



# THE PRIDE CENTER VOICE

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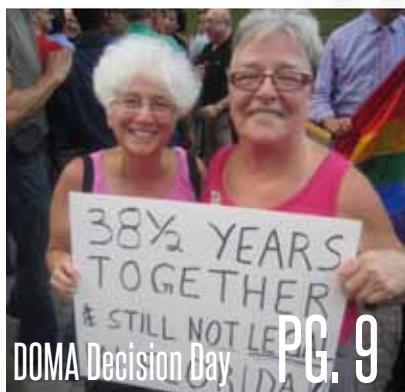
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## Something Wicked This Way Comes

*Wicked Manors Halloween block party returns*

By Doug Cureton

**B**eware! Rotting, flesh-hungry zombies will soon take over Wilton Manors.

Wicked Manors, the original Halloween Block Party Celebration, returns to Wilton Drive on Thursday, October 31, 2013 starting at 7:00 pm. The Pride Center at Equality Park in collaboration with The City of Wilton Manors will present this year's event.

"We are so excited to have Wicked Manors return to the Drive and to have the proceeds benefit the vital programs and services of The Pride Center," says Pride Center CEO, Robert Boo.

This year's theme "WICKED MANORS – Walking Dead on the Drive" will transform

the Drive into a landscape of the scariest and most creative zombies, werewolves and vampires along with thousands of the most amazing costumes you may ever see. Plan your costume now! Organizers plan several Costume Contests with big prize money.

Doug Cureton, Co-Founder of the original Wicked Manors 2007, is serving as this year's Chairperson.

"I am thrilled to help organize this wickedly wonderful evening of fun for the community with the partnership of The Pride Center and the City of Wilton Manors." says Cureton. "This is the only large scale street event that actually is held on Halloween in South Florida.

Literally thousands of people come to see and enjoy Wilton Manors."

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## Come to the Fair!

*Fourth Annual Senior Expo plans expanded, improved activities*

By Robert Saunders



**A**nthing worth doing is worth repeating -- and the Senior Health Expo at The Pride Center surely qualifies. This year's popular annual trade show promises to be bigger and better than ever. The fair runs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 19th.

"The Pride Center has a long history of supporting LGBT seniors and has an ongoing commitment towards advancing their health and well-being," said Senior Services Coordinator Bruce Williams. In line with that commitment, the annual Senior Health Expo has become one of the gems in The Center's calendar.

A major aim of the Expo is to create an

arena for LGBT seniors with diverse health and living needs to meet with numerous service providers who offer appropriate and respectful services. Over fifty LGBT-friendly medical, professional, support and financial providers in the fields of healthcare, aging and geriatrics will showcase their services and products.

"We want the LGBT community to be aware of available local, state and national resources, and we want to be sure those resources are sensitive to and supportive of our needs-- not just chasing the LGBT dollar," said Williams.

"Not only do we as the LGBT community have the power of the purse, we have the matching shoes to go with it," he added.

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# History in the Making

*A letter from Robert Boo, C.E.O. of The Pride Center at Equality Park*

By Robert Boo

**W**ow! What a season it has been at The Pride Center and in the life and times of the LGBTQ community. The defeat of DOMA and Prop 8 in California has opened up new doors and windows for the LGBTQ communities. We are witnessing history in the making.

At our senior programming of Coffee & Conversation, we host at least 125 people each week. I love talking to this group; it helps put into perspective the leaps and bounds we are making that some younger generations may take for granted. Gone are the days of gathering behind closed doors, afraid of being arrested for just being gay. Gone are the days when same-sex couples had to hide the fact that two grown women or men were living together from their neighbors. One male couple who have been together for over 55 years had to build a house that looked like a duplex so they could be together. One female couple told me their story where they would introduce the other as a cousin, just so they could live together. Now, the Federal Government is recognizing Marriage Equality, the IRS is recognizing joint filing regardless of where you live, and many more states will pass laws recognizing same-sex marriages soon. The Governor from Minnesota is actually promoting same-sex marriage packages; states see the economic boom that the wedding industry is realizing in cities such as New York City--\$49M just this year. New opportunities for bi-national same-

sex couples have also opened up. There have been several seminars at The Center on this topic and it has been standing room only. The Center is putting together our own Face 2 Face town hall meeting on DOMA and binational couples for later this year. Stay tuned to our website [www.PrideCenterFlorida.org](http://www.PrideCenterFlorida.org) for more details.

The Courtyard improvement project officially broke ground this month. I am so excited that we are now creating a welcoming, safe space on the south side of the Schubert Building for large groups to gather with walkways, gardens, new lighting and an outdoor pavilion. Please read my article in this issue of The Voice for more detail.

Every year during the Fall, The Center organizes a frenzy of activities and events. This year will be no different. Our new grant with SageWorks, with funding by the Wal-Mart Foundation, has started, and all of the training sessions quickly filled. Our HIV testing funding has expanded, targeting communities of color to identify individuals with HIV who may not know it. Our LGBT "Growing Our Families" series has started its second cycle and now includes sessions on parenting skills. History is in the making once again!

We will host our Fourth Annual Senior Health Expo in October. Each year the event keeps getting bigger and better. Our Senior Services Coordinator, Bruce Williams, is one of the major contributors to the growth in our senior service programming. Space is quickly selling out for this event. If you want to promote

your business to this market, please read the article in this issue of The Voice.

The Pride Center, in collaboration with the City of Wilton Manors, is pleased to bring back the Halloween Block Party – Wicked Manors. The theme this year is "Walking Dead on the Drive," and we are pleased that Doug Cureton, Wicked Manors Chair, and Bobby Kyser are leading the charge on this event. All I can say is that "Glinda" may return to the Drive for this event, and she isn't looking so pretty post-apocalypse.

