



Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network NEWSLETTER

Tucson, Arizona

February 2007

Vol. 12, No. 1

TIHAN's Board of Directors and Staff
cordially invite you to attend
**TIHAN's Annual Meeting
and Volunteer Recognition Party**

*an informal drop-in gathering
with hors d'oeuvres and cheer*

Tuesday, February 27

6:00pm—8:30pm

(program will take place from 7:00-7:45pm)

St. Michael's & All Angels Episcopal Church
602 North Wilmot (at 5th Street)
Parish Center

Featuring the presentation of awards recognizing
TIHAN's outstanding volunteers and supporters, and our
annual slide show with the people and highlights of 2006

A great way to introduce your friends to TIHAN
and our work—bring them, too!

Free and open to all — RSVP 299-6647

Mark your calendar for February 27 and come enjoy some
food, meet TIHAN's new Board of Directors, cheer on the
outstanding volunteers and supporters who we will be
recognizing, and see the slide show with highlights of the
people and events of TIHAN in 2006. We will also
approve changes to the organization's bylaws (see page 6).

Join us as we recognize our outstanding volunteers in these
categories: CareTeam, Poz event, AIDS education,
administrative, fundraising, Board, and "new" volunteers.
We will also be recognizing outstanding congregations and
businesses/organizations, as well as presenting the
"Empowerment Award" and "Excellence in Caring
Award."

Summary of Support Services Provided to People Living with HIV/AIDS in 2006

TIHAN served 244 people living with HIV/AIDS in 2006.
The support we received from our volunteers and member
congregations made it possible to provide compassionate
support to our CarePartners (people living with HIV/AIDS)
and those who support them.

Through Poz Cafe, we served 1,336 meals last year and
distributed 784 MarketPlace bags. CarePartner Support
volunteers and member congregations helped make Poz
Cafe a warm and loving environment.

Our Poz Breakfast program, courtesy of Mother Hubbard's
Restaurant, served 1,560 breakfasts to CarePartners.

CareTeams served 28 CarePartners. 24 people received
long-term support, while 14 received short-term Emergency
CareTeam support.

Memorial Fund assistance was provided to assist with
burial and cremation expenses for 8 CarePartners who
passed away in 2006.

Information, Referral, and Advocacy services were
provided to 176 CarePartners.

TIHAN provided emergency financial support and donated
household items to 73 CarePartners living with HIV/AIDS.

Thanks for Helping with the Holidays

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of
our volunteers and donors who made this an exceptional
holiday season for our CarePartners living with HIV/AIDS.

This year we served 37 families through our Family
Day event; 34 families received turkey dinners; and 64
CarePartners attended the holiday party dinner and dance.

The attention to detail that each volunteer and donor
brought to these events was noticed by our CarePartners,
and appreciated. We are truly grateful for all who so
generously shared their blessings.

Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS: March 4-10, 2007

For the third year, TIHAN is the lead organizer for the local commemoration of the annual **Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS**, a national effort of awareness. Our planning committee is being led by event Co-Chairs Dr. Yvette Miller and Rev. Lee Norris May, and we are collaborating with other community agencies and—most importantly—Black churches. We ask that you offer your prayers during this special week and that you challenge yourself and your faith community to engage in dialogue—sometimes difficult conversations—about the issues of HIV and AIDS facing our community.

The main focus of this event is not only about AIDS awareness and education, but also about the importance of getting tested for HIV.

There are many reasons that people don't get tested for HIV: **Who will find out my test results? Isn't HIV a death sentence? Won't my life be over? What will my family say? My faith community? If there isn't a cure, why should I even bother to know? If I test positive for HIV, who will help me?**



We hope to address each of these questions—and more—at each of the week's events which are designed to speak to the concerns of Tucson's African American community in relation to HIV/AIDS. We hope that you will join us and help make it a week of awareness, education, support, and healing.

Sunday, March 4—Called to Care: Prayers for the Healing of AIDS. We ask that ALL congregations join us and include in your worship services an offer of prayers for the healing of AIDS.

