing home/hospital 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 an average of 11 **free breakfasts for people living with HIV every week of 2014**. This weekly breakfast program and TIHAN's monthly lunch program provided not just food and nutrition, but also 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 2014 included providing **emergency food support**, expedited connection to **emergency financial support** for 27 CarePartners, and working in collaboration with the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation to **brighten the holidays with gifts and an event for 38 families living with HIV/AIDS (and their 77 children** under the age of 18).

**BELIEVE
THERE IS
GOOD IN
THE WORLD**

70 unique persons living with HIV participated in our Living Well curriculum in 2014. 41 persons living with HIV attended at least one of our Living Well classes. 46 persons with HIV benefited from our food and nutrition education in our two-part **Eating Well class** (a collaboration with the UA Cooperative Extension Program). And we debuted our **budgeting class for people living with HIV, Planning Well**, with two classes attended by 11 people.

We are grateful to the incredible team of volunteers and staff who made this possible in 2014!



In 2014, TIHAN recruited and trained 52 new volunteers, helping engage them to learn more about HIV and helping to make a difference.

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 2014, an amazing cadre of volunteers dedicated their time and energy through TIHAN, documenting almost 10,000 volunteer hours!** For this, we are tremendously grateful.

With support from our 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 so that we can live well, and catalyzing the religious community towards a compassionate response to this crisis affecting our families.

TIHAN'S PROGRAMS AND SERVICES 2014

- Living Well with HIV Classes
- Eating Well Programs
- Planning Well Budgeting Classes
- Poz Cafe Lunch
- Care Packages
- Care Teams
- Poz Breakfast
- Link Specialist Support
- Advocacy
- Information and Referral
- Emotional/Social Support
- Keeping People Connected to Care
- Transportation Support
- Holiday Support Programs
- Community Relations and Connections
- Congregational HIV Awareness and Displays
- Clergy HIV Awareness and Referral Network
- Volunteer Recruitment
- Orientation and Training for New Volunteers
- Congregational Liaisons
- Community AIDS Awareness

The Independent Sector, a nonprofit that serves the charitable community and tracks the dollar worth of volunteers each year, has put the average dollar value of a volunteer hour at \$22.55.

This means that the **9,968 volunteer hours completed and documented by 451 TIHAN volunteers in 2014 are valued at an impressive \$224,778!**



Our 2013 "Myron Morris Excellence in Caring Award" Recipient: Jenny Hartung

TIHAN's Myron Morris Excellence in Caring Award is presented to one person each year who has exhibited tremendous overall contributions to TIHAN and to our community.

This honor is named after our hero and one of the greatest lifetime contributors to TIHAN: Dr. Myron Morris, who personified the best of TIHAN, the best of caring for our CarePartners, the best of board leadership, the best of fundraising efforts, the best of being an ambassador for TIHAN to everyone he met.

The 2013 recipient of this award was Jenny Hartung. Jenny's been involved with TIHAN seven years when her church introduced her to Poz Café. She loved that experience, and became very involved with TIHAN, becoming a fierce advocate for people living with HIV, always with the mission of making people's lives a little better, a little happier.

Jenny cares for a number of CarePartners whom she calls each week and provides transportation to their appointments. She is known for her personal attention that ensures people know that she truly cares. Jenny regularly provides a sympathetic ear, emotional support, and referrals back to the TIHAN office when additional support or services are needed. And as a Mobile Link Specialist, she visits CarePartners in the hospital and at home, delivers Care Packages, and transports CarePartners to medical and other appointments. She truly makes life better for those CarePartners that she supports.

Jenny also helps with Poz Café every month, is a major support for our two holiday events for people living with HIV, and she also volunteers for our benefit auction Treasures for TIHAN.

TIHAN and our community of people living with HIV are blessed to be part of Jenny's passion for love and affirmation and inclusion and care. Thank you, Jenny, for your caring service to TIHAN and those we serve.



The Gift You Are

Thank you for donating, thanks for volunteering, thanks for partnering with TIHAN during the past year, and the past 20 years. We seek to honor and support those living with HIV and the volunteers who give of themselves. And honor and remember those we have lost.



Looking back on 2014, there are many images that come to mind: celebrating hearts that care, providing updated information on the state of HIV, building new programs to help support people in living well, focusing on creating wellness and celebrating life, making legacies that will continue even after we are gone, and supporting people in living a life more positive.

