

Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network Staff



Scott Blades
Executive Director

With a wide-ranging background in education, law, counseling, media, GLBT issues, and volunteer management, Scott helped found TIHAN in 1994 as a means of supporting the religious community to address the growing crisis of HIV affecting our community, and the accompanying issues of religious homophobia. With his passion for equality and justice issues, Scott is active in many groups and organizations in community, advocating and working to build bridges of understanding. He has been featured in many print and television stories, and has received multiple community awards for his leadership and contributions, including the William S. MacDonald Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014 from Equality Arizona.

Scott's position (full-time) with TIHAN involves overall day-to-day management of the organization, along with working with the board of directors, and development, community and congregational relations responsibilities. Scott works closely to support TIHAN staff with their program responsibilities. He can be reached at scott@tihan.org or 299-6647 ext 202.



Deirdre Demers
Program Manager

Deirdre hails from Pennsylvania and has volunteered and worked in the areas of community health, literacy, and education in Washington DC, rural Nicaragua, and here in Tucson. Her education is in Human Services and Public Health. Deirdre's areas of expertise and interest include women's health issues, HIV/AIDS, health equity, family health communication, and community healthcare access. She is excited to be a part of TIHAN's strong community response to HIV/AIDS. Deirdre is also a runner, an avid reader, and most importantly, a mom.

As TIHAN's Program Manager (full-time), Deirdre is responsible for managing agency programs for people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as training, placing, supporting, recognizing, and retaining volunteers to carry out the mission and programs of the agency. Deirdre will be working collaboratively with agency staff, agency volunteers, faith communities, healthcare providers, community groups, and social service agencies. She can be reached at ProgramManager@tihan.org or 299-6647 ext 203.



Kseniya Efremova
Program Coordinator

Born in Moscow, Russia, Kseniya (it rhymes with Kenya) has had the opportunity to live in New York, Phoenix, and Tucson, which she has called home for the past seven years. She recently obtained a Master's degree in international development from the University of Arizona, with a certificate in global health. Her interests include maternal and child health, sustainable community development, and program planning and evaluation. Kseniya is passionate about serving her community and is extremely excited to continue doing so in the Program Coordinator role with TIHAN. In her free time, Kseniya enjoys cooking, spending time in the outdoors, and travelling.

As TIHAN's Program Coordinator (full-time, 40 hours/week), Kseniya will be managing the agency's Link Specialist program and the Living Well with HIV program for people living with HIV/AIDS. She works collaboratively with staff and volunteers, faith communities, healthcare providers, community groups, and social service agencies, to ensure that program goals and objectives are successfully met. Providing education, support, and empowerment to Tucson's HIV/AIDS community, the Program Coordinator supports people living with HIV by connecting them with resources and classes that help them achieve their goals to live well. She can be reached at ProgramCoordinator@tihan.org or 299-6647 ext 207.



Bennett D. Burke
Volunteer Coordinator

A native Arizonan, Bennett's background includes volunteer management, corporate management, firefighting and emergency medical technology, college instructing, and a stint in the U.S. Navy. Bennett has also been a volunteer throughout his adult life, including leading a faith community, mentoring youth, serving on numerous nonprofit boards, teaching backpacking and desert survival, and working with immigrants and refugees. He has a bachelor's degree in business administration, and enjoys cycling, hiking, cooking, entertaining, reading, and educating. Bennett's areas of expertise and interest include program management and enhancement, recruiting, placement, motivation and recognition, building collaborative relationships, event planning, training, and personal growth. He is very happy to be part of the TIHAN team, helping to mobilize resources to respond to HIV/AIDS.

As TIHAN's Volunteer Coordinator (part-time, 20 hours/week), Bennett is responsible for recruiting, screening, orienting, placing, supporting, recognizing, and retaining volunteers to carry out the mission and programs of the agency. Bennett works collaboratively with agency staff, volunteers, faith communities, and community groups. He can be reached at VolunteerCoordinator@tihan.org or 299-6647 ext 206.



Ari Kelly
Living Well Program Support

A Tucson native, Ari first became involved with TIHAN in 2006 as a volunteer and then worked at TIHAN full-time from 2007-2009, focusing on educational outreach and community events. Her large extended family taught her the values of generosity, acceptance, and service and TIHAN is an excellent outlet for those values. Her education is in Anthropology and Pre-Health Sciences. After being home with her kids, she is thrilled to be able to again work with TIHAN's inspiring volunteers and staff and to serve her community. In her free time, Ari enjoys reading nonfiction books about other cultures, date nights with her husband, and listening to NPR podcasts. Target is her happy place and her ideal birthday celebration includes a baseball game and mini chimichangas.

Ari as Living Well Program Support (part-time, 5-10 hours/month) helps with TIHAN's "Living Well with HIV" program for people living with HIV/AIDS. She works collaboratively with agency staff, agency volunteers, faith communities, healthcare providers, community groups, and social service agencies.



Lois Britton
Poz Café Kitchen/Menu Supervisor

Lois is a native Tucsonan and a graduate of the University of Arizona. She is a Certified Public Accountant, working in church administration currently at St. Philip's In The Hills Episcopal Church and formerly at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Lois and her husband Ed, a PGA golf professional and former F-16 pilot, have three adult daughters. Ed's career has taken them across the U.S. as well as Spain and Poland. In her free time, she is an avid home cook and food blogger, writing about her cultural and culinary adventures. When asked why she wanted to work at Poz Cafe, Lois replied, "I love to cook for people. Food is my love language."

As TIHAN's Poz Cafe Kitchen/Menu Supervisor (part-time, 20 hours/month), Lois engages congregational volunteers in providing a healthy, nutritious monthly lunch for people living with HIV/AIDS, ensuring safety and compliance with health department rules and regulations. She can be reached at lois.britton@comcast.net.



Mark Rosenbaum
Operations Manager

Born in Pittsburgh, raised in Arlington, VA, Mark has called Tucson home since 1988. He studied Hotel/Restaurant Management at Michigan State, but ultimately opted for a career in information technology. He considers himself a 'people person,' first and foremost, and is passionate about the importance of good customer service in any field or endeavor.

Mark has been a volunteer with TIHAN's Living Well with HIV Advisory Committee since 2012. He has worked with volunteers in several local community groups including Reveille and Desert Voices, as well KXCI Community Radio, where he is one of the hosts of 'Jazz Sundae.' HIV+ for more than thirty years, Mark is excited about working with TIHAN and helping serve their important mission. In his free time, Mark and his husband Bruce enjoy going to movies, traveling, and being obedient Dads to their two cats.

As Operations Manager (full-time), Mark manages TIHAN's administrative volunteer staff, oversees daily office operations (including maintaining databases, coordinating acknowledgement of donations, maintaining office equipment and systems, and working with vendors), provides program and fundraising support, and performs varied advanced administrative work as required. He can be reached at OperationsManager@tihan.org or 299-6647 ext 204.