



# THE PRIDE CENTER VOICE

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## House of Love

One of South Florida's most overlooked populations, aging members of the LGBTQ community, will soon have a new affordable housing option in Broward County. The Pride Center, one of the nation's largest nonprofit LGBTQ community centers, will team-up with Miami-based Carrfour Supportive Housing, Florida's largest nonprofit affordable housing developer, to develop The Residences at Equality Park. The residential development will provide permanent affordable housing and supportive services for low-income senior adults, with a special focus on members of the LGBTQ communities.

The 48-unit development will be South Florida's first affordable housing project with customized supportive services benefiting low-income LGBTQ seniors. The innovative project represents the first phase of the master plan for redevelopment of the

*The Pride Center Partners with Carrfour Supportive Housing to Develop The Residences at Equality Park*



five-acre site of The Pride Center at Equality Park.

The Residences at Equality Park will come alive in two phases. The first phase will include 48 apartments – 34 of which will be designated for low-income seniors living with disabling conditions, such as physical

illnesses or disabilities due to complications from HIV/AIDS. The remaining units will provide affordable low-income housing for seniors earning less than 60% of the area's median income (AMI) – or approximately \$35,000 a year. The first phase of

+Continued on pg. 4

## Welcome To My Nightmare

Election year politics haunting your dreams? Wicked candidates making you scream? Channel that horror into a wild, creative costume, and join us for Halloween!

The Pride Center once again will create the largest Halloween Street Festival event of the year, Wicked Manors 2016. This over-the-top, entertaining block party will occur on Monday, October 31, 2016 from 7:00 PM until 11:00 PM.

"The Pride Center is excited to put on this street festival annually 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 each year in collaboration with The City of Wilton Manors. This year's theme – Political Nightmare: Scandals, Secrets and Sin, presented by Hunter's Nightclub and AIDS Healthcare Foundation – invites you to rock the vote with costumes from your favorite political nightmares.

"While current candidates may jump to

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*Wicked Manors 2016: Political Nightmare – Scandals, Secrets & Sins to Scare Wilton Drive*



# Building the Community

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

**O**ur cover story details the great news about the Senior Affordable and Supportive Housing project that we have started. An intense, multi-year process led the Board of Directors and The Center to this point. We still have many milestones to achieve before we enjoy the end results. We hope (and this is South Florida) to break ground at the end of 2017 and complete phase 1 of the project by the end of 2018. We've had a flood of people call The Center to have their name put on the list. We are encouraged by their enthusiasm, premature as it may be. That process will be handled by the management company and is almost two years down the road. But we will keep you posted.

Producing Wicked Manors "Political Nightmare" this year has presented its challenges. Due to the world in which we live, we must take many more precautions this year to keep our community safe. After the recent events in Orlando and Nice, we have to be more vigilant whenever large groups of people gather. It doesn't matter if we are LGBTQ or not. Anyone can be a target. Because of this new reality, the increase in security costs directly impacts the event's bottom line. The Center organizes Wicked Manors each year as a fundraiser to support our vital programs and services. I want to give a shout out to Hunter's Nightclub and AHF for generously serving as co-presenters of this year's event. Without their generosity, this year's Halloween would be a much bigger Nightmare.

In recent months, we saw the passing of two special people in our community that did so much for The Center. Please read the articles about Alan Schubert and Juliette Love! They helped build our community into the strong vibrant example that many other cities envy. We also welcomed some tremendous new talent onto our staff and Board of Directors. Read the personal stories of Jodi Reichmann, John Baumgartner, Christopher Matthews and Tatiana Williams who joined our staff; Heidi Siegel who joined our Board of Directors; and Mark Budwig who became our new Board



Chair. The skills, experience, passion and vision that they bring to The Center help make our community stronger.

The last quarter of the calendar year always is crazy busy around The Center. There are so many events and activities going on that will appeal to everyone in the community, including Breast Fest, Boomer and Senior Health Expo, Community Day, Transgender Awareness Month, World AIDS Day and more. If you are looking for something to do and a great way to meet people, then check out our calendar of events. We highlight many of the activities in this issue of the Voice. But you can learn about many more Center activities regularly by signing up to receive our weekly electronic newsletter on our website and visiting our Facebook page.

Invest in your Center and help build our community into a better place for all!