Sunday, March 4—Gospel Concert at 5:00 p.m. at Grace Temple Baptist Church, located at 1019 East 31st Street. Everyone is welcomed to this free concert as we raise our voices in song and in hope for the end of AIDS.

Monday, March 5—Ladies Night! A women-only discussion at 6:00pm at Friendship Baptist Church, located at 850 North 11th Avenue.

Tuesday, March 6—Clergy Fellowship Luncheon at 12:00noon at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. This is for clergy and clergy spouses only, and pre-registration is required.

Tuesday, March 6—Men's Night! A men-only discussion at 6:00pm at Prince Chapel Methodist Church, located at 602 South Stone.

Thursday, March 8 - Screening of the video "Out of Control: AIDS in Black America" at 6:00pm,

with a Community Discussion following at 7:00pm at Siloam Freewill Church, located at 628 East

Out of adversity comes strength.

Considering a new computer with Windows VISTA?

If your old computer is running Windows XP and is less than 3 years old, please consider donating it to TIHAN. Contact our Administrative Assistant, Leslie Johnson, at 299-6647 or leslie@TIHAN.org.



Don't Miss It!

"The Faces and Events of TIHAN: 2006"
a special slide show retrospective, set to music

This is our way of remembering and thanking all those who care so much and do so much

TIHAN's Annual Meeting
February 27, 2007

(see page 1 for more details)

Announcing...

The Special 10th Anniversary Celebration of “Treasures for TIHAN”

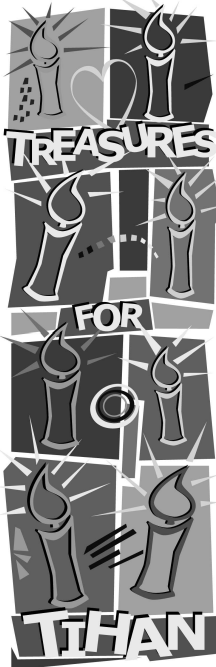
Kim Talerico and Richard Bolanos, Co-Chairs

To benefit the Tucson
Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network

Saturday
April 28, 2007
6:30pm
The Pavilion at
La Paloma Resort

Join us for
live and silent auctions,
great food, cocktails, and
festive entertainment

Tickets: \$65
(\$32 of each ticket is tax-deductible)
Raffle Tickets: \$10



You Can Help Make “Treasures” A Success!

We are looking for donations of the following items for our auction. Can you help us obtain them?

Quality art (original paintings/sculptures or numbered, limited editions)

Antiques, jewelry, textiles, home furnishings, and ceramics

Stays at hotels, bed and breakfasts, condos, timeshares, cabins, weekend getaway trips

Gift certificates and tickets for travel, restaurants, vacation packages, services, theaters, sporting events, trips, cultural events, and other attractions of local or national interest

Other creative gift items that will intrigue and attract TIHAN’s donors to bid on them!

Please call us at 299-6647 for more details about donating—or soliciting a donation from those in your circle of influence.

Join our Treasures sponsors—including **Community Partnership of Southern Arizona, Desert Diamond Casinos, AHM Mortgage, Drs. Kevin Carmichael and Tejal Parikh, Dean Groth/Long Realty, TMC Foundation, Excel Mechanical, Casa Ninos Montessori, Steve Quinlan and Randy Soderstrom**, and many other businesses, groups, and individuals—to make our 10th anniversary event a tremendous success!

If you would like to attend, buy raffle tickets, donate an item, be an event sponsor, or volunteer, please call us at 299-6647

Attention All CarePartners (People Living with HIV/AIDS)

It’s time to renew your registration for services in 2007. If you have not yet renewed your registration form in January, please do so as soon as possible.

Registration forms can be mailed or emailed to you, and they are available at Poz Cafe and at the TIHAN office.

A completed 2007 registration form is required in order to receive support services from TIHAN. For more information, contact Juanita Molina, Director of CarePartner Support, at 299-6647 or juanita@tihan.org. Thanks for your assistance!