The Pride Center continues to grow and try to meet the needs of our ever changing community. We can't do that without your support. Your dollars help us provide these services. To show our appreciation of your support we are announcing our new membership reward program – I Am Pride. Anyone who becomes a member of The Center, no matter what level, will receive a new membership card. This card will entitle you to discounts at participating businesses. The Center doesn't make a dime from any of these discounts. Our goal is to thank you for your support of The Center and to help bring new rewards to our membership. To learn more about The Center memberships please read the article in this issue of The Voice or visit our website. I also encourage you to remain involved with The Center by subscribing to our email distribution newsletter, The EVoice and "Like" us on Facebook. Yours truly, Robert Boo

## About the Pride Center

The Pride Center celebrates 20 years of service in 2013. Our mission is: "We provide a welcoming, safe space--an inclusive home--that celebrates, nurtures and empowers the LGBTQ communities and our friends and neighbors in South Florida." The Center's program and services meet the distinct cultural, health, educational, economic, social and safety needs of the LGBT community. More than 20,000 adult and youth attended activities at the Center over the past year. We host more than 60

regularly-meeting groups each month. Support, social and educational groups focus on women, seniors, youth, men, transgender, recovery, health, the arts, athletics, spirituality, games and more. Outreach activities over the past year directly impacted over 30,000 residents and visitors to South Florida. The Pride Center is a major site for HIV testing, prevention, education, support, holistic health and counseling. Stop in and learn about all we do: a community Flea Market; women's health initiatives;

family outreach days; Bingo; unique exercise classes; financial investment series; art gallery openings; adult educational opportunities through Pride University; Bingo; education for prospective and current parents; weekly "Coffee and Conversation" gatherings for seniors; music, movies and live theater presentations; a variety of health fairs; and a spectrum of creative symposiums, speakers, forums and events for the entire community. We own five-and-a-half acres of property with 30,000 square feet of office space that provide homes for programs and services, as well as synergy among organizations. Our Vision is to be the premier point of connection for our community.

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# Talk About The Passion

## Facilitating CHOICES makes Morales a better human being

By Shanna Ratliff

**M**agno Morales has facilitated well over fifty cycles of CHOICES. This five-session, small-group program assists HIV-positive participants reduce stress by building coping skills. Despite all of his experience, his job is never monotonous.

"I learn something new every time," says Magno. "I learn from each participant. Facilitating the program is about being willing to learn from the personal experiences these men share."

Magno recognizes the role that his own experiences have had over his personal and professional decisions. When he first came to the United States in his twenties, he had little money and took various jobs cooking and cleaning. He recalls, "I did anything I could do to survive."

Although he always remembers a desire to lead, it was around this time that he was first given an opportunity to be a leader when he was hired as the manager of a restaurant. Although he quickly realized that working in a restaurant was not his path, he attributes this experience with motivating him to improve his life. He found inspiration in his own desire to continually improve himself. Each of these experiences was a stepping stone.

"You recognize what you want, what you like, and what you don't like," says Magno.

In 2005, he decided he would like to work with his community and accepted a position with Hispanic Unity performing rapid HIV tests. Because of this position, Magno was able to visit numerous testing sites including The Pride Center (then GLCC). He then learned of a position facilitating an HIV group called CHOICES. Although he states he did not have the same professional experience as some of the other applicants, he was hired because he had "the passion."

Magno was excited about the opportunity with The Center because the new CHOICES program was going to be offered in both English and Spanish. He states that up until that point, "I was a little disappointed that there were few resources locally for the Latino community. The stigma and shame in the community is very high."

He recalls that Latino participants would inquire into who would be attending the group because they were very concerned they would be seen.



"Sometimes, this fear would prevent men from coming to the group," says Magno. "This fear was preventing them from learning skills that could improve their lives."

As Magno explains, it is important to remind participants that "everybody in the group is in the same boat. Everyone has HIV."

Throughout the years, Magno's approach to facilitating the CHOICES program has evolved. In the beginning, he emphasized the lessons learned in CHOICES as a means of disclosing one's HIV status to family, friends, and sex partners. He then realized that the coping skills taught in each session of the cycle applied to many different areas and different times in one's life. For example, participants who are dealing with substance abuse, financial problems, or other forms of stress learn healthy ways to cope.

"CHOICES is about empowering participants to make their own decisions about their health and their relationships as well as disclosure," says Magno. "After all, in the end, it's your choice. I always tell my group that there is nothing wrong with being a little selfish. Take care of yourself!"

It is easy to see why Magno feels that "working with these men makes me a better human being. Doing this work for our community, makes us all better people."

For more information about the CHOICES program, please contact Magno at [MMorales@PrideCenterFlorida.org](mailto:MMorales@PrideCenterFlorida.org) or 954.463.9011



## Want A Jump-Start To Healthier Living?

If you're a gay or bisexual man living with HIV, you can learn to keep your immune system in strong, peak condition.



## Join the FREE 18 week LIFE Program

You'll receive practical, step-by-step guidance in a fun interactive environment as you create and implement personal health plans for long-term thriving with HIV.

### This program can help you...

- Build deeper, supportive relationships with new HIV+ friends!
- Get the latest facts on HIV!
- Improve your physical, emotional and social well being!
- Share your story while you learn from others!

### Participation in the LIFE Program...

- Boosts the immune system
- Lowers risky behavior
- Increases adherence to health and medication schedules.

Offered twice a year beginning in January and July.  
**MEETINGS ON TUESDAYS @ 6:30 p.m.**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Jeff Grigsby at 954.463.9011, ext. 302  
or email [JGrigsby@PrideCenterFlorida.org](mailto:JGrigsby@PrideCenterFlorida.org)



Sponsored by The Pride Center, and the State of Florida, Department of Health

## Third Annual Community Day To Be Held Saturday, October 26

The Pride Center will again host this popular community and family outreach day on Saturday, October 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Activities include a Kids' Costume Contest indoors with South Florida Family Pride and an outdoor Pet Costume Contest. Broward Sheriff's Office will again provide K9 demonstrations, fire trucks, police vehicles and more. Come join the fun! (Photos by Kristofer Fegenbush)



# Something Wicked This Way Comes

+Continued from pg. 1

Bobby Kyser, the other original Co-Founder and Event Planner extraordinaire has returned to the committee and promises, "This will be a fabulous, over-the-top evening with many surprises. There is no better place to be than Wicked Manors on Halloween."

Two new Equality Park Campus residents – Chris Loose of Iron Forge Press and Jim Hammond of The Puppet Network will also lend their spectacular design and staging talents to this amazing evening.

Our Dragtastic Emcee, Miss Misty Eyez will return to the Mainstage located right on the Drive opposite the shops at Wilton Manors. She has invited some of the finest drag stars to perform in their most outrageous Halloween costumes. DJ Pedro Rocha, aka P. Rock from Eddie B & Company, will spin his musical magic from an international catalog that spans classic and current Top 40 Dance and Pop to dance-inducing House.

There's something for everyone including the kids at Wicked Manors. Trick or Treat On The Drive starts at 5:00, the Kids Costume Contest is at 7:00, and the Pet Costume Contest will be at 7:30. There will be a Storefront Decoration Contest for the business owners to add horror to the Drive.



All traffic on Wilton Drive will be blocked off from NE 21st Court to N. Dixie Highway from 3:00 pm until the end of the event to provide a safe and secure area for our costumed guests to celebrate.

