



Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network NEWSLETTER

Tucson, Arizona

April 2009

Vol. 14, No. 2

A Note of Farewell and Thanks

Dear Scott,

TIHAN and Poz Cafe are where most of my wonderful Tucson memories and friendships happened. When I arrived here in April 2004, my first Poz Cafe brought a warm welcome and the first home-cooked meal that I had since my trip began in Illinois. This past Thursday was my last Poz Cafe, the last of so many home-cooked meals, so many smiles, so much laughter, and memories to last a lifetime.

"Thank you" seems so inadequate for the experience and an organization that provides so much. One of the best memories I pack in my treasure chest is Poz Cafe. The miracle that occurs each month is a story I will never tire of telling — how an empty space becomes a loving dining room in a matter of hours, and all the sharing that takes place in the process. It's a very unique and special experience.

One of the questions that I always asked the volunteers that I met at Poz Cafe was, "What brought you to TIHAN?" I found out that they volunteered in memory of a son, a brother, a lover. Over the years, I met the daughters, the sisters and the mothers and fathers living with and affected by the virus as well. TIHAN really is a family.

There are so many hearts and smiles that I looked forward to seeing each month. So many warm embraces, so much sincerity and genuine caring. I wish I could have said goodbye in person to you and so many others, but time and circumstances don't always allow for farewells.

I wish the best to you and all those that I came to know, respect, and care about. Thank you for so much.

—Ed, a TIHAN CarePartner living with HIV, and a volunteer

"Treasures for TIHAN"

Benefit Auction

Saturday, May 9, 2009

Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park

- * Purchase your tickets now and join us on May 9th
- * Buy raffle tickets (and/or help sell them to your friends, family, and colleagues)
- * Join our team of event volunteers
- * Donate art or gift certificates or other items for our auction
- * Become an event sponsor



Get your event tickets and raffle tickets, become a sponsor, or support Treasures with a donation online
www.tihan.org



Master of Ceremonies
Chuck George
KOLD-TV 13

TREASURES!

- * great food * fun entertainment *
- * festive decorations * great items to bid on *
- * mix and mingle with wonderful people *
- * no host cocktails * silent auction *
- * live auction * buy your Mother's Day gifts *

and this year, we will be honoring
10 Mothers Who Make A Difference!

For more information, purchase tickets, or to donate your time, talents, or treasures in support of this event, call 299-6647

This year's event is dedicated
to honoring the memory of Dr. Myron Morris

It's just a lunch. It's just a place where people living with HIV can feel welcomed. A place where volunteers from Tucson's faith communities come to learn and serve and create a safe place—and a good meal—for our CarePartners living with HIV/AIDS. But when you support Poz Cafe, you are supporting something that is **amazing** in importance.

As you will see in TIHAN's Annual Report inside this newsletter, when you give to TIHAN, you're helping create that sense of welcome, a helping hand, encouraging people not only to receive but also to extend their hands to give back to others.

Our programs and services are funded by individuals like you who share the values that TIHAN encompasses: *care, compassion, inclusion, family, advocacy, awareness, education*. I urge you to give today and help us continue this work to build a more caring and compassionate community, where everyone is valued. We need your gift today to help us serve during these difficult times.

— **Scott Blades, Executive Director**



Faith in Action

What you do the OTHER six days of the week matters too!

Top 10 Volunteer Opportunities

- * Data entry volunteers
- * CareTeam volunteers
- * Volunteers experienced with development
- * Volunteer Administrative Assistants
- * Link Specialists (to help keep CarePartners engaged in care and support)
- * Women Living with HIV/AIDS
- * A volunteer familiar with telephone systems
- * People who aren't afraid to ask!
- * Volunteers to help make calls and schedule speakers
- * Event volunteers

For more information about these volunteer opportunities, contact Kim Talerico, Volunteer Coordinator, at 299-6647 or kim@tihan.org

The Economy and Volunteering

by Kim Talerico, Volunteer Coordinator

It's hard to find an upside to the state of our economy, but, it does give us a chance to re-evaluate our priorities, and start doing those things we never seem to have the time for -- like giving back. Volunteering will strengthen your resume which will assist you in keeping you current job, helping you find a new job or maybe even a new career.

"As our nation confronts the most severe economic downturn since the Great Depression, an enhanced commitment to local and community service is needed now more than ever," White House Budget Director Peter Orszag wrote to Senator Edward Kennedy on March 6.