## About The Pride Center

**T**he Pride Center celebrated 23 years of service in 2016. 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 35,000 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, communities of color, recovery, health, the arts, athletics, spirituality, games and more. Outreach activities over the past year directly impacted over 128,000 residents and visitors to South Florida. The Pride Center is a major site for HIV testing, prevention, outreach, education, healthcare

linkage, support, holistic health 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 Boomer/Senior Health Expo. Stop in and learn about all we provide: a community Flea Market; women's health initiatives; family outreach days; Bingo; unique exercise classes; financial investment series; art gallery openings; a playground; Bingo; 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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# TRANS AWARENESS MONTH

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Friday, November 04, 2016 • 7:00 p.m.**  
When director Sharon Shattuck's father came out as transgender, Sharon was in the awkward throes of middle school. As the Shattuck's reunite to plan Sharon's wedding, she seeks a deeper understanding of how her parents' marriage, and their family survived intact.  
**The Sunshine Cathedral**  
1480 S.W. 9th Ave,  
Fort Lauderdale

**Wednesday, November 16, 2016 • 7:00-9:00 pm**  
Renaming Ceremony a celebration of rebirth and affirmation of the rite of passage to self-definition when one chooses their new name and clears a redefined path for their future.  
**The Sunshine Cathedral**  
1480 S.W. 9th Ave,  
Fort Lauderdale

**Sunday, November 20, 2016 • 4:00-6:00pm**  
An evening of commemoration and call to action for those who have lost their lives due to bias and hatred based on gender identity or expression worldwide.  
**The Pride Center**  
**Schubert Building**  
2040 N. Dixie Hwy,  
Wilton Manors

**Monday, November 28, 2016 • 7:00-9:00 pm**  
An evening of acknowledging and awarding those who have advanced transgender equality.  
**Thirteen Restaurant and Bar**  
2390 Wilton Drive,  
Wilton Manors

Sponsored By:



Co - Sponsored By:  
John James Gigliello

For more information please contact: 954-463-9005 ext. 205

Connect  
with Your  
Community

The Pride Center  
2040 N Dixie Hwy, Wilton Manors, FL 33305  
www.pridecenterflorida.org

## Caring for Caregivers

The Pride Center recently organized and hosted a workshop to provide skills, encouragement and assistance to members of our community who are providing care to their family members or friends. This workshop is part of our "Maturing Together" series with funding assistance by Our Fund. To learn more about the series, please contact Christopher Matthews at 954.463.9005. *Photos by James Dillon O'Rourke*



## Ethical Slut

The Center's Kiki Project hosted a recent, cutting-edge, honest dialogue on sexual desires and staying safe. 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*



## Join The Pride Center as a Member Today!

### Types of Membership:

- Individual \$40 per year
- Household \$70 per year
- Student (under 25) \$30 per year
- Senior (over 65) \$30 per year
- Friends \$200 per year
- Best Friends \$500 per year
- Founders Circle starting at \$1,200 per year\*

*\*Additional Founder Levels are available.*

Contact 954.463.9005

# House of Love

*The Pride Center Partners with Carrfour Supportive Housing to Develop The Residences at Equality Park*

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construction will begin in the fourth quarter of 2017 and be completed in late 2018. The project's proposed second phase, which will include an additional 74 units, is expected to be developed at a later date.

"Broward County has a rapidly-expanding population of aging LGBTQ

adults and unfortunately, very limited affordable housing options," said Robert Boo, CEO of The Pride Center. "The Residences at Equality Park, coupled with The Pride Center's ever-growing seniors programming – the largest LGBTQ seniors program in the nation – will help give these residents a

permanent and safe place to live along with the supportive services they need to stay there."

The Residences at Equality Park joins a growing national trend in which senior affordable housing projects are being built in conjunction with LGBTQ community centers in major cities across the country, including Los Angeles, San Diego, Chicago and Philadelphia. According to a recent survey by the Institute for Multigenerational Health, 47 percent of LGBTQ seniors in the U.S. are currently living with a disabling condition.

"There's a growing need for affordable housing in South Florida, particularly among underserved populations such as the senior LGBTQ community and those living with disabilities," said Stephanie Berman, President and CEO of Carrfour Supportive Housing. "Beyond providing a place to call home, Carrfour will partner with The Pride Center to ensure that residents at The Residences at Equality Park have convenient access to community services, healthcare, financial planning, and social networks that combat isolation."

Carrfour will serve as the project's developer, operator and service coordinator. The Pride Center, with over 23 years of experience serving the LGBTQ community in South Florida, will provide residents with innovative on-site supportive services, including healthcare navigation and coordination, senior support groups, workshops, exercise and recreational activities.

"A few years ago, Gay and Lesbian Elder Housing identified a desperate need in the greater Fort Lauderdale area for low-income housing," said Boo. "The City of

Wilton Manors approached The Center about addressing local needs and Equality Park's optimum location and resources to help meet those needs."