None of this could happen without the help of dedicated volunteers. To learn more about how to become a volunteer, contact Samantha McCoy at smccoy@PrideCenterFlorida.org!

For all the latest updates on all things WickedManors, please visit our website, [www.WickedManors.org](http://www.WickedManors.org). Contact Doug Cureton at [WickedManors@PrideCenterFlorida.org](mailto:WickedManors@PrideCenterFlorida.org) or Roger Roa, Director of Development at [RRoa@PrideCenterFlorida.org](mailto:RRoa@PrideCenterFlorida.org) for sponsorship opportunities.

# Come to the Fair!

+Continued from pg. 1

"There exists a huge LGBT dollar and we want to ensure that it goes to those who support our community."

Vendors registered for the Expo will provide valuable information on a wide array of relevant areas for our seniors, including home healthcare agencies, senior living facilities, insurance coverage, veterans' services and legal issues.

As in past Expos, there will also be a number of engaging educational seminars focusing on topics of particular interest to the mature LGBT community.

The fair will also feature stations offering a variety of medical tests. The Man Van and The Cardiac Van are made available thanks to Broward Health Imperial Point and HealthFair Services. Door prizes, entertainment and a few special surprises will add to the enjoyment of this year's fair.

The event is completely free, including coffee and pastries provided by Stork's and a complimentary lunch to the first 250 attendees.

All is made possible through the support of many generous sponsors. The Diamond-Level Presenting Sponsor again this year is Broward Health Imperial Point. We are thrilled that this year that AHF has joined us as a Presenting Sponsor and that Holy Cross Hospital has joined us as a Community Sponsor. Our Emerald Level Sponsors are Park Summit, Five Star Residences, Vitas Innovative Healthcare and Assisted Living Lifestyles. Ruby Level sponsors are Brian Claeyes – Attorney, and Physicians At Home.

Several organizations in the community work with The Center to plan and manage the event. Collaborating community partners include The Peninsula, the Futurity First Insurance Group, Gilda's Club, Hospice of Broward County, SAGE, SunServe, Women in Network, The Fort Lauderdale Prime Timers and The Pride Center Senior Advisory Council.

Mark your calendar and come enjoy a unique and fun event!



# The Pride Center Founders Circle

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Alan Schubert  
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John C. Graves Charitable Fund

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Anonymous (2)  
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Gables Wilton Park Apartments

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David McLaren and Joe Laurino / Periodic Products  
D. C. Allen and Ken Flick No Gay Hate Fund at Our Fund, Inc.  
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Coffee and Conversation

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Join the Pride Center Founders Circle! Support the programs and services of The Pride Center. For more information, please contact CEO Robert Boo at [RBoo@PrideCenterFlorida.org](mailto:RBoo@PrideCenterFlorida.org)

# Light in the Piazza

## Courtyard Improvement Project Breaks Ground

**P**repare to stroll along beautiful walkways through tropical foliage, comfortable benches and fresh spaces to gather, rest, exercise and entertain. The first phase of the Courtyard Improvement Project launched recently on The Pride Center's Equality Park campus. Equipment started removing the dirt along the south side of the Schubert Building.

Doug Tinklepaugh of Pinnacle Constructors is facilitating the project, and Don Biehn of Biehn & Associates Landscaping has planned the landscaping. Upon completion, The Center will have a beautiful and welcoming outdoor space for people to gather. Additionally, a new ADA entrance will be created in the front wall that goes along Dixie Highway. The new entrance will be located near the north property line of the campus adjacent to neighbor Poverello. A ten foot opening will be created in the wall connecting the city sidewalk to a new paver lined pathway leading up to the entrance of the Schubert Building.

"The new courtyard being installed along the Schubert Building will allow us to finally have a place to gather for outdoor events," said Robert Boo, CEO. "We are very grateful for the support of the Trustees of the John C. Graves

Charitable Fund at the Community Foundation of Broward and the many individual donors who contributed to the matching challenge-grant."

A new pavilion will be installed in the courtyard project which will provide the opportunity to hold outdoor events such as Commitment Ceremonies, Celebrations of Life, entertainment and cultural events. The first planned public event will occur December 1st for World AIDS Day when the candlelight vigil from Hagen Park down Wilton Drive will end at Equality Park.

The plans for the courtyard already have already been enhanced since initial announcements in January. Founder Circle members Chuck Nicholls and Mark Turner and The Equality Park Garden Club have donated funds to extend the garden area along the west and north sides of the cell tower fence.

Donors interested in memorializing a loved one or looking for a naming opportunity should contact Robert Boo, CEO, or Roger Roa, Director of Development at 954.463.9005. The Pride Center website will soon have a page outlining all naming opportunities along with the capability to directly purchase personalized pavers.



### Anti HIV-Stigma Campaigns

The Pride Center is preparing various HIV Anti-Stigma Campaigns that will run on Broward County public buses. One round features great works of art. The other features portraits by Dennis Dean of local residents with signs proclaiming "HIV Impacts Us All."



## Did you know?

+There have been more than 2,200 group meetings at The Pride Center in 2013.

+The Pride Center provides monthly Women with Pride Empowerment Series workshops.

+Volunteers have provided more than 10,500 hours of service to The Pride Center in 2013.

# Center Receives Expanded HIV Testing Funding

*New grant focuses on communities of color*

**P**ride Center employees get around. The Pride Center has received additional dollars to provide more HIV counseling, testing and linkage locally. The Department of Health has awarded The Center expanded grant funds to target HIV testing and outreach efforts in the 33311 area code and surrounding neighborhoods. Much of the expanded work focuses on communities of color.

“It is no secret that statistically a large proportion of new HIV/AIDS cases are reported in the 33311 area code,” says Listron “Blue” Mannix, Testing Initiative Manager. “Please understand that it is not that the population is overlooked, but possibly undeserved. We’re working with others to make a difference.”

Expanded funding represents a vote of confidence for The Center’s long-standing success in HIV testing among diverse communities. The Center has a proven track record of identifying local people who may not know their status, getting them tested and helping link them to vital medical care.

“This additional funding will allow us to dive into a community and reach people who have never been tested, could not afford an HIV test,” says Blue. “We will educate people on how HIV/AIDS and STDs are transmitted. This funding also allowed us to hire another full-time employee, Ebony Wilson, a young vibrant woman of color who will assist with managing the new testing and outreach efforts.”