Strength for the Journey

is a retreat for persons living with HIV, sponsored by the United Methodist Church. This year’s retreat at Pine Canyon Camp will be held on May 3-6. For more information or to register, call 325-2775.

Ignorance is not bliss.

by Jess Knutson, Director of Education and Community Relations

When we conduct an HIV awareness program, one of the questions we always ask on our evaluations is, "What additional questions do you have that weren't answered/or you didn't feel comfortable asking?" The overwhelming answer is "none." Which really means that our trainings are thorough and that we have succeeded in creating a safe environment for people to ask the questions.

When we do get responses, they are often more detailed and personal. In November, we presented to a group of high school students who for the most part knew a lot about HIV because TIHAN is invited there on a regular basis. All of the students were glad to have a refresher course, but there were still some questions that got asked only on the evaluation form after the presentation.

One comment stood out:
"Tell this to our parents."

Here is a sampling of the questions that students asked:

Can you get an HIV test without your parent's permission?

If you're on the pill and a condom was used, what are the chances of getting HIV?

Are there any alternatives besides condoms?

Say in the next ten years in one's life, you are married and your wife has tested positive for HIV and is pregnant. What do you do?

How long can AIDS survive on a needle in the air?

Can you get pregnant through oral sex?

What is the rate of people getting HIV because of abuse of drugs and alcohol?

These are real questions that are on the minds of our high school students. AIDS is part of their reality, and the discussion and the answers to these questions are most likely NOT normally being addressed in school.

One of the comments on an evaluation form stood out. It was a recommendation that is short and simple: "Tell this to our parents." For both parents and youth, the discussion of sex, drug use, HIV, and other sexually-transmitted diseases is often uncomfortable. But that doesn't mean that we should avoid the discussion.

We challenge you and your faith communities to work with TIHAN to design an "HIV 101" presentation for parents and youth that will address these questions in the way that is appropriate for you. We would be honored to help make this happen! Just let us know and we will be there to help further the dialogue between parents and youth.

2006 Results for TIHAN's HIV/AIDS Education and Awareness Programs

We had an exciting and productive year, thanks to our congregations and volunteers. Here are a few highlights from 2006:

TIHAN presented information about HIV/AIDS to 6065 adults. We presented HIV 101 and Living with HIV panels to 997 youth.

This means that over 7,000 people in Tucson learned about HIV and AIDS from TIHAN and our volunteers. These 7,000 people learned how to provide compassionate support to those infected and affected by the disease and how to prevent the spread of HIV.

We recruited and trained 84 new volunteers for TIHAN.

From our presentations, the average increase in knowledge from participants in our presentations about HIV/AIDS **tripled**, and we averaged over 300 hours of volunteers hours from our education volunteers.

Congratulations and thank you for all of your hard work!

The Bracelet

Wear it in memory of those who have fought the war called AIDS.

Wear it as a reminder of those who today continue this fight.

Wear it in support of vaccine development that will stop HIV infection.

Wear it Until There's A Cure!

You can buy The Bracelet:

www.utac.org

1(800) 88-UNTIL

Please mention TIHAN when you place your order!

TIHAN has new Conference Room furniture!

You can help us keep it looking good by donating 3 table top protectors—Plexiglas, table pads, or padded tablecloths with 6-8" overhang—for our three matching tables. Each table is 72 inches long by 42 inches wide.

To keep the wood looking nice on the tables and chairs we need soft dusting cloths, a good polish



such as Endust, and a good wood cleaner such as Orange Glow.

We also would like trivets to protect the table top from hot foods; placemats; and coasters.

For more information, contact Leslie Johnson, Administrative Assistant, at 299-6647 or leslie@tihan.org.

Tuesday Nights at TIHAN (TNT!)

A drop-in volunteer evening experience

Want to do some volunteer work but don't have a lot of time? How about a one-time commitment? Join TIHAN on Tuesday nights for our drop-in volunteer opportunity.

