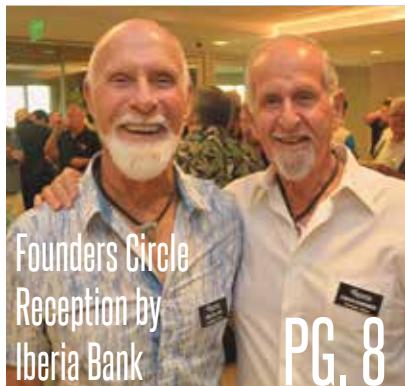




THE PRIDE CENTER VOICE

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It's Playtime!

Everywhere we turn, our LGBT friends are having kids. Imagine a colorful, safe space where these families can swing, slide, climb, laugh and play together safely! This dream will soon become a reality. On Friday, October 16, hundreds of volunteers will build a playground for LGBT families, local children and allies on the campus of The Pride Center at Equality Park in Wilton Manors. You could play a part.

"As a gay parent, I am frequently reminded that my child's family is not the norm," says Rob Lamarche, local father, attorney, social worker and adoption specialist. "No doubt she is quite aware as well. But on a playground at The Pride Center, she will be surrounded by other children with families just like hers. Our kids can meet other kids with families like theirs. It's also a great way to bring gay parents together to support one another, make play dates, exchange resources and

The Pride Center, JetBlue and KaBOOM! Team Up to Build New Playground for LGBT families



share parenting advise."

The LGBT and Wilton Manors communities will work together to raise funds, recruit volunteers and gather supplies to build the playground. Donors and volunteers are needed to ensure the project is successful. The Pride Center will

become the first LGBTQ Center to have a playground on its campus.

"The incorporation of a safe play space for children at Equality park shows a significant shift in our community," says Heidi Siegel, local mom, Village Manager

+Continued on pg. 4

Take a Chance, Make a Choice and Change Will Come

CHOICES graduate shares his truth

by Ralph Caraglia

After 18 years of living with HIV medication-free, I became seriously ill and needed help. My support came mostly from friends who were sympathetic and reliable but were not experiencing the same challenge. Friends and family needed to know what I knew: my health had deteriorated to a point where it was possible that I would not make it. Having been a healthy, functioning HIV positive

man since 1989, surviving the years where no medication was available and the loss of my partner of 10 years, I found myself in a new environment. I moved to South Florida from the Northeast, unaware of what medical assistance was available to me and who, if anyone, could help me.

Then I remembered I met an HIV-positive guy on the beach in Fort Lauderdale months before. He told me

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Come Out and Play

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

I recently attended a panel discussion where three South Florida Federal judges talked about being gay and the effects on their career paths. None felt that their careers were hindered by being openly gay. They suggested that their authenticity in showing who they are set an example for others, reminding young people that they can achieve anything. They all did admit that being in South Florida has its advantages. For example, Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange still thinks that citizens should overrule the Supreme Court on marriage equality. Mr. Strange might not be as welcoming to three openly gay Federal judges.

Social media continues to have a huge impact on people coming out. YouTube has seen a surge in coming-out videos by celebrities and regular people like you and me. The number one, most watched coming-out video is by the Rhodes twins and has been viewed almost 20 million times. So why is this important? Because we still have a way to go for equality. The Equality Act of 2015 aims to amend the 1964 Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity among the other protected classes. Thirty-one states do not have laws that explicitly prohibit discrimination based upon these areas. Whether you like reality TV or not, Caitlyn Jenner is helping to shine a bright light on the transgender world. The TLC documentary on local Jazz Jennings, I Am Jazz, is teaching the world about transgender youth. The more mainstream these shows become, the more conversations launch around the dinner table about coming out. When I was younger, many of my straight friends would invite me over to their parents' house for dinner. They wanted their parents to meet and get to know someone who was gay, removing the fear of the unknown. It's harder to hate a group of people once you get to know one of them. Have I always been stereotypically gay? Wait, don't answer that question!

About The Pride Center

The Pride Center celebrates 22 years of service in 2015. 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 programs and services meet the distinct cultural, health, educational, economic, social and safety needs of the LGBT community. More than 30,000 adult and youth attended activities at The Center over the past year. We host more than 65 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 50,000 residents and visitors to South Florida. The Pride Center is a major site for HIV testing, prevention, outreach, education, healthcare linkage, support, holistic health



The Pride Center works daily to provide a safe, welcoming, inclusive home where people can be themselves. One of our long-time allies in the community has recently been voted onto The Center's Board of Directors. Read the article introducing Deanna Sylvestri. She has been an active member on our Development Committee for many years and is very involved in the local business community. She will be a great addition to our governing team.

Deanna also will serve as our Board representative for a new grant that we received from KaBOOM, the nation's largest funder for play areas. The Board of Directors made the decision several years ago that Equality Park needed to become family friendly. Our cover story of this issue talks about how developmentally important "play" is for children. We're excited to provide more opportunities for underserved LGBTQ families and youth in our community. Interested in contributing to this fundraising project? Contact me today at RBoo@PrideCenterFlorida.org

In this issue we also talk about our expanding relationship with Walgreens regarding HIV testing. I love Walgreens for working so closely with us and allowing us to provide HIV testing inside so many of its stores. I hope you also read the client testimonials from two of our Prevention for Positives programs: LIFE and CHOICES. Their stories remind me why our work is important, and how we can impact the lives of people in our community.

Finally, Wicked Manors approaches quickly. Our theme this year, Once Upon A Drive, was unveiled at the Stonewall Parade this summer. You better get busy on your costume so you too can look as gorgeous as Ursula the Sea Witch did on our float! Adults need to play as well.

and counseling. Our popular Senior Services activities include: weekly Coffee and Conversation events with over 200 LGBTQ Seniors; individual linkage services; wellness workshops; daily Enhance Fitness senior exercise classes; SAGEWorks technology and job skills courses; a speaker series; recreational activities; healthy aging seminars; cultural events; and our annual Senior Health Expo. 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 with OurFund; art gallery openings; adult educational opportunities through Pride University; education for prospective and current LGBT parents; 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.

The Pride Center

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Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33305

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The VOICE newsletter is published in the memory and through the donation of the Robert S. Kecskemeti Trust.



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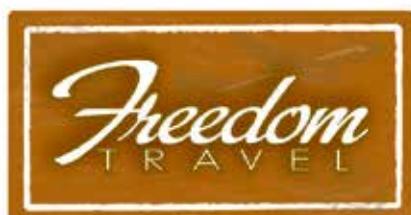
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It's Playtime!



+Continued from pg. 1

at Biscayne Park and Construction Co-chair of the playground build project. "Our children are embraced and we, as parents, can fully participate in our queer community."

JetBlue is generously donating the majority of funds and significant volunteer support to make this project possible. JetBlue's support has inspired our community to make this project top notch. Therefore, in addition to raising the required funds for site preparation, The Pride Center has embraced the challenge to raise \$75,000. This will not only allow the community to prepare for Build Day, but enhance the site with a permanent fence, lighting, and a water fountain, as well as ensure funds for playground maintenance down the road.

"A playground is more than a playground; it's a brain-expander, a friend-maker, a mentor-connector and a muscle-builder," says Robert Boo, The Pride Center CEO. "Although we are partnered with JetBlue and KaBOOM! our desired playspace requires additional financial support. The 'community build' process calls on our entire community to participate in the planning, funding, organizing and building. This will unite our community in a common goal, forging connections

between youth and adults, businesses and families."

The playground is the culmination of a more than three-year process for The Pride Center. Consistent feedback from LGBT families indicated the need for playspace on campus. Community parents suggested reaching out to KaBOOM! An extended application process ensued.

KaBOOM! is a national non-profit organization that works to bring balanced and active play into the daily lives of children, particularly those growing up in poverty. Since 1996, KaBOOM! has collaborated with partners to build, improve and open nearly 16,300 playgrounds, engaged more than one million volunteers and served 8.1 million kids. Play helps children develop the ability to overcome challenges and adversity. When children's lives are filled with play, communities are healthier and happier today; society is stronger and more resilient tomorrow.