Blue and Ebony already have reached out to local businesses, housing projects and community programs about providing outreach and testing. They’ve received an overwhelming response. Walgreens, the African American Cultural and Research Library, Lauderhill Point Rental Community, Broward Garden Housing Community and others already have agreed to allow The Pride Center Testing team to provide outreach, counseling, testing and linkage in their locations.

“Generally, high HIV and AIDS transmission rates are concentrated within urban areas throughout the

U.S.,” says Ebony. “This is largely due to the lack of awareness of HIV status. Therefore I am absolutely elated that our Center has been granted the resources to hit the streets and provide well-deserved HIV education awareness, prevention and treatment linkage. As we embark on this new venture, I foresee our local communities becoming more aware of the importance of HIV testing, proper condom usage, and behavioral interventions to reduce risks like substance abuse and multiple unprotected sex partners. Overall, I am absolutely ecstatic and eager to see the fruits of our labor.”

The Pride Center will provide over 5,000 HIV tests in 2013.

“The Pride Center Testing Team is honored to be able to collaborate with DOH on this venture,” says Blue. “With help from the community we are confident that we will reach our goals of ‘Getting to Zero.’”



## GET A ROOM!

The Pride Center has space rental opportunities for your every need

- Weddings
- Business Meetings
- Life Celebrations
- Trade Shows



954.463.9005 ext. 201  
www.PrideCenterFlorida.org/rentals  
2040 North Dixie Highway  
Wilton Manors, FL 33305



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Vision 2015 charts the course for The Pride Center to be mortgage-free on our 5.5 acre Equality Park campus. We seek 1000 donors who will contribute \$1000 annually. To join Vision 2015, contact Roger Roa at RRoa@PrideCenterFlorida.org

# Pride Has Its Benefits

By Bryon F. Bowlby

**W**ould you like discounts on restaurants, pet grooming, legal services, clothing, plastic surgery, antiques and more? Become a financial supporter of The Pride Center! Last month, The Center began issuing a new membership card--the I AM PRIDE Community Discount Card-- to new and renewing members of The Pride Center.

"We value our paying members who enable us to provide life-enhancing services, programs and events," said Robert Boo, CEO. "Every cent they give helps us impact people. This attractive discount card is one added benefit members now will receive."

## Discounts and Specials

Not only is paid membership at The Pride Center an excellent way to support the LGBTQ community, it now comes with extra benefits. Participating Business Partners throughout the city and as far away as Coral Gables, offer discounts and specials to Pride Center

members who present their I AM PRIDE membership card.

These discounts are only offered to members of The Pride Center and not the general public, and The Pride Center does not receive any monies from the participating businesses through this program. Look for Business Partners who proudly display an I AM PRIDE window sticker or counter sign! For a complete list of participating Business Partners and discounts, visit [www.pridecenterflorida.org/iampride](http://www.pridecenterflorida.org/iampride). If you currently have an I AM PRIDE membership card, you also can scan the QR code on the front.

## How do I get a membership card?

If you are not currently a member, you can support The Pride Center and take advantage of these membership specials. Stop by The Center and pick up a membership brochure, or visit our website to choose which membership level best fits your needs.

•Annual membership levels include\*:

## Center Members to receive I AM PRIDE Community Discount Card

- Student (Under 25) - \$30
  - Senior (Over 65) - \$30
  - Individual - \$40
  - Household - \$70
  - Friend - \$200
  - Best Friend - \$500
  - Silver Founder - \$1,200
  - Gold Founder - \$2,500
  - Diamond Founder - \$5,000
  - Platinum Founder - \$10,000
- \*Membership at the Best Friend and up level can be charged monthly.

## Business Partners

If you are a business and wish to become an I AM PRIDE participating Business Partner, please contact Director of Development Roger Roa at [RRoa@PrideCenterFlorida.org](mailto:RRoa@PrideCenterFlorida.org) or 954.463.9005. With over 2,500 members, The Pride Center represents an excellent way to reach a large customer base and grow your business.

As a Business Partner, you can tailor your offered discounts or special to suit your business needs. The Center simply seeks discounts unique to Pride Center members and not available to the general public.

If you want more information on membership, please contact The Pride Center at 954.463.9005.



# Did you know?

+Our CouplesSpeak program builds relationship skills, improves communication, lowers risks, and enhances sex.

+The Pride Center has distributed more than 175,000 condoms in 2013.

+The Pride Center once again will spearhead a Thanksgiving Food Drive and Holiday Toy Drive

+The Pride Center will provide more than 5,000 HIV Tests in 2013.

+The Pride Center offers a monthly Women's Book Club

**THE PRIDE CENTER**  
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

**OUR FUND**  
A FOUNDATION CONNECTING THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

## 2013-2014 Education Seminar Series



**Post-DOMA Planning**  
With Dean Trantalis and Ellen Krider  
Thursday, September 26, 2013

**Estate, Financial & Gift Planning for the LGBT Community**  
With Ricky Weiss and Jeffrey Shover  
Monday, October 21, 2013

**Year End Planning (Tax, Estate and Gift Planning)**  
With Darcy Beeman and Shawn Newman  
Thursday, November 21, 2013

**Investment Allocation & Estate Protection for the LGBT Community**  
With Tracey Cramer & Chuck Shields  
Tuesday, January 21, 2014

**Family Planning for the Modern Family (financial planning for LGBT parents)**  
Suzannah Richards & Elizabeth Schwartz  
Tuesday, February 18, 2014

All seminars will be from 6 - 7 PM at The Pride Center at Equality Park 2040 N Dixie Hwy. Wilton Manors, FL 33305

Wine and light hors d'oeuvres to follow

Admission is Free  
Register at [www.our-fund.org/estateplanning](http://www.our-fund.org/estateplanning) or call 954.683.6619

Connect with Your Community

## Founders Circle Reception at New River Fine Art Gallery

Guests enjoyed a new collection of original works of art by Salvador Dali at the reception hosted by New River Fine Art Gallery and co-sponsored by Temptations Catering & Event Planning. Founders provide at least \$100 monthly to support the programs and services of The Pride Center. (photos by Stephen Lang)



## LGBT "Growing Our Families" Series

The Center presents monthly workshops for current LGBT families and prospective parents. Recent topics have included "How I Got My Kid," "Talking to the World About My LGBT Family" and "Surrogacy for LGBT Parents." (Photos by Ed Garcia and Kristofer Fegenbush)



## "We Do, Too" Art Opening

This photography exhibition about Marriage Equality features couples from Florida who were married out of state. The Pride Center and Arts United, Inc. now partner monthly to showcase local work from various artists. (photos by Steve Shires)