"Four and a half years ago during our Strategic Planning process, the Board of Directors set a goal to evaluate the potential of a senior affordable housing project to be built on Equality Park," said Boo. "Over the next three and a half years, we did our due diligence. During this same time, we updated the Master Plan for our campus. We partnered with the team at TSAO Design in a year-long process, including an extensive Charrette with 65 diverse community leaders. The results of that Charrette were presented to the Board last summer, and the top priorities helped set our direction. The Senior Affordable Housing Project remains one of the largest, most significant projects identified both by our Strategic Plan and the Charrette process."

Located at the corner of North Dixie Highway and Northeast 20th Drive in Wilton Manors, the five-acre Equality Park campus is owned by The Pride Center. It is slated for significant redevelopment, which will include the phase one project The Residences at Equality Park. Plans also call for a new multi-use cultural center along the eastern edge of the site on North Dixie Highway and water front event space. Additional parking structures also are planned.

"Since we announced this incredible news, our phones have kept ringing," said Boo. "People keep asking how they can get on the wait list. We have to let them know we're still a few years away. Obviously the need among local Seniors is real."

## Did you know?

+ Each month, hundreds of women visit our LBT women's Health Directory at [LBTHealth.org](http://LBTHealth.org). Check out this great resource of culturally competent healthcare providers!

+ Every day, The Center hosts a variety of 12-step meetings, including AA, NA and CMA. The Pride Center already has distributed 400,000 condoms this year. That's a LOT of safer sex!

+ More than 5,400 people like The Pride Center's Facebook page. Have you?

+ The Pride Center built the first playground for LGBT families and allies on a community center campus. Go check it out!

# Spotlight on Tatiana Williams

By Dr. Listron Mannix, Testing and Outreach Manager

Meeting Ms. Tatiana Williams, I was reminded of a Maya Angelou quote: “Nothing can dim the light which shines from within.”

Tatiana first was introduced to The Pride Center in 2014 and regularly attended events The Center hosted since then.

“After participating in the numerous events that interested me, I was approached by a Kiki Project staff member to be a panelist on one of their group discussions,” said Tatiana. “Although I was the only transgender woman on the panel in a room full of gay and bisexual men, I felt right at home. Little did I know I would soon call The Pride Center home.”

Tatiana started her mission as an outspoken advocate for the transgender community. Tatiana continues to grow stronger, as does her voice. She’s moved from holding several National Pageant titles to being appointed as the Community Co-Chair for The Florida Department of Health in Broward County’s Transgender Advisory Group: Transgender Health In Action (THIA). Tatiana is a no-nonsense, smart, articulate and passionate woman whose active role in the community makes her a champion for transgender women and their lovers in Broward County.

When Tatiana walked into The Pride Center for her initial interview for a part-time position, she made an impression on me: big smile, striking fashion, sharp mind, clear focus, and a glow on her face. I could tell she came prepared, guns loaded and ready to voice her skills; she did exactly that. She impressed both Ebony Wilson, Outreach Prevention Coordinator, and me; we quickly agreed we wanted her on our team. After being hired for a part-time testing and outreach position, her skills ensured she soon was promoted to Testing Expansion Coordinator.

In her current position, she oversees the expansion of culturally competent HIV Testing, Counseling, and Linkage activities with the goals of reducing the incidence of HIV infections in populations and communities heavily impacted by HIV/AIDS. Currently The Pride Center provides HIV Testing, Outreach, Education and Prevention services in over 30 locations across Broward County.

“I especially enjoy fostering new relationships, being involved in diverse populations and having the ability to expand in the work we do for the community,” says Tatiana.

Asking Tatiana why she chose to work in HIV/AIDS, she responded: “This is paramount to me because I had many close friends who passed away due to complications from this disease. I recall this was during a time when there were no prevention tools or support programs in place that could help victims of this disease, which resulted in the loss of many lives in our community.”

“The Pride Center has truly made a difference in my

**Occupation:**  
Testing Expansion Coordinator

**Born:**  
Miami, Florida

**Hobbies:**  
Entertaining; Pageantry; Shopping; Interior Decorations; Fashion Design; Watching Classic Movies; Spending time with family and friends.



life. I can remember Jodi Reichman (Center Transgender Services Coordinator) telling me there is a position at The Pride Center and they wanted me to apply for it. Although I was reluctant thinking I may be too much woman for that place, I gave it a try,” Tatiana says as she belts out a laugh that fills the room.

The Pride Center celebrates diversity and is excited to see where Tatiana’s leadership, experiences and perspective takes the testing team.

“We may identify with different gender identities but I feel we are all family and should unite as one,” says Tatiana. “Thank you Pride Center for welcoming me with open arms.”