"The Pride Center consistently has served as advocate, collaborator and supporter for local LGBT parents, families and children," says Richard Alalouf, President of South Florida Family Pride. SFFP is a volunteer-based organization providing support,

advocacy and socialization to more than 350 LGBT families in South Florida. "They listen and respond to the needs of our families. This playground has been a dream that many of us have worked on with The Center for years. We're so excited this is happening. We know that friends, family members and the broad community will step up to help finance and organize the build."

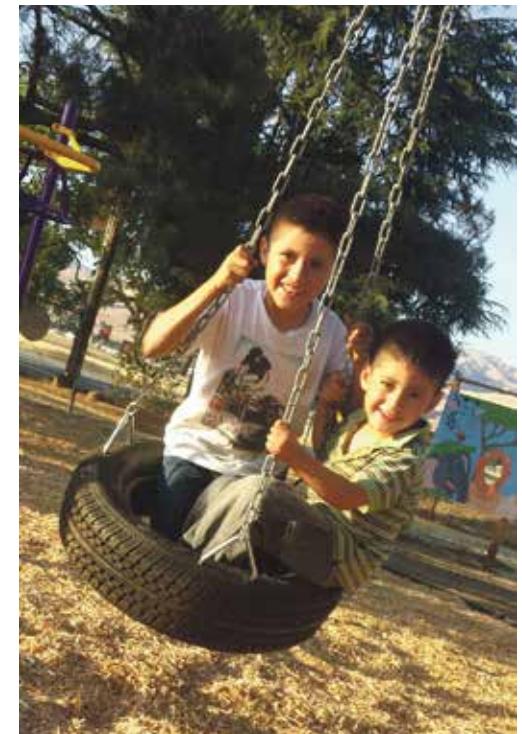
Alalouf has been a leader in the playground project since its inception. As an employee of JetBlue, he knew of KaBOOM! and suggested their involvement. He and Center staff were amazed when JetBlue ended up choosing to be the corporate sponsor for the build project at The Pride Center.

"It's obvious this was meant to be," says Alalouf.

During Design Day on August 18, local children submit dream playground drawings to a playground designer for the new structure to built on the Equality Park campus. Adults have the opportunity to ask questions and volunteer to play an integral part in the build process. Parents, friends and local leaders form committees to oversee fundraising, recruitment, marketing, construction and play activities.

The Center then will seek 30 volunteers for Prep Days on Wednesday and Thursday, October 14 and 15 to unload trucks, inventory supplies and saw wood. Over 200 volunteers will gather on Friday, October 16 for Build Day. After a one-day construction blitz, the colorful new playground will offer safe, interactive structures for children to play.

"Surveys of local LGBTQ parents at The Center over the past few years indicate that parenting presents unique challenges to LGBTQ individuals, and that there are insufficient resources and services locally," says Kristofer Fegenbush, The Pride Center COO. "They've asked us to target specific funds to construct family play areas on our campus. Families have expressed a desire and need for designated play structures. They're looking for safe, welcoming places where they can bring their families for social support,



mentoring and connection. They seek culturally-competent, affirming, creative social, educational and networking events and resources."

According to U.S. Census numbers, about one-fifth of same-sex couples in Broward County, Florida are raising children. These numbers do not capture additional, local LGBTQ single parents. More than 9,000 Broward County couples self-reported as same-sex in the 2010 Census. Williams Institute estimates that the actual number of Broward couples may be as high as 24,500, due to stigma respondents may feel in reporting. Urban Institute and Williams Institute report that 40% of same sex couples between the ages of 22 and 55 currently are raising children, about 5% of whom are adopted. LGBTQ parents are raising about 2 million children nationwide, 65,500 of whom are adopted. In addition, the Urban Institute and Williams Institute report that more than 50% of gay men and 41% of lesbians want to have a child. Creating family-friendly play spaces on the Equality Park campus meets rapidly growing needs among the LGBTQ communities and our allies.

"A playground at Equality Park welcomes ALL families," says Lamarche. "It creates a safe space for kids in LGBT-headed families, their parents and allies to have fun, be healthy and develop new friendships. We can't wait."

Donors and volunteers are needed for the project. For more information, please contact COO Kristofer Fegenbush at 954.463.9005.

Take a Chance, Make a Choice and Change Will Come

+Continued from pg. 1

he attended a support program at the GLCC, now The Pride Center, that welcomed HIV/AIDS men. So I inquired, was interviewed, and became a participant in the LIFE program. There I met the most incredible staff, volunteers and other participants who guided me towards what I desperately needed - the tools to enhance my immune system.

However, later on that year I attended the CHOICES program offered by the PALS Project that provided me with a terrific template of social coping skills. CHOICES encouraged me to change what was not working in the way I communicated my truth by employing a respectful, honest and assertive speaking manner with the courage and strength to communicate and disclose my condition to those I loved. During

the 5 week program, the evening presentations were informative, fun and enjoyable. Topics enabled thought provoking conversation and opportunity for deeply felt expression. I learned quickly that my hesitation

and anxiousness about HIV/AIDS disclosure was shared by many in the small, intimate group of men led by two well prepared and informed facilitators. An added bonus from attending both programs was the cultivation of new friendships that I still enjoy today.

Now I choose whether or not to disclose my HIV/AIDS status with a deeper understanding of how, when

and why to disclose. I've also improved my ability in negotiating sexual practices with potential partners. A thoughtful pause and mental assessment of what's inside and around me helps activate the listening skills needed for a truthful response instead of reacting in an emotional, inaccurate and unbalanced manner.

As a graduate and facilitator of both the CHOICES and LIFE programs, my immune system is functioning much better than before, and the coping skills discussed and

practiced in CHOICES are ones that I continue to utilize. I recognize how I am feeling, what options are available and make better decisions when it comes to disclosure and navigating relationships. Coping with the rigors of health maintenance and handling issues with family members, friends and acquaintances seem easier and less stressful than before. I approach situations with a clear confidence and

a sense of respect for myself and others with thoughtful, patient decision-making.

CHOICES is an intimate, relaxed, safe and focused environment that encourages you to express yourself in a confident, truthful and respectful manner with all your relationships. I recommend that anyone who is newly diagnosed or a long term thriver still challenged by disclosure join CHOICES. It stands alone as an important step in retooling oneself for the challenges of living with HIV. And, if you decide to embark and join in the longer commitment of the LIFE program, it prepares you for that larger group experience.

I took a chance at a vulnerable time, choosing to participate in CHOICES where I was encouraged and supported to change what was not working in the way I communicated my truth. Take a chance, make a choice and change will come.

To enroll in CHOICES, please contact Magno Morales at MMorales@PrideCenterFlorida.org or 954.46.9011.



Did you know?

- + The Pride Center will launch a weekly Farmer's Market on Wednesday, September 23
- + Our PrEP Specialist helps people get information, education and access assistance for Pre Exposure Prophylaxis. Email prep@PrideCenterFlorida.org for more info.
- + The online LBT Health Directory at LBTHHealth.org receives more than 1,000 unique visits each month. Many LBT women are linked to culturally competent healthcare providers because of this resource
- + Our CouplesSpeak program builds relationship skills, improves communication, lowers risks, and enhances sex

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Storytime

by Rob Saunders

Almost every older LGBT person, it's probably safe to say, has quite a story to tell. Now a project is underway to have those stories told in the most engaging way possible, and to get them out to global audience.

SAGE Story is a nationwide digital storytelling program that aims not only to draw on the unique life experiences of LGBT elders, but also to strengthen and enhance their storytelling skills. The Pride Center has been chosen as one of six national centers for the project, and will hold a series of four workshops this Fall.

SAGE Story hosts workshops that teach effective storytelling through essays, videos, podcasts and photography. LGBT seniors who go through these workshops become storytellers in modern media, and more broadly, they become spokespeople on larger social issues such as aging, long-term care and LGBT rights.

Their narratives may tell of a lifetime of discrimination, of long-held secrets, a festering grievance or regret for a road once taken. The

National LGBT Storytelling Project Launched



telling may also be cathartic, fulfilling a need to seek forgiveness or to honor someone who made a difference. The stories all reflect the human condition -- frailty and courage, hardship and resilience -- and have the potential to improve the lives and representations of older people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

The SAGE Story project dovetails the power of storytelling with the rise of global connectivity, to

create compelling stories in multimedia formats that can reach people everywhere.