How can you begin giving back? Attend a TIHAN Volunteer Orientation:

Our 2009 Schedule is as follows:

Thursday, May 14 from 5:15-9:15pm at First UCC
Tuesday, July 14 from 1:00-5:00pm at TIHAN
Thursday, September 10 from 5:15-9:15pm at First UCC
Thursday, November 12 from 5:15-9:15pm at First UCC

For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact me at 299-6647 or kim@tihan.org. To get more information about TIHAN, visit our website at www.tihan.org



Natalie Brown with peer educators of Karangai Secondary School

From Tanzania to Tucson, A Volunteer's Perspective

by Natalie Brown, TIHAN Volunteer

Having been involved in AIDS education in Arizona with TIHAN and other organizations, I understand the challenges and difficulties inherent in such work. We have all faced a multitude of obstacles including stigma against people living with HIV/AIDS, resistance to discussions about sexuality and methods of preventing sexual transmission of HIV, and limited funding for various projects.

Volunteering for three months with Support for International Change to teach about HIV/AIDS in rural Tanzanian villages revealed many myths still common there, including that HIV is a curse or punishment from an angry deity, that condoms pose a severe health risk, that certain herbs and trees can cure HIV, and that European and American companies are intentionally spreading HIV throughout Africa.

We often encountered individuals who wanted us to disclose the HIV status of everyone in the community and who felt that providing medications for people living with HIV would allow those individuals to spread the virus to more people. Common understandings that we take for granted in the United States were often not held in Tanzania. I will be forever grateful that we do not currently face such difficulties here.

There are many obstacles common to fighting HIV/AIDS in Tanzania and Tucson—such as lack of housing, inadequate nutrition, stigma, detrimental transmission myths, and lack of compassion. TIHAN's programs and services help people living with HIV overcome these obstacles right here in Tucson and make it possible for volunteers and donors to support the fight against HIV/AIDS without having to travel across the globe.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

| | |
|------------|--|
| April 25 | Volunteer Appreciation Event |
| April 25 | Care & Support Training (a joint program of TIHAN and SAAF) |
| April 26 | Final Day of "World Vision Experience: AIDS" at Pima County Fair |
| May 7 | Continuing Education: Death and Dying |
| May 9 | ❖ Treasures for TIHAN Benefit Auction ❖ |
| May 14 | Orientation for New Volunteers |
| May 14-17 | Fabulous Faygeleh LGBT Jewish Film Festival |
| May 17 | AIDS Candlelight Memorial |
| May 21 | Poz Cafe |
| May 21, 22 | Congregational Liaison Meetings |
| June 4 | Continuing Education: Substance Abuse |
| June 18 | Poz Cafe |
| June 27 | Speakers & Media Training |

How Satisfied Are TIHAN's CarePartners? Results from our 2008 Survey

Last fall, TIHAN surveyed our CarePartners to get feedback about our programs and services. Thanks to the 68 people who completed the 7-page survey to help us know how we're doing and how we can improve.

Primary Reason People Attend Poz Cafe: "It lifts my spirits"

73% reported that TIHAN's care packages are important/very important

The service rated most helpful (other than Poz Cafe): Link Specialist Program (86%)

To what extent does TIHAN help improve the quality of your life?

"TIHAN helped me see my greater potential."

"My CareTeam gets me out of the house. I get to share with them and we laugh a lot."

"Poz Cafe is the one time of the month that I know I may receive affirmations of good will and good spirit. It's my once a month guarantee of feeling good about myself."

"They have helped me out in every way you can think of. My rent. If it wasn't for TIHAN, I don't know where I would be. Because back home we don't have this. People here are very merciful."

"They let me publicly speak about my HIV."

"I thank God for you all and your hard work and dedication. TIHAN is a major reason I stay here in Tucson! Thank you!"

"Even if I do not use all that is offered, it gives me great comfort to know TIHAN is there for me."

To what extent does TIHAN help to improve your quality of life?

Extremely—42%

Considerably—27%

Moderately—15%

Other feedback about TIHAN and our support services and our staff:

"There are a lot of beautiful people in this organization that all have contributed in many ways. God bless all these people and this organization for being in this community."

"The fatigue and pain are very overpowering, but with the help from others it makes it bearable."

"I can't say enough about the unsung heroes of TIHAN. The unconditional love is always there. There is so much real caring. God loves you and so do I."