Our office is open on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-8:00pm, and we have all sorts of volunteer projects for you. Make a difference, have fun, and make new friends.

No training is required—just stop in and stay for an hour or two as you are able!

Buddha

On a long journey of human life, faith is the best of companions; it is the best refreshment on the journey; and it is the greatest property.

You Can Make Wishes Come True

By donating any of the following items, you can help TIHAN continue to provide education to communities of faith and services to our CarePartners. If you want more details, please contact Leslie Johnson, Administrative Assistant, at 299-6647 or leslie@tihan.org.

- Colorful plastic disposable table cloths for 72" x 32" tables at Poz Cafe.
- Attractive cupboards for our kitchen and bathrooms.
- Attractive open shelving for paper supplies.
- Professional rug cleaning service for our office.
- Programmable thermostat.
- 8.5" x 11" multipurpose 20-pound paper in white and colors (pastels and brights).
- 1" three-ring binders with clear-view covers for training manuals.
- HP57 (C6657A) Tri-color ink cartridges.
- HP56 (C6656A) Black ink cartridges.
- Dell Black ink cartridges (K-1014 for Dell Photo Printer 720).
- Small paper cups for water cooler (4-6 oz.)

Volunteer Orientations 2007

TIHAN is now offering a Volunteer Orientation every other month starting in March. (There will be no Volunteer Orientation in February.) Orientation will still be held at 5:15pm on the second Tuesday of the month, at First United Church of Christ (1350 North Arcadia Avenue, near Speedway and Swan). For answers to any questions you may have, or to sign up, please call the TIHAN office at 299-6647.



Calling All Congregational Liaisons!

The schedule of quarterly faith community liaison meetings for 2007 has been set. If you have not received it, please contact us at 299-6647. The goal is to raise attendance this year. While we've got a phenomenal group who meets regularly, the fun and energy at meetings can only increase with more passionate, dedicated people in attendance!

The Board of Directors submits the following four proposed changes to TIHAN's by-laws. The changes are designed to reflect the Board's shortening of TIHAN's mission statement, document our new corporate address, remove a requirement that people fill out a form to be an official TIHAN member, and to ease restrictions on Board membership.

If you have any questions or concerns about these changes, please contact a Board member or Scott Blades at 299-6647 or scott@tihan.org.

These changes will be voted on by the membership at TIHAN's Annual meeting on Tuesday, February 27.

ARTICLE II: MISSION & PURPOSE

SECTION 1: MISSION

We of the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, each called by faith, join to support and to advocate for people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as their loved ones. In cooperation with other care providers in our community, we offer our hearts and our hands, to educate and activate our faith communities, and to serve with understanding and compassion. Without prejudice or proselytism, we are called to serve, confident of the compassionate and sustaining presence of God.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE:

We of the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network offer our hearts and hands to provide compassionate and non-judgmental service to those affected by HIV/AIDS. Through education and support we, as individuals and faith communities, work to build bridges, reduce stigma and sustain hope.

ARTICLE IV: CORPORATE OFFICES

The principal office of the corporation shall be located in the state of Arizona. Unless otherwise fixed by the Board of Directors, the principal office shall be located at 492 North Alvernon Way, Tucson, Arizona 85711.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE:

The principal office of the corporation shall be located in the state of Arizona. Unless otherwise fixed by the Board of Directors, the principal office shall be located at 1011 North Craycroft #301, Tucson, Arizona 85711.