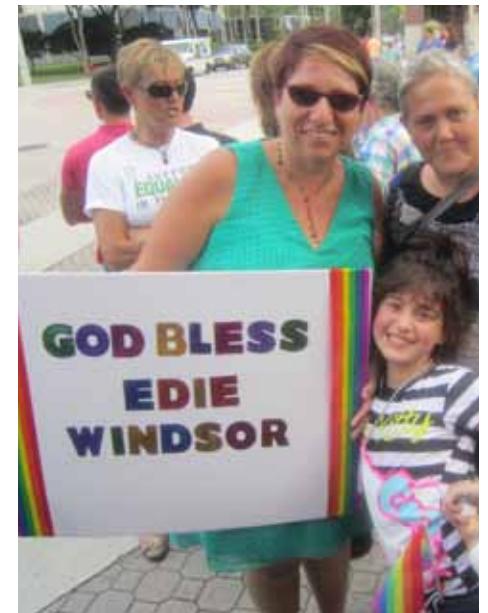
## Stonewall Street Festival Parade

The Pride Center continued its famed participation in the annual parade down Wilton Drive. This year's float featured CEO Robert Boo as presiding minister and couples of various gender identities and sexual orientations. (photos by Ed Garcia and Kristofer Fegenbush)



## DOMA Decision Day

The Center helped organize a peaceful rally at the U.S. Federal Courthouse in downtown Fort Lauderdale. The event featured gay and lesbian couples together for 50 years, local faith leaders and elected officials. (photos by Ed Garcia and Kristofer Fegenbush)



## Tools for Schools

Over 100 people attended the kick-off event for the annual Judy Shepherd Back Pack Drive for school children. MMA Fighters Jessica Aguilar and Matt Mitrione made special appearances. The Center collected over \$4000 in school supplies. (photos by Ed Garcia and Steven Lang)



# Did you know?

+More than 9,500 people have used The Pride Center's computer center in 2013.

+The Pride Center's anti-HIV-stigma campaign will run on Broward County public transportation buses

+The Pride Center has provided more than 1,800 individual health counseling hours in 2013.

+The Center's Healthcare Navigator links people daily to vital medical care

+The Pride Center has provided individual HIV prevention outreach to more than 5,500 people in 2013.

# Back to Work

*Center's new SAGEWorks program helps LGBT adults with employment*

By Robert Saunders



**W**ho knew? When it comes to employment, research shows that age discrimination begins at 40. Forty! Combine that with LGBT discrimination, and it is small wonder there's a huge waiting list of people wanting to get into The Pride Center's new SAGEWorks program, aimed at helping mature LGBT adults land a good job.

The local SAGEWorks program is managed and administrated by The Pride Center, in conjunction with SAGE USA, SAGE of South Florida and the AARP Foundation. It's free, thanks to generous funding by the Wal-Mart Foundation. Bruce Williams, Pride Center Senior Services Coordinator, manages the program and credits initial success to community support from The Peninsula, City County Credit Union, Royal Palms Resort, The Stonewall Museum, Target, Cindy Kent of The Sun-Sentinel and Steve Rothaus of The Miami Herald.

"The underlying philosophy is that older workers' experience, leadership qualities and problem-solving abilities bring value to employers' workforce," says Williams. "Older LGBT people in particular bring diversity and inclusiveness that many employers seek."

The idea of SAGEWorks is to help LGBT people over 40 compete successfully for employment opportunities by bringing their technical skills up to snuff, and

sharpening their job search strategies and networking savvy.

Participants first go through an orientation session where they learn about the goals of the program, and meet with a trained job coach who reviews their experience and resume. During orientation, they also get hands-on help using the AARP's WorkSearch system, a customized online program that assesses skills and interest, matches them to appropriate job roles, identifies training possibilities and searches for job openings.

After orientation, those who need it can take a 10 week computer class to learn or refresh essential technical skills for today's work environment. Furthermore, participants may be referred to a community partner such as a Pride Center Founder member or an LGBT Employee Resource Group, for help in making contacts and applying for positions.

So far, three groups of participants have completed the SAGEWorks orientation at The Pride Center, and three more are scheduled. Also planned are related presentations and seminars on such topics as resume writing, interviewing, and dressing for success.

SAGEWorks programs are in place in five other states, as well as the latest location here in Florida. Nationally, 101 paid positions have been offered to program participants. SAGEWorks works!

**3rd Annual Pride Center Cruise**  
Aboard the Celebrity Constellation Feb 27 - March 3, 2014

4 Day Cruise Itinerary Includes a full day at Nassau in the Bahamas (Friday) and a full day in Key West (Sunday)

Prices starting from \$525/PP (includes all taxes and fees)

**For The Latest Deals**

Call Freedom Travel at (954) 565-2345 or visit their new location:

Gables Wilton Park Retail Complex  
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PRIDE CENTER  
EQUALITY PARK  
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Freedom

# Why I Ride



**O**n November 15, The Pride Center's Pride Pack team will begin to cycle 165 miles from Miami to Key West on the 10th Anniversary SMART Ride. 100% of funds raised benefit HIV/AIDS service organizations, including The Pride Center. Some riders and crew members of the Pride Pack share below what motivates them to participate. If you'd like to donate funds to their participation, visit [www.TheSmartRide.org](http://www.TheSmartRide.org) and search for their last name. Every dollar helps.

## Derald Childs

As fourteen years have passed, I have come to realize, know and understand that I am a survivor. A survivor of what, you may ask? I have dedicated myself to being an African American Out man living with HIV/AIDS. For those reasons, I decided to ride. I choose to ride in SMART Ride 10 not only for myself, but also those that have lost their battle with HIV/AIDS and those that may succumb to the virus in the future. I have decided to ride and be a positive role model for generations to come. I am equally proud to raise funds to support an agency that gives back to the community, The Pride Center. The Center provides a number of services, programs and workshops to assist and teach individuals how to cope and manage living with the virus.

## Dalbert Shelby

Every year I remind myself of how fortunate and blessed I am. And then I tell myself that I'm going to give more, and I forget. Or I tell myself that I'm going to volunteer, and I never seem to get around to it. I've even told myself that I'm going to support a cause, and I don't find the time for it. I even tell myself that I'm going to "pay it forward," when in reality I haven't even "paid it

back"! Well this time I'm doing it! I'm riding. I'm participating in The SMART Ride. With every push of the pedal and spin of the wheel...we get closer.