In addition to our 20th year of service, we also celebrated another milestone, serving our 20,000th meal Poz Café.

TIHAN is grateful to have the support of volunteers, donors, and partners who help us to be strong and faithful in working for our mission of a compassionate response to HIV.

We celebrate the gift you are, and the lives you make better.



In 2014, TIHAN commemorated the milestone of 20 years of amazing volunteers and caring faith communities serving the needs of our HIV community. It truly is a milestone. When we started two decades ago at St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church supported people dying of AIDS, we never imagined that we'd still be needed 20 years later. We were sure there would be a cure for AIDS soon... That cure is coming, but it remains elusive.

Fortunately, treatments for HIV are keeping people alive, and TIHAN's mission is to support people in living as well as possible with HIV.

As part of our 20th anniversary, we had some great moments:

The Pima County Board of Supervisors issued a proclamation acknowledging our 20 years of service, naming October to be "Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network Appreciation Month."

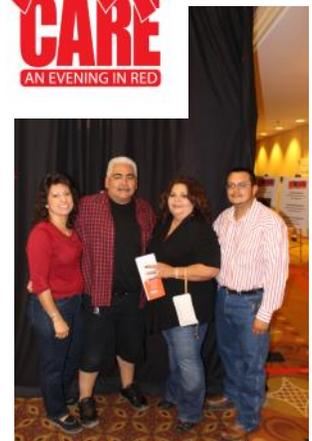
We presented special edition Ben's Bells, hand-painted with love by people living with HIV, to some of our longtime key supporters.

We gathered together a group of Tucson's First Responders to HIV: pioneers from the first decade of HIV (from the Tucson AIDS Project, People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson—PACT for Life, and the Shanti Foundation) to offer our gratitude for leading the way and building a foundation for a sustained response, offering support and building critical programs in those very difficult times.

We held a special recognition event for 20 years of TIHAN leadership—board members and key volunteers from TIHAN's two decades of service.

"I'm so glad you listen and respond to our needs—thank you! You have kept up to speed on all the suggestions I've made and I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

—comment from a person living with HIV, on the annual satisfaction survey TIHAN conducts



IMPACT 2014

- Providing HIV education and awareness to thousands of people in the community
- Offering a host of support services to 306 people living with HIV/AIDS
- Connecting people to medical care, linking them to services
- Involving 451 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, more compassionate community
- Providing a voice for people living with HIV/AIDS
- Giving donors the chance to be part of the solution and bringing hope and healing to people in need
- Carrying on the tradition of working for social justice
- Collaborating with other providers
- Working to end the stigma of HIV within religious communities
- Building bridges of hope and support
- Supporting people living with HIV to live as well as possible



Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network

a compassionate interfaith response to HIV/AIDS

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Even though they are no longer present with us, Ken Sullivan and Jerry Geller, continue to make a difference, even after their passing in 2012.



Their bequest helps TIHAN continue to serve our community and provide the important support services to people living with HIV/AIDS that meant so much to Ken and Jerry.

Their lives continue to be blessings.

2013 Empowerment Award Recipient: Iva Todd



Iva Todd is an amazing woman who's been involved with TIHAN for more than eight years. In 2013, we witnessed Iva take some major steps, as she began doing public speaking about living with HIV. That's not always easy for anyone. For some women, it's especially difficult. And for some African Americans, it's even more difficult. We have watched as Iva has grown more confident in herself and has become

looked to as a role model for others living with HIV.

Iva is always willing to share her story and talk at our volunteer trainings, helping others understand what she's experienced, and helping them to become more sensitive and supportive to people with HIV, especially other women living with HIV.

One of the things that is inspiring about Iva is that she's so strong. Even through some very difficult circumstances, Iva lives life with a positive outlook and a great smile, always offering loving hugs. She is a loyal friend to many people in the HIV community, and she is active in supporting other women living with HIV.

We are blessed to have Iva with us, and we were proud to honor her with TIHAN's Empowerment Award in February 2014. Congratulations and thank you, Iva!

2014 Board of Directors

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TIHAN's Staff Team *(as of December 2014)*

Executive Director—Scott Blades
Program Manager—Deirdre Demers
Office and Volunteer Coordinator—Mark Rosenbaum
Bill Toogood—Link Specialist Coordinator
Living Well with HIV Program Manager—Ari Kelly
Poz Cafe Kitchen/Menu Supervisor—Roy DeBise