ARTICLE VI: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 2:

A person shall be admitted to membership if the person submits a completed Membership Activation Form, AND meets one of the following criteria:

- a) is a financial donor to TIHAN who has given more than \$25 in the previous calendar year*
- b) is a volunteer who has contributed at least 25 hours to a TIHAN program/committee or TIHAN administrative/fundraising effort in the previous calendar year*
- c) is a person living with HIV AND in the previous calendar year*
 - 1) has had a TIHAN CareTeam, or*
 - 2) has attended at least six (6) TIHAN programs for persons living with HIV*
- d) is a staff clergy person or the designated congregational liaison of a TIHAN member congregation*

Membership terms are based on the calendar year (January to December), and term renewal must be made annually.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE:

A person shall be admitted to membership if the person meets one of the following criteria:

- a) is a financial donor to TIHAN who has given more than \$25 in the previous calendar year**
- b) is a volunteer who has contributed at least 25 hours to a TIHAN program/committee or TIHAN administrative/fundraising effort in the previous calendar year**
- c) is a person living with HIV AND in the previous calendar year**
 - 1) has had a TIHAN CareTeam, or**
 - 2) has attended at least six (6) TIHAN programs for persons living with HIV**
- d) is a staff clergy person or the designated congregational liaison of a TIHAN member congregation.**

ARTICLE VII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 4:

Members of the Board of Directors shall be persons of faith. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, some persons possessing needed expertise may be invited to become members of the Board of Directors even though they are not formally associated with the congregations and organizations that have joined the corporation. The number of directors who are not affiliated with a community of faith shall not exceed one-third (1/3) of the total number of members of the Board of Directors.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE:

Members of the Board of Directors shall be persons of faith. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, some persons possessing needed expertise may be invited to become members of the Board of Directors even though they are not formally associated with the congregations and organizations that have joined the corporation. The number of directors who are affiliated with a community of faith shall make up more than 50% of the total number of members of the Board of Directors.

2006 CarePartner Survey Results: “Seeing TIHAN from the Perspective of a Consumer”

Last fall TIHAN’s program committee, under the leadership of Steve Trujillo and Bridget Ruiz, issued a report with the results of the 2006 anonymous survey of TIHAN’s CarePartners living with HIV/AIDS.

Here are excerpts from the report:

Twenty-four percent (24%) of participants indicated they had been involved with TIHAN for 1-12 months, 19% had been involved for 2 years, 18% had been involved for 3 years, 4% had been involved up to 4 years, 16% had been involved up to 5 years, and 19% had been involved for over 5 years.

Poz Cafe is one of TIHAN’s signature programs, a monthly luncheon open to people living with HIV. Fifty-four percent (54%) of participants responded that they attend the Poz Cafe eight (8) or more times per year. Twenty-three percent (23%) indicated that they attend the Cafe 4-7 times per year, 14% attend 1-3 times per year, and 8% indicated that they have never attended.

The survey asked participants who attend the Poz Cafe to select reasons for their attendance. Results show that 67% attended because they have friends who attend, 66% reported to meet people, 60% reported because it lifts their spirits, 56% to decrease isolation, 51% for the food, 31% went for the peer networking and support, and 15% attended because they were encouraged by their doctor or case manager.

Among the benefits of the Poz Cafe, the participants indicated that:

- *It makes them feel connected to others (87%)*
- *They enjoy time with peers (83%)*
- *It makes them feel involved (81%)*
- *They feel good about themselves afterwards (81%)*
- *Poz Cafe helps them learn about healthier living (52%)*
- *They learn about community resources (49%)*
- *They learn about HIV (49%)*
- *They learn about living with HIV at Poz Cafe(44%)*

Poz MarketPlace is offered onsite following the lunch at Poz Cafe. 33% of respondents indicated that they always pick up a care package at the marketplace, 34% pick up a package sometimes, and the remaining 33% have never picked up a care package. Regarding how important the participants rate Poz MarketPlace, the majority (50%) rate the MarketPlace as very important, 16% rate it as important, 15% rate it as moderate, 8% rate it as not so important, and 11% rate it as not at all important.

Among the most requested items for the care packages, 40% or more of participants requested (1) grocery store gift cards, (2) paper towels, and (3) toilet paper as necessary items for the packages. Thirty percent (30%) or more requested (1) band-aids, (2) surface and floor cleaner, (3) calling cards, (4) Q-tips, (5) deodorant, (6) bleach, (7) laundry detergent, (8) Kleenex, (9) Gatorade, (10) dish detergent, (11) lotions, (12) toothpaste, and (13) toothbrushes.