## Doug Brzuchalski

I will be the first to admit, it's been a long, rather rewarding, often trying seven years being HIV positive. The experience has not only transformed me physically, but spiritually... As my health and living situation improved, I have often done what I could to give back to those that helped me when I was in need, and two years ago, a friend told me about The SMART Ride... I have to admit, I was scared I wouldn't be able to complete the ride. But I did, just the same. There's something rather empowering about facing your fears, and helping a lot of people in the process.

## R. J. Hadley

While going through chemo in 1993, I read about a courageous journey by bicycle from Minneapolis to Chicago and knew I had to be part of this. I weighed 97 pounds, had no hair and was very frail when I signed up... Crewing those seven days changed my outlook on life. I could live. Since then I've ridden hundreds of miles, proving to myself I will survive. Knowing my simple actions raise both awareness and funds, I've kept a promise to ride until I can't. Going the distance means more than peddling a bicycle but telling a story that people of all backgrounds and ages can make life better.

## Phil Fusca

I dedicate my ride in memory of my late partner Rock Franklin who died of AIDS-related lymphoma 10 years ago. Rock loved life and would have loved to do the ride himself. He was not only adventurous, but wanted to help others less fortunate after he was diagnosed.

Key West was one of his favorite places, as well. I ride in his memory, as the tenth anniversary of his passing coincides with the tenth year of the SMART Ride.

## Sarah J Strock

I am riding in memory of my very best friend. He "lived life to the fullest", and is my inspiration to ride. Raising funds for HIV/AIDS programming will mean more support for those LIVING with the virus. I am proud to be a member of the Pride Pack, putting much needed money into the services provided by Pride Center and similar organizations. Asking for SMART Ride donations also allows me to personally bring more awareness into my own "suburban" sphere of family, friends and business associates that are not familiar with the importance of the support services and programs that are needed to live life to the fullest with HIV.

## Lorenzo Robertson

Being an Out Black Gay man living with HIV/AIDS, I know the need for funding to continue services for many infected and affected by HIV. There are so many people who have lost their battle with this deadly virus, but there are many striving with it as well. I just want to know that through my efforts as a crewmember that someone will receive needed services: HIV testing and counseling, HIV prevention education, food, transportation, care and more... Just because people are not talking about HIV/AIDS as much doesn't mean people are still not dying and becoming infected. I am a crewmember for SMART Ride 10 to stop the spread of HIV.

## Deidra Bergmann

I ride because I can. My community far and local are with me. I ride for those who cannot. Every mile I ride this year, I will see faces I miss. I see them when

others do not--the ones that are not here, the ones that I miss.

## Joseph Ortlieb

I ride to make a difference in the lives of people infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS. I ride to increase awareness of a virus that I know will be curable in my lifetime. This year will be my seventh year, and every year I am amazed and humbled by the number and diversity of exceptional people I have encountered. I know this year will be yet another of our journeys towards the cure of HIV/AIDS.

## Tomas Soto

I ride as my way to give back and help build a strong and empowered GLBT community in Fort Lauderdale. I know supporting The Pride Center will help the community as a whole. I recently moved to Fort Lauderdale and had the opportunity to work with The Pride Center staff. I was immediately impressed by their dedication and passion to their work... On a personal level, I find participating in events, such as the SMART Ride, is a wonderful way to honor the many friends I've lost to the epidemic while supporting my friends who are living with HIV. While training there's lots of time to let your mind wander, I often found myself thinking fondly of those friends I've lost, and found myself equally inspired by those living with and beating HIV.

## Robert Boo

I'm riding this year in the SMART Ride because I was so inspired by the riders last year. The closing ceremonies brought tears to my eyes. I never would have thought that I could do something like this. Over the past six months of training, team postings on social media have helped keep the topic of HIV/AIDS in the forefront.

## Founders Circle Reception at Bayview Cadillac

Over 125 people attended the reception hosted by Bayview Cadillac and co-sponsored by The Melting Pot. Founders Circle members underwrite life-enhancing programs and services to the community. (photos by Steve Shires)



Are you a woman looking for a healthcare provider sensitive to your

**LBT needs?**

[www.lbtthealth.org](http://www.lbtthealth.org)

- Are you a Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender woman in Broward, Miami-Dade or Palm Beach counties searching for an LBT friendly and competent healthcare provider?
- Does finding a Medical, Dental, Mental Health or Alternative Care professional who is sensitive to your needs cause you anxiety?

**WE CAN HELP!**

The LBT Women's Health Directory is a user friendly, online database of providers in South Florida. This resource can help alleviate the fear of choosing a practitioner who is friendly, welcoming and culturally competent.

Visit [www.lbtthealth.org](http://www.lbtthealth.org) to start your search!

# Baring and Sharing

## Trans Programming Helps Community Connect

By S.F. Makalani-Mahee



**T**rans people are baring it all on the campus of The Pride Center at Equality Park. And I'm not just talking about some of the art that will be on display at our Trans Art Exhibit in November. This trans community has come to consistently utilize The Center to connect, learn, and share their stories to educate and empower.

Many people may not know the wide variety of programming at The Pride Center for the transgender community. From hosting support groups to coordinating TDOR (Transgender Day of Remembrance) to providing educational workshops to linking people to care and services, The Pride Center works to provide a safe, nurturing space for our trans community.

The Pride Center, along with partners at T-House/The Broward County Health Department and SunServe, launched The Community Collaborative Transgender Educational Series in 2012. This monthly series is designed to meet the information and education needs of transgender individuals and their allies. It also helps develop a sense of community. Past presentations have included seminars on transitioning, self defense and spirituality, as well as social gatherings, mixers, and movie screenings. Future

presentations of the series will include a seminar on hormone therapy, and a dinner seminar presentation: "Out of the Shadows/ Into the Lights: A Reyataz Peer Story."

This year also marks the second year that The Pride Center will organize and host TDOR campus. This year's observance will include programming for "Trans Awareness Week," November 13-20. Scheduled activities include an art exhibition, a "What's This Trans Thing" Face 2 Face community conversation, and TDOR commemoration and candlelight vigil with guest speakers. The Center also will host a Trans Community Forum for the Human Rights Board of Broward County to examine the treatment of transgender clients in emergency housing facilities in the County.

The Pride Center also sought out and prominently featured members of the trans community in both its successful "I Love The Pride Center" ad campaign and its ground breaking Broward County Department of Health HIV/AIDS anti-campaign that will be placed on Broward County buses.