The Denver Principles: Rebuilding the Movement 26 Years After Its Creation

by Erin Strange, Director of CarePartner Support

This June will mark the 26th anniversary of the creation of the Denver Principles. The Denver Principles are a set of self-empowering guidelines that came out of a series of meetings held at the "Health Pioneering in the Eighties," a GLBT health conference which took place in Denver in the summer of 1983. "The Denver Principles" was a collaboration between a group of people with AIDS, outlining a plan to take control over one's own care and support. They state the people have the right to be treated with dignity, care, and compassion; that people with AIDS have the right to be informed of all medical procedures and outcomes, and have the absolute right to accept or refuse treatment if they so wish. These were groundbreaking, and set the stage for a movement. TIHAN reaffirms our support of these principles, which remain vitally important today.

The Denver Principles—1983

We condemn attempts to label us as 'victims,' a term which implies defeat, and we are only occasionally 'patients,' a term which implies passivity, helplessness, and dependence upon the care of others. We are 'People with AIDS.'

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL PEOPLE.

1. Support us in our struggle against those who would fire us from our jobs, evict us from our homes, refuse to touch us or separate us from our loved ones, our community or our peers, since available evidence does not support the view that AIDS can be spread by casual, social contact.
2. Not scapegoat people with AIDS, blame us for the epidemic or generalize about our lifestyles.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS.

1. Form caucuses to choose their own representatives, to deal with the media, to choose their own agenda and to plan their own strategies.
2. Be involved at every level of decision-making and specifically serve on the boards of directors of provider organizations.
3. Be included in all AIDS forums with equal credibility as other participants, to share their own experiences and knowledge.
4. Substitute low-risk sexual behaviors for those which could endanger themselves or their partners; we feel people with AIDS have an ethical responsibility to inform their potential sexual partners of their health status.

RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH AIDS.

1. To as full and satisfying sexual and emotional lives as anyone else.
2. To quality medical treatment and quality social service provision without discrimination of any form including sexual orientation, gender, diagnosis, economic status or race.
3. To full explanations of all medical procedures and risks, to choose or refuse their treatment modalities, to refuse to participate in research without jeopardizing their treatment and to make informed decisions about their lives.
4. To privacy, to confidentiality of medical records, to human respect and to choose who their significant others are.
5. To die--and to LIVE--in dignity.



Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network
1011 North Craycroft Road, #301
Tucson, Arizona 85711
(520) 299-6647
www.tihan.org

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON, AZ
PERMIT NO. 306

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

Inside This Special April Issue:

*2008 Annual Report
And
Honor Roll of Donors*

Be a part of the biggest and most fun event of the year to fund TIHAN's programs and services:
Treasures for TIHAN Benefit Auction—Saturday, May 9th

Join us for the excitement! **Tickets now on sale** 299-6647 or www.tihan.org

Become a FAN on **Facebook: Treasures for TIHAN** or visit us at **myspace: tihantucson**

May 17, 2009

6:00pm

At Himmel Park

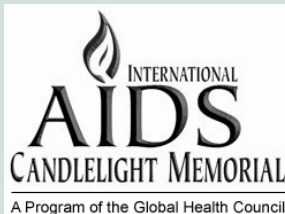
(one block south of Speedway,
just east of Tucson Boulevard)

Theme: "Together We Are the Solution"

You can:

- * Attend the event with your family, friends, youth group, etc.
- * Join the planning committee
- * Enter the singer/songwriter contest for youth and young adults
- * Enter the poster contest

For more information, contact Ari Kelly,
Director of Education & Community Relations,
ari@tihan.org or 299-6647.



Win \$1,000 Cash Grand Prize!
Raffle Tickets—Only \$5

Treasures for TIHAN Raffle - win a host of great prizes,
including \$1,000 cash!

Tickets \$5 each
or 5 tickets for \$20, or 15 tickets for \$50.

Tickets are on sale now at TIHAN and may be purchased
by calling 299-6647.

Raffle drawing will take place on May 9, 2009 at Treasures for TIHAN. Winner
does not need to be present to win. All proceeds benefit TIHAN's programs.

National Volunteer Appreciation Week

April 19-25 is National Volunteer Appreciation Week.

Volunteers are the heart of TIHAN, and we extend our
gratitude to everyone who gives of their time to help us
educate and to serve.

Your expertise and enthusiasm, your time and treasures,
your love and light mean the world to TIHAN and those
we serve. Thank you for your spirit of giving!