The Pride Center is working with SAGE (Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders) USA and funding from The Gill Foundation. For further information, contact Bruce Williams at 954-463-9005 ext. 109, or bwilliams@pridecenterflorida.org.

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Did you know?

+ Breast Fest 2015 will occur at The Pride Center on Wednesday evening, October 7 and will raise awareness about breast health and breast cancer

+ The Center regularly hosts art gallery openings, films, music and live theater presentations

+ The Pride Center has provided more than 4,200 HIV tests so far this year

+ Over 200 people attended our last Founders Circle reception. Founders donate at least \$100 monthly to support our vital programs and services.

Volunteer Spotlight

Straight Allies Make a Difference

By Samantha McCoy

Meet Sabrina Wilbanks, a vibrant, fun-loving, caring and dedicated Pride Center Volunteer! You can catch Sabrina volunteering as a Customer Service Volunteer, answering calls and directing community members on Tuesday evenings or just volunteering on random weekdays.

Sabrina began volunteering with The Pride Center at Equality Park because of her love and desire to help the community. Sabrina was referred by a friend who just so happens to be a part of The Pride Center volunteer family. Sabrina welcomes each and every community member with a smile and goes above and way beyond to ensure that they feel safe and welcomed while on campus.

When asked about her most memorable moment while volunteering at The Center, Sabrina replied, "Honestly, just having all of the community members welcome me with open arms. Everyone has been so nice to me and I have met some great people."

When not volunteering (which is almost never) Sabrina enjoys hanging out with her friends, horseback riding, spending time with her mom, movie watching and--believe it or not--helping people in need. Did we mention that Sabrina is one of our amazing straight allies? That's right! Sabrina feels that as a straight ally, she can offer a lot of support to the LGBTQIA community.

Sabrina proudly explains, "As a straight ally I try to let other straight people know that the LGBTQIA Community is just like all other communities and should be treated equally and with respect. I will always support this community."

Sabrina feels that most people have no idea about the wonderful free programs and services that The Pride



Center at Equality Park provides. "We offer so many great things here at The Center. The Center is just a wonderful, safe space for everyone."

As the Customer Service Coordinator at The Pride Center, I can say this about Sabrina and her volunteer efforts: Sabrina is a pleasure to work alongside. What she won't tell you is that she recently received a phone call from a community member in crisis. This community member felt lonely, hopeless and questioned whether or not being bisexual was going to cause him to lose his family and friends. Without hesitation, Sabrina listened and lovingly spoke to this community member and connected him with local mental health resources and reassured him that there is nothing wrong with him and that he was brave and loved.

The Pride Center at Equality Park is so lucky to have Sabrina Wilbanks as one of our Customer Service Volunteers. This will certainly not be the last time you hear about Sabrina. We look forward to seeing her smiling face and hearing her warm voice for years to come

If you'd like to learn more about volunteer opportunities at The Pride Center, please contact Samantha McCoy at smccoy@pridecenterflorida.org or 954.463.9011

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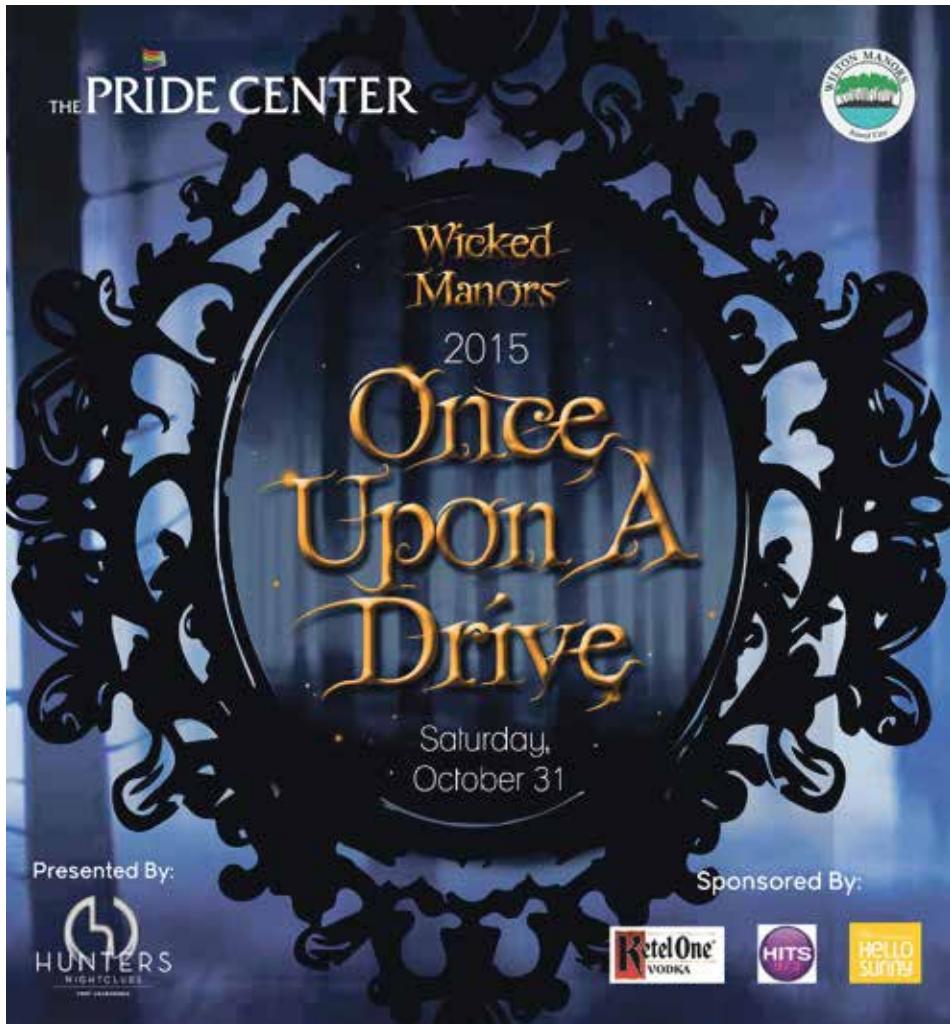
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THE PRIDE
CENTER

Stonewall Summer Pride

Pride Center staff and volunteers participated in a packed-day of outreach at Stonewall Summer Pride. The Center's popular float in the parade announced the them for Wicked Manors 2015 - Once Upon a Drive; staff and volunteers dressed as an array of fairy tale characters. The Center utilizes diverse events each week to educate the community on its vital resources, programs, services and opportunities.

Photos by JR Davis and Pride Center staff



Founders Circle Reception at Iberia Bank

Iberia Bank hosted and sponsored a recent Founders Circle Reception overlooking downtown Fort Lauderdale. To learn more about becoming a member of the Founders Circle, contact Roger Roa at 954.463.9005. *Photos by Stephen Lang*



Looking over the Rainbow

The Center's Kiki Project presented a community townhall on interracial dating. The Kiki Project regularly organizes events to give voice to the Black same-gender loving community addressing a wide array of topics that impact HIV prevention, testing and care. *Photos by Manuel Leon*



Black Gay Lives Matter

Local, statewide and national leaders gathered at Equality Park for a townhall and in-depth, frank discussion on the impact of HIV on Black gay and bisexual men. *Photos by Lorenzo Robertson*



PrEP Services

Pre Exposure Prophylaxis

- PrEP Workshop
- Town Hall Meetings
- Personal Consultation
- PrEP Health Directory
- PrEP Resources

A photograph of two men standing side-by-side. The man on the left is wearing a red t-shirt that says "I'm PrEP'ed for safer sex!" and is holding a sign that says "I TAKE ONE PILL DAILY". The man on the right is wearing a teal t-shirt and is holding a sign that says "I PrEP Myself" with the "HIV Impacts Us All" logo below it. The logo features a red cross and the text "HIV Impacts Us All" and "KNOW YOUR STATUS".

prep@pridecenterflorida.org
954.463.9005 Ext. 210
www.pridecenterflorida.org

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Connect with Your Community

Did you know?