So if you are looking to get involved with the trans community, please join us at our next upcoming event. For more information, please email [smakalani-mahee@pridecenterflorida.org](mailto:smakalani-mahee@pridecenterflorida.org)

# Power of Love

## Community Activist Joins Center Board



Specialist in STDs. She rose to Acting Program Director for the nineteen-county district of NW Ohio. Love left in 1982 to become a federal employee working with the CDC and other agencies in STDs and HIV/AIDS, serving in Northern Virginia, Los Angeles and Fort Lauderdale. She also served in administrative capacities with nonprofits for four years. She became manager of the RWI and HOPWA programs for Broward in 2005, retiring as the coordinator of the Human Services Department training institute for nonprofits in 2009. Love is a graduate of Florida A&M University (BS, 1970) and Florida Atlantic University (MPA, 2008).

She's excited to join The

Center's Board.

"I'm with a group of people who think like I do," says Love. "We're dedicated to providing good services. We're helping people be accomplishes and victors in their life instead of victims or wasting time or messing around. We're focused on being productive. From a community perspective, my extensive knowledge of different communities and different cultures can enable me to help The Center accomplish its goals and find new ones."

"I hope so anyway," she says with a characteristic laugh.

Love has been around The Center for a long while. She was one of the original members of The Center's Founders Circle.

"What I have observed is that The Center over the years has united the gay community, providing focus," says Love. "Lots of different events, groups, activities and programs always are going on. The Center provides opportunities for people to connect with like-minded folks who have the same values. It's not just about how great you look or how many conquests you have. It allows people to focus on positive things. I'm all about the positive. Anything that helps people stay positive is wonderful to me."

Love has been a member of the Florida HIV/AIDS prevention planning process since 1994, beginning as an

original member of the Miami-Dade County planning group. From 1997 to present she has served on the Broward Community Planning Group.

"So much of my career has been a part of planning, coming up with ideas of how to do things for the community," says Love. "When you plan things and watch it come to pass, it's one of the best feelings in the world. It's beyond a sense of accomplishment. It's more than that."

"That's been my entire career," she continues. "Organizing people..pulling people together around a common goal. Making things happen. Creating services and involving the community to success. I can tell you some stories!"

Love has received many awards and recognitions, including 2011 Inductee into the Broward County Women's Hall of Fame. She's been named Supervisor of the Year and acted as loaned executive

to the United Way. She's received many community service awards, including the one for which she is most proud: the 18-gallon pin and certificate for platelet donations for the Community Blood Center. She is a member of St. Helen's Catholic Church, AAUW, AARP, WLC of United Way, Reading Pals of United Way, NWPC-Broward Chapter, BAP, and DST.

"I value integrity, commitment, being a person of my word," says Love. "If you say something, you do it. Or if you can't you let people know you can't. You can trust me. I'm a committed person. I love all this stuff that I do. That's my thing."

"Something is wrong with me I guess," she laughs again. "But I just love people. That's the heart of it. I'm going to be kind to them. I want to do things to help people. It's not about being nice... it's being of purpose, being of service."

**A** vote of confidence in the work of The Pride Center from its newest Board member, Juliette Love, carries great weight.

"I've dealt with nonprofits for years," says Love. "The Center is a shining example of an agency focused on its mission. It does what it's supposed to do. There's no bull about its contracts and the work it does. As someone who's been involved in allocating dollars and monitoring contracts, I like how well it is organized and how well it is run. From a business and administrative perspective, it is an exemplary organization."

Over 37 years, Love has been recognized at the local, State, and national levels as an experienced and committed activist and advocate for people with HIV/AIDS specifically, and for improvement to health outcomes in the general population but particularly people of color.

"I discovered years ago that one of my purposes was to serve everybody and anybody I could," says Love. "I serve everybody. The LGBT community is part of that everybody. Obviously, I have so many friends from working in the HIV arena. That's not the biggest part of why I serve the LGBT community, though. My role in life is to be of service."

Love began her career in public health in 1972 in Toledo as a Disease Intervention

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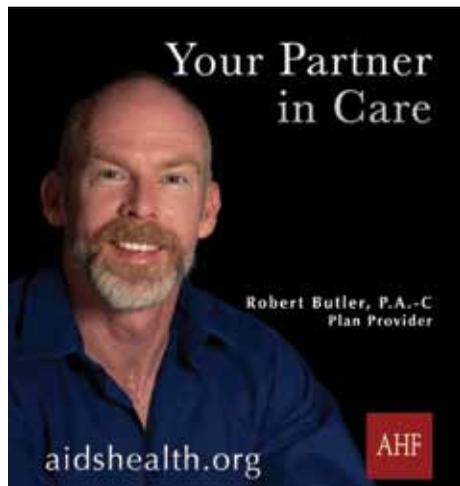
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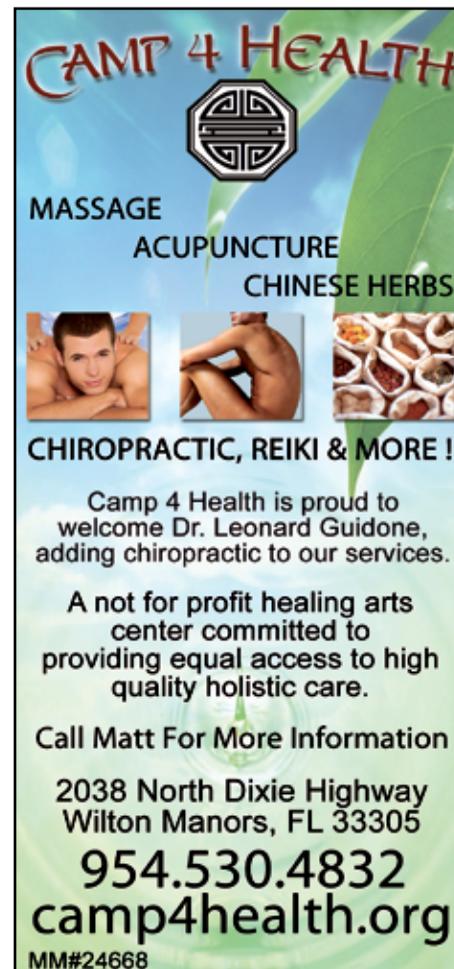
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## Groups at the Pride Center