With respect to awareness and utilization of other TIHAN support services, 68% indicated that they were aware that TIHAN offers information, referral, and advocacy services, and 41% had utilized these services. Forty-six percent (46%) were aware that TIHAN offers emergency financial assistance services, and 23% had utilized these services.

In the qualitative portion of the survey, the majority of participants made positive comments in regards to the services provided by TIHAN and commitment of staff and volunteers. Other participants requested that TIHAN services be advertised more directly at the Poz Cafe.

In terms of support services that that participants felt were lacking in the community, some voiced a need for specialized support groups, such as groups for teens, older adults, newly infected individuals, gays, Spanish-speaking, and couples of mixed HIV status. Participants also expressed a desire for more programs that facilitate support and networking among HIV-positive persons. An additional suggestion was for more follow-up support services, such as phone calls or home visits.

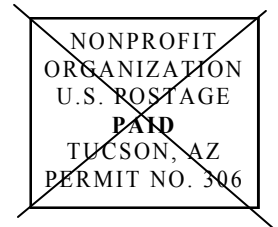
We are appreciative to our Program Committee volunteers for helping with this evaluation and compiling the results to help us grow and improve.

Poz Cafe:

67% attend because they have friends who are there. 66% reported to meet people. 60% said they attend because it lifts their spirits. 56% reported to decrease isolation. 51% attend for the food. 31% go for the peer networking and support. 15% attend because they were encouraged by their doctor or case manager.



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



ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

Inside This Issue:

*THE EVENT OF THE YEAR:
TIHAN'S ANNUAL MEETING AND
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PARTY*

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*"TREASURES FOR TIHAN"
10TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT!*

BLACK CHURCH WEEK OF PRAYER FOR AIDS

"IGNORANCE IS NOT BLISS"

RESULTS OF OUR CAREPARTNER SURVEYS

A Personal Perspective on TIHAN and Living with HIV/AIDS

by Bruce Jost

As a volunteer who "works the phones" at TIHAN's front desk, I am often touched by the courage of people facing what is perhaps the greatest challenge of their lives.

I have been moved to tears by the plight of those facing HIV and other challenges, financial and personal, yet they do not ask for pity or sympathy, just help. In any case, I can provide an empathetic ear, as I too am living with the specter of AIDS.

At this time in my life, I am doing very well with the medications that treat my disease. I know, however, that at any time, my meds can fail me and I can get sick within the snap of a finger. It is a sobering and frightening thought. I have been well enough not to need TIHAN's services, other than the love and support that I get from other volunteers and the incredible TIHAN staff. I need this love and support in my everyday life—in fact it is part of my medical regimen just as surely as medications, nutrition, and visits to my doctor.

I see my volunteerism as a two-pronged attack on my disease. I am comforted knowing that I am helping others to recover from this often debilitating disease and, more selfishly, perhaps, I am putting "money in the bank" for a rainy day, a day when I myself might fall ill and

need to call on other volunteers to help me as I have helped them. I would then accept the help that TIHAN offers, knowing that I have paid into the system. Once recovered, I would replenish my "bank account" by resuming my volunteer activities.

I am comforted to know that TIHAN is there for people living with HIV and AIDS. I am blessed to have a partner who could help to care for me in the event of a catastrophic illness, but not everyone is so fortunate. TIHAN offers so much support to me and other people living with AIDS that I don't know how I can ever repay their kindness.

The place where that kindness and acceptance is most evident is at Poz Cafe, a monthly lunch sponsored by our wonderful member faith communities. At Poz Cafe, people living with HIV/AIDS can gather together and receive a nutritional meal for their body and, perhaps more important, recharge their souls by communing with other like-minded people. There are few pretenses at Poz Cafe because everybody knows that the struggle is a shared struggle.

Poz Cafe and TIHAN—they are truly wonderful to behold.