- + The Pride Center hosts regular Transgender Educational Series collaborative community workshops
- + More than 10,200 people like The Pride Center's Facebook page. Have you?
- + Our Healthcare Navigator links people daily to vital medical care
- + More than 60 vendors have registered for our annual Senior Health Expo on Saturday, October 17

THE PRIDE CENTER AT EQUALITY PARK

WEEKLY FARMERS MARKET

A photograph of a variety of fresh vegetables, including several red bell peppers, green lettuce leaves, and small red cherry tomatoes, arranged on a wooden surface.

STARTING ON
Wednesday, September 23
4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
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www.pridecenterflorida.org

Dining with Pride

Joe's Seafood Shack hosted a recent Dining with Pride event, with a portion of proceeds returning to The Center for use in vital programs and services. To learn more about a restaurant hosting Dining with Pride, contact Roger Roa at 954.463.9005



United & Proud Opening Reception Art Exhibition

Arts United, Inc. presented their annual art show as part of Pride month at The Pride Center. Prizes were awarded for Best in Show and Best in Class. Photos by Jane Kreinberg



The Pride Center Founders Circle

LIFETIME

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Anonymous (2)
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Join the Pride Center Founders Circle! Support the programs and services of The Pride Center. Founders Circle memberships begin at \$100 per month. For more information, please contact CEO Robert Boo, Director of Development. RBoo@PrideCenterFlorida.org

"Oms" and "Ahhs"

Holistic groups help mind, body and spirit

by Samantha McCoy

There's a warm and calming energy floating around the second floor at The Pride Center. Holistic groups now are part of the monthly group offerings and the community is responding with "oms" and "ahhs".

On Tuesday nights at 7 pm, Janet Weissman facilitates A Course in Miracles group. For those who are not familiar with ACIM, it is a spiritual path that teaches a way to retrain the "everyday monkey mind" and bring into awareness a better way to approach each day. Janet may be better known at the Business Manager of The Pride Center but has been facilitating this material since 1998.

When asked about why anyone should follow a spiritual path, Janet replied, "A spiritual path is beneficial to relieve stress and give a new perspective of the world, especially in such volatile times. Each group becomes like a spiritual family. Many attendees bond through the material and have found support through the group." The suggested fee is \$3.00 per class, but more will be accepted. You can check out Janet's blog www.goodmorningdearhearts.com

Just steps from ACIM, you will find yoga mats, soothing sounds and a Zen atmosphere in Room 204 as Drew Miller teaches Vinsaya yoga. Yoga attendees arrive a few minutes early to stretch and choose a nice spot on the floor to practice. Drew instructs this very beginner-friendly class, but all levels of proficiency are welcome to attend.

Drew explains, "This amazing yoga class is geared to build strength, flexibility and learning the ins and outs of yoga". Drew is also a Life/Executive/Spiritual Coach and is accepting new clients. Drew's reason for offering the class is simple, "Yoga is my hobby and I love it."

He has been a yoga instructor for two years and has been taking yoga for nine years. You can email Drew for more information at Drew@



imaginebalance.biz

Are you more of a daytime person? You can attend a meditation group each Tuesday at noon. This group is lead by a well known spiritual counselor, August Gold. A renowned teacher of stories, Soul Work and the Tao Te Ching, August Gold served as a New York City spiritual counselor for twenty-five years, working with Manhattan Center for Living, Gay Men's Health Crisis and Samaritans Suicide Center. August's philosophy is "everything you want is already inside of you." Translated into 15 languages, her books include the Family Circle Book of the Month The Prayer Chest, as well as Multiply Your Blessings, Think & Grow Rich Workbook Series, and the award-winning children's book, Where Does God Live?

Every Saturday at 3:30 p.m. in Room 200, Mark Engebretson leads the Open Heart Meditation Group. Mark writes messages to his group regularly. Here's an excerpt from one of his messages: "You are not your stories. You are not broken. You do not need fixing or healing. You are Divine. You are Love. You are the Light. Everything that has happened in your life has brought you to this moment. No experience is wasted. Trust in that and know that your perceived breakdowns are leading you to a breakthrough. Embrace everything as it is unfolding and see what happens."

The Pride Center is home to many groups. Every group is unique and offers something for the mind, body or spirit. Holistic groups will leave you with the "oms" and "ahhs". What are you waiting for? Try out a holistic group!

For more information on groups at The Pride Center, please contact Samantha McCoy at SMcCoy@PrideCenterFlorida.org

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AT EQUALITY PARK

PRIDE CENTER FLEA MARKET

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH | 8AM to 1PM

2040 North Dixie Highway Wilton Manors, FL 33305

Women With Pride

A Program of The Pride Center at Equality Park

Women with Pride aims to increase the health information, education, connection and resource linkage of LBT women and their allies. We provide creative, affirming, enjoyable educational and social events with respect and sensitivity. We are located at The Pride Center at Equality Park in Wilton Manors.

We Offer

- Holistic Health Series
- Family Series
- Book Club
- Art Shows
- Diverse Speakers
- Basketball
- LBT Health Directory
- Service Linkage
- Support Groups
- Movie Nights
- Panel Discussions
- Social Events



For more information contact:
women@pridecenterflorida.org
954.463.7370 Ext. 108

Find us on Facebook

Working the Corner of Happy and Healthy

Pride Center Expands Testing Locations at Walgreens

The Pride Center is expanding HIV testing in Walgreens locations across Broward County.

"I love that we provide HIV testing at Walgreens," says Expanding Testing Initiative Coordinator Ebony Wilson. "It allows us to capture lots of community members in their natural environment of shopping."

The Pride Center first began collaborating with Walgreens, one of the largest drug retailing companies, over three years ago in HIV prevention. Dr. Listron Mannix, HIV Testing Manager, and Ebony very quickly built a relationship with George Kress, South Florida's HIV Pharmacist and Patient Advocate for Walgreens. After the first testing event, Kress recruited The Pride Center Prevention

Team to provide ongoing testing and outreach services in several stores. The Pride Center continues to work with the Walgreens corporate office to select new locations that can facilitate in-store testing.

"Implementing these services allows the team to reach communities of high prevalence or to provide more accessibility to free testing services", say Dr. Mannix.

The Pride Center works regularly to expand HIV testing and outreach services in non-traditional settings such as bathhouses, rehab facilities and churches. With Walgreen's catchy slogan "At the corner of happy and healthy",

The Pride Center Prevention Team is proud to be a service, dedicated to keeping clients healthy.

"With over a thousand new HIV infections per year in both Broward and Miami-Dade counties, it's important for everyone to know their status," says Kress. "People should see HIV testing as a routine part of one's healthcare. If one is positive, one should be able to access and remain in medical care. If negative, know about risk factors and options to protect yourself! It's been important for Walgreens to be involved locally and nationally with HIV testing, not just for an individual's health, but to help remove the stigma and fear of testing."

In 2014, Broward County was reported to be one of the five leading counties in



Florida reporting the highest number of newly diagnosed HIV infection cases. In 2011, Broward County and Walgreens started a collaborative campaign known as We are Greater Than AIDS that has been implemented as an annual initiative for National HIV Testing Day, June 27, that progressed into National HIV Testing Week. Free HIV tests are available annually at select Walgreens locations nationwide. More than 140 cities, nearly 200 AIDS Services and Community Based organizations, unite to lead testing events and provide results on-site within minutes during that week.

HIV Testing provided by The Pride Center always is free, including at community locations like Walgreens. As you approach "the corner of happy and healthy," remember to visit us for your fast, free confidential HIV test. The Pride Center currently tests at the following Walgreens locations:

Walgreens – 1 West Sunrise Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311-Wednesdays 6:00pm-9:00pm

Walgreens-3100 N. Andrews Ave, Fort Lauderdale FL 33309-Tuesdays 5pm-9pm

Walgreens- 2104 W. Oakland Park Blvd, Oakland Park, FL 33311- Thursdays 3pm-7pm

Walgreens-3000 N. State Road 7, Margate, FL 33063- Mondays 2 pm-6pm

We encourage you to Take Pride. Take Responsibility. Get Tested Today!

THE PRIDE CENTER
IS JOINING
Walgreens AT THE CORNER OF **HAPPY & HEALTHY™**

Visit these weekly Walgreens locations and times for FREE FAST HIV Testing.
Receive your results in 20 minutes!