### WEEKLY RECURRING MEETINGS

AA – Attitude Adjustment Group, Recovery, Mon-Fri, 7-8a  
AA – Each Day a New Beginning, Recovery, Daily, 9-10a  
AA – Northeast Group, Recovery, Mon, 8:30-9:30p  
AA – Sober, Proud and Gay, Recovery, Fri, 8:30-10p  
AA – Pride 5:45 Meeting, Recovery, Daily, 5:45-6:45p  
BrothasspeakFTL-Social, Wed, 7:00p-9:00p  
Coffee and Conversation – SAC, Social/Seniors, Tues, 10:30a-12noon  
Crystal Meth Anonymous, Recovery Mon 6p-7p  
Games Day, Social, 2nd & 4th Tues, 1-4p  
Gay Bridge Club, Fun, Mon & Fri, 1-4p  
Gay Hearts, Social, Sun, 1-3:30p  
Gay Men's Empowerment Group, Thurs 7p-8:30p  
Island City AI-anon-Support, Thur, 7-8p  
Mahjong, Social, Wed, 1-5:00p  
Man2Man Talk, Social, Mon, 7-8:30p  
Monday Night Women's Group, Social, Mon, 7:30-9p  
Narcotics Anonymous Rainbow Group, Recovery, Wed, 8-9p  
New Path Narcotics Anonymous Group, Recovery, Mon/Tue/Thu, 7-8p  
New Path Narcotics Anonymous Group, Recovery, Sat/Sun, 4-5p

Overeaters Anonymous, Recovery, Sun, 12n-1:30p  
Overeaters Anonymous, Recovery, Fri, 7:30-9p  
POZ Attitudes Here and Now, HIV Support, Wed, 7-9p,  
Positive Connections, HIV Support, Tue, 6:0-7:30p  
Quit Smoking Now, Tues 7p-8:30p  
SAGE Men's Social, Social/Seniors, Wed, 1-3p  
SAGE Computer Club, Wed 4p-5p  
Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous (SLAA), Recovery, Fri, 7-8p  
Senior Exercise Class Health, Senior, Mon-Fri, 10:10a-11:10a, 11:15-12:15p, 1:30-2:30p  
Senior Gay Men's Support Group, Support, Mon, 11a-12n  
Smart Recovery, Recovery, Mon, 7:30-8:30p/Thur, 6:30-8p  
The Healing Project Meeting, Tues 7:30p-9pm  
Toastmasters, Educational, Mon, 7:15-9:15p  
Women's Non-Competitive Basketball, Social, Mon, Thur 5:30p, Sat 3p  
Pride Center Young Adult Group, (23-35 yo), Support, Fri, 7-9p  
Yoga with Drew Miller, Social, Wed, 6p-7p

### BI-WEEKLY RECURRING MEETINGS

Ballet & Opera Group, Educational, 2nd & 4th Sunday, 1-4p  
Bereavement Group, Support, 2nd & 4th Sunday, 2-4p  
POZ Long-Term Survivor, Gay Men/HIV Support, 1st & 3rd Thur, 6:30-8p  
Senior Games Day, Social, 2nd & 4th Tue, 1-4p

### MONTHLY RECURRING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Big Men's Club: Chubbies & Chasers, Social, 3rd Sat, 1-4p  
Pride Center BINGO, Open to Public, 2nd Sat, 7-10p  
Dolphin Democrats, Mthly Meeting, 2nd Wed, 7:30-9:30p  
Lavender Speaks, Social, 3rd Thurs, 7:30-10p  
Pride Center Memorial Garden Club, Educational, 3rd Wed, 7-9p  
Pride Center Flea Market, Open to Public, 1st Sat, 8a-2p  
Primetimers, Open to Public, 1st Sun, 2-4:30p  
SAGE Computer Club, Educational, 2nd Wed, 4-6p  
SAGE Movie Movie, Social, 3rd Mon, 4-6p  
S. F. Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf, Support, 1st Sun, 2:30-3:30p  
Transgender Support Group, Support, 3rd Fri, 7-8:30p  
Women in Network, Social, 1st Wed, 7-9p  
Women with Pride Book Club, 2nd Thur, 7-9p

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# Spotlight: *Getting to Know A Pride Center HIV Testing Counselor*

By Listron "Blue" Mannix, MSW

**Profile:** Mike Ebbs

**Occupation(s):** International Customer Service-in banking and Broadcasting (retired).

**Born:** Colorado, Colorado Springs 9/19/1952

**Hobbies:** Extensive Traveling, reading, gardening, board and parlor games



Mike Ebbs was born in Colorado and grew up on a cattle ranch in the mountains not far from Telluride. After graduating from college, he settled in Denver where he worked for Citibank. Now as a retired manager of international customer service and support centers for banking and broadcasting, he lives in Fort Lauderdale. He didn't relocate on his own. In 1997 while vacationing in Orlando, he went to an AIDS benefit barbecue where he met his soul-mate Tom. In a short period of time, love bloomed, a proposal was offered and Mike made a very hasty decision to move from Colorado to Florida.

"I have never had one moment of regret," Mike reflects.

Being retired, some would think his life would be about relaxation and laziness, well not for Mike Ebbs. Before volunteering for The Pride Center in 2012, he worked with Habitat for Humanity, the Museum of Natural History, the Botanical Gardens and multiple one-off events. He currently provides executive consulting services to Broward County non-profits.

"I come from a family that feels that volunteering is an essential part of who we are, my volunteer positions became my avocation," says Mike.

Don't let his busy schedule fool you; he and Tom still make time to enjoy one another. "Tom and I have both always traveled extensively and try to be on the road, in the air or at sea at least two months a year."

Every volunteer gets involved for personal reasons, but selecting an organization can sometimes be the hard part.

"I actually went on a six month

interviewing project to find the right volunteer position and organization," says Mike. "It is not an easy thing to find the right fit. I didn't just want to volunteer. I wanted to find a place where my background and skills could be used to their fullest and to make a difference in people's lives. A friend of a friend was working as a volunteer testing counselor and, through him I contacted The Center."

Mike also expressed what he most values about his work at The Center. "It provides a unique opportunity for an open and non-threatening communication and distribution of information regarding virtually every issue we have in the community. I also appreciate that our services are provided openly to all, whether gay, straight or in between."

Pride Center Testers maintain open communication with their clients to assess, educate and hopefully positively impact people they meet. "The thing that makes me the happiest is when I am able to provide information about HIV prevention methods without preaching, but rather through pure education," says Mike. "Making a difference in the lives of others is my number one goal."

"I made the right decision to work in HIV testing," says Mike. "As my partner Tom can attest, I'm always excited to come into the office and see what experiences await me with new clients. The staff and volunteers at The Pride Center are truly exceptional and a real joy to work with. The best thing of all is knowing that I'm able to bring enlightenment to our clients and be more than just a testing conduit."



## Founders Circle Reception at Exit 66

A packed crowd enjoyed food and beverages at the reception hosted by Exit 66 and Spazio Restaurant. Founders Circle members underwrite life-enhancing programs and services to the community. (photos by Stephen Lang)



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