Mon: 2:00 - 6:00 pm	3000 N State Rd 7 Margate FL 33064
Tues: 5:00 - 9:00 pm	3100 N Andrews Ave Oakland Park FL 33309
Wed: 6:00 - 9:00 pm	1 W Sunrise Blvd Fort Lauderdale FL 33311
Thrs: 3:00 - 7:00 pm	2104 W Oakland Pk Blvd Oakland Park FL 33311

TAKE PRIDE. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY. GET TESTED TODAY!

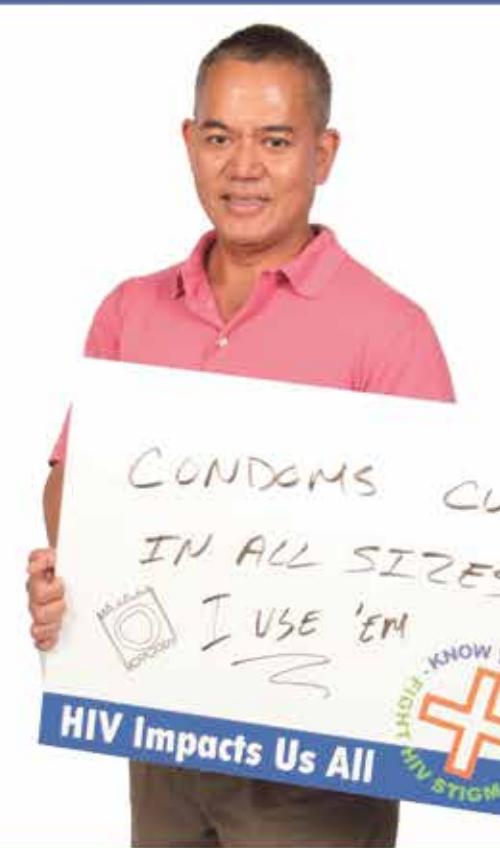
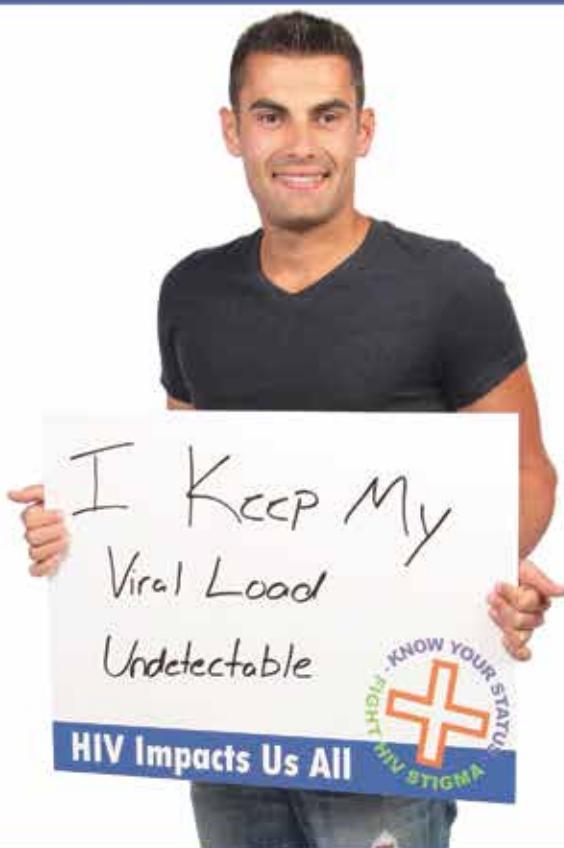
For more information on Pride Center programs & services visit:

www.PrideCenterFlorida.org

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THE PRIDE CENTER

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Beach Bear Weekend

The Pride Center provided outreach on HIV prevention, education, testing and linkage to care at the annual Beach Bear Weekend on Fort Lauderdale beach. Some proceeds from the event benefitted the vital programs and services of The Pride Center.



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John C. Graves Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of Broward

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Facing Stigma Head-On

CHOICES graduate shares impact of program

By Lorenzo Jones

I just wanted to say a few words about the CHOICES Program that I was so pleasantly surprised to find when I transitioned from Pennsylvania to Fort Lauderdale. My name is Lorenzo Jones. I am 48 years old and living with HIV since 1993 when I was diagnosed.

When I arrived here, I had been doing a lot over the years, working through challenges and health issues for quite some time. I thought I had overcome a lot of the basic challenges of living with HIV like disclosure and problem solving. I'm so glad that I came across a flyer in another community organization that had the CHOICES literature and decided to check it out. CHOICES is a program with The Pride Center's PALS Project. After meeting with Magno Morales, CHOICES Coordinator, and the staff at the PALS office, I felt immediately comfortable and thought I might be in the right place.

Being a long term survivor, I thought I knew plenty. But after what I thought was a short five weeks of classes, I realized how much I gained and how helpful it was for me to have that experience with others. I was able to see how some of my everyday challenges could be so much more improved since I went through the course. We have come a long way with treatment, care and knowledge about HIV, but stigma and ignorance about those of us living full lives



with this disease is still very present.

I'm grateful for the work that organizations like The Pride Center are still doing to help us be more aware and prepared to face these stigma issues head on. I can truly say that I'm glad that I didn't think I knew it all and allowed myself to be open to learn so much more about problem solving and communication skills. These skills continue to help me on this journey to not just be a long-term survivor but a long term thriver.

This CHOICES course is not just about class experience, it's about fellowship; it's fun; and it's very informative on so many levels. No matter how long we live with the virus, there always are new things coming up and each one teaches us how to continue to overcome everyday challenges. Thank you Magno and the entire PALS staff for all the dedication you guys give to this community for those of us who are either infected or affected with this disease.

CHOICES (Choosing Healthy Options, Improving Communication Effectiveness) is a five week small-group program that helps people living with HIV lower stress and improve their coping skills, including disclosure, relationship, problem-solving, communication and sexual negotiation skills. For more information, please contact Magno Morales at MMorales@PrideCenterFlorida.org or 954.463.9011.

Vision 2015 charts the course for The Pride Center to be mortgage-free on our 5.5 acre Equality Park campus. We seek 1,000 donors who will contribute \$1,000 annually. To join Vision 2015, contact Roger Roa at RRoa@PrideCenterFlorida.org

SAGEWorks Alum Finds a Match Made in Heaven

By Rob Saunders

Bryan Cadle is wreathed in smiles when we meet. The handsome and sunny guy is happier than ever these days, doing something he really loves with The Church of the Holy SpiritSong on The Equality Park campus.

"I do the office administrative work and I'm the Pastor's armor-bearer," he said, going on to explain that armor-bearer is an old biblical term for a trusted person appointed to carry the king's armor and keep him safe. "Nowadays, it's kinda like a personal assistant."

What he brings to the position is, at least in part, a testament to the value of the SAGEWorks program provided by The Pride Center. SAGEWorks is designed for mature LGBT adults who want to improve their competence with various computer-based resources and productivity tools, to stay competitive in the job market.

In Bryan's case, office work was a new career direction. Growing up in Kentucky, he started out as a plumbing apprentice, then went on to manage an optical lab, and taught competitive gymnastics for a few years. He also had quite a long stint as an artist's model, and more than a few people in this town have seen a lot of Bryan. "Yep, I've done some very unique jobs," he laughed.

As for the job opening with The Church of the Holy SpiritSong, it all evolved out of Bryan's long-time involvement in church activities. The spiritual side of life has always been important to him and his husband Chris. After an unhappy experience with one worship center that did not want to recognize their marriage, they cast about for a more compatible congregation and found the COHSS.

"They welcomed us and we told them about what we had recently been through, and before you knew it, we were attending. After a while we decided to take their classes and we became members," he said.

Not long after, a volunteer position for an office assistant opened up at the Church and Bryan agreed to give it a shot. "I do all the administrative work, I'm their lead volunteer and the Pastor's armor-bearer," he smiled. "I absolutely love it!"

During that time, Bryan realized that he needed to become proficient in some essential computer programs. "One afternoon," he recalled, "I just went to Pastor and said, I have got to find a computer class so I can learn how to operate here better ... and that night, this is no kidding, I went home and saw the ad for the SAGEWorks classes."

He applied over the phone and was accepted with a slight caveat; he had to be at least 40. Well, Bryan sounds (and looks) to be in the first flush of youth, but he's 44. He was in.

He took the course in Microsoft Office programs. "Yes, it was PowerPoint, File Manager, and Excel and Word. It was wonderful. The instructor was amazing, it was a great class." Basically, he came away with confidence in his computer skills. "I can now do PowerPoint for people, I can run different programs that people need. I am able to do double what I used to be able to do on a computer."

"Bryan's services here are invaluable," said Pastor Leslie Rutland-Tipton. "He was good with the computer before the class, but there's a lot of things he has picked up on and doesn't need my help at all." That has freed up time to do more important things, she added, "like when I do outreach or go to visit people in the hospital."

It all seems like it was meant to be -- heaven sent, you might say. Bryan agreed. "God put me in line for this," he said thoughtfully. "I do not believe in coincidences. The way it went down, it could not be anything but God."

Any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning, you may see Bryan arriving for work on his spiffy blue scooter. Say hi! No point, though, in asking about his next modeling gig. "I really don't have time anymore," he grinned. Oh well, one door opens, another closes (sigh).

More About SAGEWorks

Surveys have shown that ageism and discrimination begin in the workplace when employees turn 40, so SAGEWorks is designed to assist older workers in maintaining a competitive edge.

The program is geared to LGBT



individuals 40 years of age and older who may be seeking to return to the workplace or who want to improve their job skills in order to get a promotion or find a new job. SAGEWorks is a program of The Pride Center, from a grant from SAGE USA with generous funding by The Walmart Foundation. Local organizations like SAGE of South Florida and AARP collaborate.

The program offers a variety of skills-enhancing courses throughout the year. Locally, it is nearly at the end of its second year of providing job search

connections, computer classes, skills-building seminars and a Jobs Board that lists area openings often before they are announced publicly.

If you'd like to know more about upcoming SAGEWork events and courses, check the Facebook page or website of The Pride Center. For further information, contact Bruce Williams, Senior Services Coordinator at the Pride Center: (954) 463-9005 Ext. 109 or bwilliams@pridecenterflorida.org.

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Diversity Honors

The Harvey Milk Foundation and The Pride Center collaborated on this inaugural gala, hosted by the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood. This milestone event recognized national honorees Judy and Dennis Shepard, co-founders of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, plus several South Florida leaders who have made a significant impact on improving the quality of life for the LGBT community.

Photos by Photos by Steve Shires and Stephen Lang



Founders Circle Reception at Events by Grateful Palate

Events by Grateful Palate and Shooters hosted and sponsored a recent Founders Reception along the water. Funds donated by Founders Circle underwrite life-enhancing programs and services to the community. *Photos by Steve Shires*



LIFE Graduation

Friends, family members, staff, volunteers and community leaders gathered to celebrate the graduates of the 18-week LIFE Program. This holistic health program helps people living with HIV learn effective ways to lead healthier, richer lives. Graduates see their immune system strengthen and their viral load decrease. To enroll in the program, please contact Jeff Grigsby at 954.463.9011.
Photos by Manuel Leon



Tools for School

The Pride Center and GLBX once again hosted a successful kick-off to the annual Back to School Supply Drive. Each year, The Pride Center organizes diverse groups for school supply, food and holiday toy drives. Broward Education Foundation reports that our coalition of LGBT organizations provides more school supplies annually for local classrooms than any other group.

Photos by Jorge Alarcon and Anthony Brautigam



Groups at the Pride Center

WEEKLY RECURRING MEETINGS

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
 A Course in Miracles, Social, Tues, 07:00p-9p
 BrothasspeakFTL-Social, Wed, 7:00p-9:00p
 Coffee and Conversation – SAC, Social/Seniors, Tues, 10:30a-12noon
 Crystal Meth Anonymous, Recovery Mon 6p-7p, Wed, 6p-7p
 Cognitive Awareness Group-Wed, 7p-8p
 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
 High Noon Prosperity August Gold, Tues, Social, 12-1p
 Island City Al-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
 Open Hearts Meditation Group, Sat, 3:30p-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,
 Quit Smoking Now, Tues 7p-8:30p (Inquire for details)
 SAGE Men's Social, Social/Seniors, Wed, 1-3p
 SAGE Computer Club, Wed 4p-6p
 SAGE CO-ED Discussion Group, Thurs, 1p-3p
 Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous (SLAA), Recovery, Fri, 7p-8p
 Senior Exercise Class YMCA 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-12p
 Smart Recovery, Recovery, Mon, 7:30-8:30p/Thur, 6:30p-8p
 The Healing Project Meeting, Tues 7:30p-9pm

Toastmasters, Educational, Mon, 7:15p-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
 Sunserve POZ Long-Term Survivor, Gay Men/HIV Support, 1st & 3rd Tues, 6:30-8p
 Senior Games Day, Social, 2nd & 4th Tue, 1-4p

MONTHLY RECURRING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Pride Center BINGO, Open to Public, 2nd Sat, 7-10p and 4th Sun, 4p-7p
 Dolphin Democrats, Monthly Meeting, 2nd Wed, 7:30-9:30p
 Equality Park Garden Club, Educational, 3rd Wed, 7-9p
 Pride Center Flea Market, Open to Public, 1st Sat, 8a-2p
 Primetimeers, Open to Public, 1st Sun, 2-4:30p
 SAGE Movie, Social, 3rd Mon, 4-6p
 Transgender Support Group, Support, 3rd Fri, 7-8:30p
 Women with Pride Book Club, 2nd Thur, 7-9p
 Women with Pride Game Night, 1st Tues, 7p-9p

For further information or to rent a room for your special event call:

Samantha McCoy at 954-463-9005 ext. 101.

Visit www.pridecenterflorida.org/calendar for meeting room assignments. Room days/times subject to change.



The Color Theory & Geometry Light Impression

A packed crowd enjoyed the reception for this captivating exhibit by Venezuelan artist and Center Marketing and Social Media Coordinator Manuel Leon. To learn more about exhibiting in the art galleries at The Pride Center, contact Anthony Brautigam at 954.463.9005. *Photos by Jorge Alarcon*



Putting on Her "Sales Face"

Deanna Sylvestri knows how to use her skills, drive and passion to benefit The Pride Center and the LGBTQ communities. She now has a new platform to serve others. Deanna recently was voted onto the Board of Directors for The Pride Center.

"I'm honored to be appointed to the Board of The Pride Center," says Deanna. "I hope my fresh ideas and drive will make a difference with the upcoming Capital Campaign and the new playground that we're building with KaBOOM and JetBlue. I am excited and look forward to being a part of the change and expansion at Equality Park."

She is passionate about the mission of The Center and its work each day in the community.

"The outreach programs that The Pride Center has for the seniors and youth truly touch my heart," says Deanna. "Both generation have such a difficult time within society and The Pride Center makes a difference in their lives."

Deanna started to support The Pride Center in 2011 when she hosted her first Founders Circle event at GALLERYone Doubletree. She was excited to see the attendance and support the LGBTQ community.

"I've had the honor to host the December Founders Circle events for four consecutive years," says Deanna. "It grew year after year. I truly believe the excitement of the location drove the attendance up and also made a difference in the Toy Drive for the holidays."

Deanna has actively served on The Center's Development committee and volunteered for many events, including Wicked Manors, Evening in Paradise, Breast Fest, Dining with Pride and Tools for School.

"Wicked Manors is always one of my favorites, and I love putting on my 'sales face' to raise money during the evening," says Deanna. "I love being part of the Development Committee and coming up with new ideas to help raise money for The Center."

Deanna recently was promoted to the Director of Group Sales at The Westin Fort Lauderdale on Corporate Drive. The Westin will host the

September 2015 Founders Circle Reception. She previously worked at the GALLERYone Doubletree and the Hampton Inn Downtown Fort Lauderdale. Her hotel career started in 2001 at the Holiday Inn Fort Lauderdale. She had worked previously as a travel agent for 16 years.

She first got involved with serving the local LGBTQ community when she joined the GLBX Board for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce.

"I have several dear friends and family members who are part of the LGBTQ community and being involved makes me feel good," says Deanna.

Deanna moved to Florida in 1995 from New Jersey. She has a 15-year-old son, Max.

"I think my passion is believing in having true equality in our community," says Deanna. "I'm excited about the changes for marriage equality and look forward to new exciting progress to come. Being part of The Pride Center, I hope my drive to make a difference will help achieve that progress."

Sylvestri joins Board of Directors



Photo by Jorge Alarcon



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Sidestepping Discomfort, Receiving Better Care

Since its inception in 2013, the online LBT health directory has become a vital and growing resource. This initiative promotes preventive health among LBT women. LBThealth.org now links over 1,000 unique visitors each month to vetted, culturally competent healthcare providers throughout South Florida. Thanks to Aqua Foundation for Women, this past year Women with Pride has been able to focus on updating provider policies and improving website features. What seemed to be a daunting task at first soon became more manageable with a dedicated team of interns at The Pride Center.

Cue Karissa Trombley. Native to Vermont, Karissa first moved to Florida in 2007 to begin her undergraduate studies at Eckerd College. Just last year, Karissa and her partner moved to Fort Lauderdale, and Karissa found herself interning with The Pride Center to complete her degree in Human Development.

When I asked her why she chose The Pride

Center, she explained, "I have an interest in working for nonprofits in the future, so I thought I would gain a unique experience by interning at The Pride Center. The Center intrigued me because I knew it was a community center that had a focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues. I was also interested in their work with HIV prevention."

It was not long before Karissa began working more closely with Women with Pride and our efforts to update and improve the Directory.

"I was interested in working on the Directory because it is an invaluable tool for lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women looking for a doctor who understands their unique health concerns. As a bisexual woman, I can relate to the challenges when looking for a culturally competent physician who has knowledge of the ways in which our sexuality and lifestyle may impact our health."

In fact, Karissa's past experiences highlight the many fears LBT women have in seeking healthcare. "I know what it is like to feel uncomfortable. LBT

women are faced with when talking to a physician about women's health issues. I have learned that I receive better care and consequently have better health if I feel I can be open with my physician. It can be difficult to know if your doctor is comfortable with LGBT issues until you are already in the office with them. LBThealth.org allows us to completely sidestep that uncomfortable process and know that the provider is competent and comfortable with our needs before going through the process of calling and meeting with them."

The Directory can help put LBT women's fear of

Intern shares impact of LBT Health Directory

by Roya Amirioumand, Women with Pride Coordinator



discrimination at ease when looking for healthcare because they will know for certain that the provider they are considering is trained to understand their health and wellness needs.

"The Directory is great because it makes it easy for women to find a provider and know exactly what makes them qualify as being competently with LBT health and wellness," says Karissa.

For example, on the Directory, the provider's profile will list which cultural competency criteria they fulfill, whether it is in their trainings or inclusive policies.

"We are trying very hard to make sure that we have the best and most detailed information on the Directory. Therefore our biggest barrier right now is the time it can require to obtain information from the providers and update it in the Directory. We are going through the list of providers one by one and updating all of their information to ensure individuals looking for a provider on the Directory have the most comprehensive information. We want to make sure everyone can make an informed decision when choosing a provider."

Karissa's hard work has been invaluable to us at The Pride Center and our goal to bring attention to health and wellness issues in our community.

THE KIKI PROJECT

You bring your friends;
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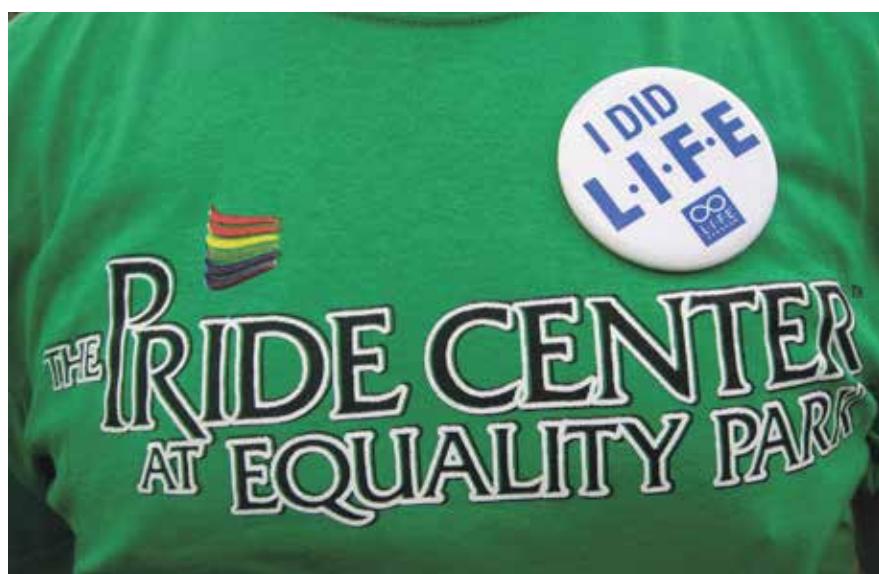
The Kiki Project is designed for Black gay men and those that support us. Come share your words!

Contact Us:
Phone: (954) 463-9011, ext. 305 or 306
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The Kiki Project At The Pride Center



The LIFE Program And ME

By Stephen J. Kosiorek



This spring I completed the 20th cycle of the LIFE program and my expectations were blown away. I've been HIV-positive since January 2000 and have managed my life relatively well. My strong will and opinionated confidence is what I attribute to accepting my HIV as if it were just

another something or just another day.

However, now at 50 and a long term survivor, I wanted my life goals to evolve so I could strengthen my focus to face new challenges. The LIFE Program gave me a safe comfortable environment to share the experiences that shaped me without fear or consequence, all while learning the deeper truths about myself. Truths about how better to take care of my body

through a smart balance of medicine, better nutrition, exercise and the power of sleep. Truths about how to limit risky behavior and avoid the triggers. Truths about nurturing a spirituality that until LIFE, I had rendered insignificant.

The best gift the LIFE Program gave me is the network of friends that in a matter of 20 weeks became best friends. Friends who have helped me better connect with myself as that

long term survivor, and the world I now see through 50 year old eyes. This program sharpened my perspective and energized me: body, mind and soul. For that I will always be grateful.

In closing, I'd say that the LIFE program is perfectly named--LIFE, as the dear friend who guided me to the program always believed. I now understand and believe the same.

I would encourage anyone searching for answers or struggling to deal with their own HIV journey to consider this program with an open mind and a welcoming heart. I guarantee your expectations will

also be blown away.

To learn more about the 18-week LIFE Program, or to enroll in this holistic health program for people living with HIV, please contact Jeff Grigsby at JGrigsby@PrideCenterFlorida.org or 954.463.9011. This program helps people living with HIV learn effective ways to lead healthier, richer lives. LIFE is based on scientific research that connects participants' performance on certain biological, psychological and social cofactors to immune system functioning, disease progression and overall health. Graduates see their immune system strengthen and their viral load decrease.



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For more information, contact Robert Eldredge at: RWE Real Estate Services at 954.873.4717

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Volunteers Needed!

The Pride Center needs volunteers for the following:

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Service • Graphic Design/ Marketing • HIV Testing • Art Galleries • Fundraising/Development • I.T. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Support • Grounds and Garden Maintenance • Parking • Tour Guides • Facilities Projects • Greeting/Room Set-Up |
|--|--|

Please contact Samantha McCoy at 954-463-9005 Extension 101 or smccoy@PrideCenterFlorida.org

www.pridecenterflorida.org

Connect
with Your
Community

Going to the Chapel Bingo

The Pride Center continues to provide a popular, irreverent Bingo the second Saturday night of each month. To learn more about Bingo, contact Janet at 954.463.9005.



BBFs Today and "Bye Felicia" Tomorrow

This community conversation explored the nature of friendships and how they impact the ability to maintain safer sex practices, share HIV status and be honest about identify among Black same-gender-loving men.



Once Upon a Drive

Wicked Manors 2015 Will Cast a Spell

Fairytales do come true. This October 31st many of your favorite fairy tale characters will come to life on Wilton Drive. The Pride Center once again will create the largest Halloween Street Festival event of the year. Wicked Manors 2015 - Once Upon A Drive! will occur on Saturday, October 31st from 7:00 pm to 12 midnight.

The Pride Center is excited to put on this street festival for the third year as a fundraiser for our vital programs and services. Through this event, we are able to reach out to the tri-county area and help raise the awareness of The Center and all of the good work that we do," said Robert Boo, CEO.

The Pride Center produces Wicked Manors annually, in collaboration with The City of Wilton Manors. This year Wicked Manors 2015 - Once Upon a Drive, presented by Hunter's Nightclub,

invites you to dress as your favorite fairy tale character--good or bad.

Wilton Drive will be closed to all traffic from 5 Points to NE 21 Court in order to provide a safe and magical fun time for the 30,000 costumed revelers expected to have a magical fairy tale night. The Pride Center will have 10 beverage stations along Wilton Drive serving Ketel One Vodka and other premium liquors.

"Every costume tells a story, so 'Once Upon a Drive' is the chance to tell yours," says Doug Cureton, Wicked Manors Chair. "Think classic fairytales, your favorite bedtime stories or heroes, sheroes, villains, magical creatures from your favorite books, movies or shows! From the moment you arrive on Wilton Drive, you will be transported to a magical, storyland celebration with over-the-top costumes, décor, music, flash mobs and costume contests with

our main stage Diva Emcee – Miss Misty Eyez!"

Event planner phenomenon Bobby Kyser, of Panache Style, said, "We are planning to create a magical fairytale feeling on two stages. Get ready for the best year ever!"

Patrick Volker and Mark Seymour, owners of Hunters Nightclub and this year's Presenting Sponsor said, "We are proud to be the Presenting Sponsor for the second year and be a part of the largest Halloween event for South Florida. This event is putting South Florida on the national map making it a destination spot for Halloween. Hunters is proud to be a community partner of The Pride Center."

The Center would also like to recognize the following sponsors who will help make Wicked Manors a reality: VIP Sponsors - Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau; Stage Sponsor - Hits 97.3; General Sponsors - City of Oakland Park and Broward County Parks & Recreation, Village Pub and New York Grilled Cheese.

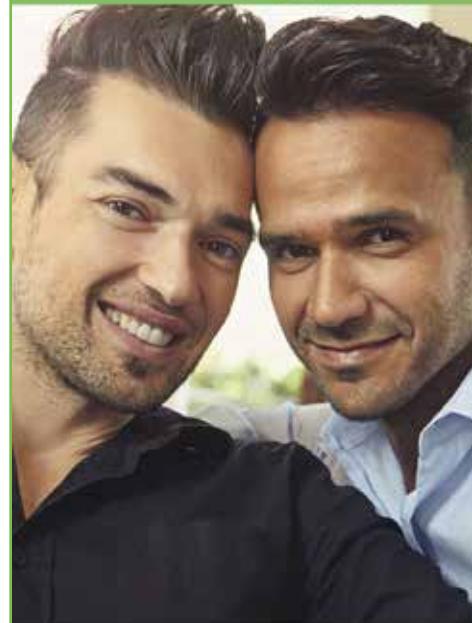
We would also like to thank our media sponsors for their help in promoting this amazing event: Florida Agenda, Genre Latino, Guy Magazine, Hot Spots Magazine, Liquid Radar, Mark's List,



Next Magazine, She Magazine and South Florida Gay News.

For more information on where to park, a list of all the costume contests or how to join the Flash Mob, visit our website - WICKEDMANORS.COM. Check out the Wicked Manors Facebook Page for some inspiration and all the latest updates and news! If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, contact Roger Roa, Director of Development at RRoa@PrideCenterFlorida.org. All proceeds from Wicked Manors will benefit the vital programs and services of The Pride Center. Join us as we rip fairy tale characters out of books, TV and movies and place them on The Drive!

Couples Speak



A free program for men in relationships or for those who want to be.

It doesn't matter if you're HIV negative or living with HIV. This program is a great way for you to build relationship skills, share with new friends and have fun.

- Improve healthy communication
- Manage conflict and differences
- Engage in fun learning activities
- Discuss sex openly and honestly
- Make your love life more exciting and safer
- Learn to love better
- Reduce your risks
- Enhance your health and...
- Have fun!

For more information contact
The Pride Center's PALs Project...

Lorenzo Robertson
email LRobertson@PrideCenterFlorida.org
or call **954.463.9011 ext. 306**



Did you know?

+ Center volunteers have provided more than 8,500 hours of service so far this year

+ Over 100 people play Bingo at The Pride Center on the second Saturday evening of every month.

+ The Pride Center has provided individualized HIV prevention outreach to more than 70,000 people since the beginning of 2015

+ We hosted more than 1,500 group meetings at The Pride Center already in 2015

Decision Day Rally

A diverse community gathered at the Federal Courthouse to rally in celebration of the Supreme Court's marriage equality decision. CEO Robert Boo and other leaders delivered passionate remarks to the crowd.
Photos by JR Davis



Sold-Out

by Robert Saunders



Senior Health Expo Bigger and Better Than Ever

Coming in October: our sixth Senior Health Expo -- the most spectacular yet.

Booths and display spaces at this year's fair sold out in June to over sixty LGBT-friendly vendors, who will offer valuable information on senior living facilities, home healthcare agencies, legal issues and a wide assortment of other areas affecting the well-being of our senior community. These providers in the fields of healthcare, aging and geriatrics will showcase their services and products to an anticipated crowd of several hundred LGBT seniors, their families and friends.

The Man-Van provided by Broward Health at Imperial Point will be on site for a full complement of testing opportunities. Other medical tests, along with flu shots, also will be available. Once again, the Expo will feature a variety of practical and engaging educational seminars focusing on the needs of the LGBT senior population.

Admission is free. Complimentary coffee and pastries will be provided by Stork's Bakery, and there will be free lunches for the first 300 attendees. Furthermore, everyone is eligible to win one of many wonderful door prizes including a large, flat-screen television.

The Senior Health Expo is a must-see. Doors will be open October 17 from 10 am until 2 pm at The Pride Center.

Sincere thanks go to a roster of great sponsors:

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Our community partners include Broward Health Imperial Point, Futurity First Insurance, Gilda's Club of South Florida, SAGE of South Florida, SunServe, The Fort Lauderdale Prime Timers, The Light of The World Clinic, Women in Network and The Pride Center Senior Advisory Council.

For further information, contact Senior Services Coordinator Bruce Williams at 954-463-9005 ext. 109, or bwilliams@pridecenterflorida.org.

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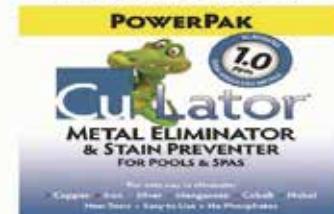
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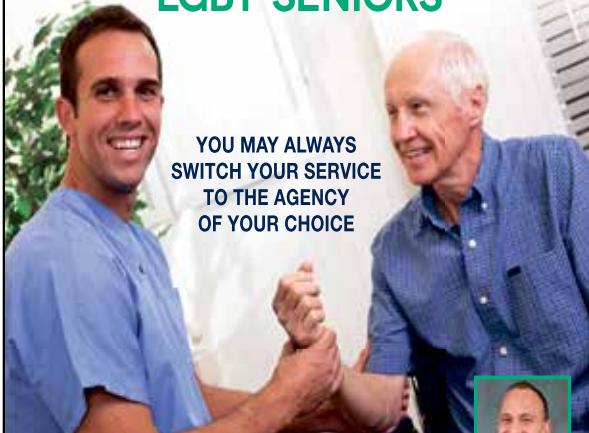
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- + Over 200 Seniors join us for Coffee and Conversation every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m.
- + The Center organizes regular educational workshops for prospective and current LGBT parents
- + The 17-week LIFE Program provides powerful, comprehensive, supportive holistic health workshops to people living with HIV. Contact JGrigsby@PrideCenterFlorida.org to learn more

Founders Circle Reception at Gallery of Amazing Things

Gallery of Amazing Things hosted a recent Founders Reception with food by The Restaurant People. Founders provide at least \$100 monthly to support the programs and services of The Pride Center. *Photos by Stephen Lang*



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