## Founders Circle Reception at CLAD Tile & Stone

CLAD Tile & Stone hosted a recent Founders Reception. Founders provide at least \$100 monthly to support the programs and services of The Pride Center. *Photos by Stephen Lang*



## 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



# Back to School

## Kiki Culture and Get Your Life Expand Prevention Programs with Teens

By Lorenzo Robertson, Emerging Interventions Manager

The Pride Center is back in high school. Once again, our Kiki Project has been awarded grant funds to continue its innovative HIV prevention work among local adolescent young men during the current school year. The Kiki Project is expanding two programs in local high schools—Kiki Culture and Get Your Life.

Kiki Culture is a new adaptation for high school students of The Center's ongoing Kiki Project. Because of The Center's success in providing creative HIV prevention programs among Black same-gender-loving men, last year Broward County Public School's Diversity, Prevention and Intervention program asked us to provide similar work among adolescent minority males within local high schools. As we provided Kiki Culture in the schools, Advocates for Youth also awarded us funding to provide Get Your Life, another intervention designed to educate young men about sexuality, race and identity. Both programs are designed for adolescent sexual minority males.

When we first implemented both interventions in the schools, we enjoyed the opportunity to meet some extremely dedicated and intelligent young men who learned safer sex practices. These minority same-gender-loving teenagers shared a great deal about their sexual activities and who they are as men.

One of the youth who participated with us shared that he and his mother were at odds over his sexual orientation. She was adamant that he should not be a same-gender-loving man. Another young man was still very apprehensive about



Kiki Specialist Jakari Roundtree (far left) with several Kiki Culture participants

being honest with anyone about his sexual orientation. But the young participants learned skills to explore their behaviors and express their identities.

We're working to empower young Black and Latino gay men. We explore the duality: what does it mean to be Black or Latino? What does it mean to be same-gender-loving? These programs explore factors that influence young men's behavior including cultural, social, and religious norms. We also address interactions between HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, sexual relationship dynamics and the social and psychological influences that racism and homophobia have on HIV risk behaviors.

We've had great success in our prevention work among minority adolescents, and we already are working on a great 2016-2017 school year. We are working on a barbecue event and empowerment educational events with the graduates of the Get Your Life and Kiki Culture implementations. We will use these events as recruitment opportunities for the current school year. We also are meeting with all of our priority school principals: Fort Lauderdale High School, Flanagan High School, South Plantation High School, Hollywood High School, Deerfield High School, McArthur High School, and Northeast High School.

Our goal for the 2016-2017 school year is to continue to address health and prevention disparities with young Black and Latino young men in these schools. For more information about the Kiki Culture Program, you may contact us at 954-463-9005, ext. 306, 300 or 309. You may also contact us at [kikiproject@pridecenterflorida.org](mailto:kikiproject@pridecenterflorida.org).

## ONE DAILY PILL PREVENTS HIV

### JOIN US FOR OUR PREP WORKSHOP

4TH SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.  
THE PRIDE CENTER - ROOM 200  
2040 N. DIXIE HIGHWAY  
WILTON MANORS, FL 33305

- Refreshments and Snacks
- Free HIV Testing Available

▪ RSVP at: [PrEPworkshop.eventbrite.com](http://PrEPworkshop.eventbrite.com)

Come learn about PrEP and get your questions answered from The Pride Center's PrEP Coordinator, who will discuss everything you need to know about PrEP.

Get information on the benefits, side effects, cost, and where to get it. This is a monthly chance to learn about this exciting new method of HIV prevention.



Start Talking.  
Stop HIV.

THE KIKI  
PROJECT

THE PRIDE CENTER  
AT EQUALITY PARK

Supported by Funding  
from Gilead Sciences, Inc.

For more information contact: [prep@pridecenterflorida.org](mailto:prep@pridecenterflorida.org) or 954.463.9005 Ext 210

[www.PrideCenterFlorida.org/prep](http://www.PrideCenterFlorida.org/prep)

Connect  
with Your  
Community

# COMMUNITY DAY AT THE PRIDE CENTER



**FREE ADMISSION**

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 29, 2016  
11:30 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.**

Join us for fabulous fun for all forms of families. Doesn't matter if you are single, married, senior or youth.

Pet costume contest • Kid's costume contest • K9 Demonstrations • Bomb Squad • Funky police vehicles • Fire truck • Hot dogs • Hamburgers • Playground • Cotton candy and more!

Costume Contests for Kids and for Pets at 12:15 p.m.



954.463.9005

2040 N. Dixie Highway • Wilton Manors, FL 33301

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

Connect  
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# Welcome To My Nightmare

*Wicked Manors 2016:  
Political Nightmare –*

*Scandals, Secrets & Sins to Scare Wilton Drive*

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the front of your mind, don't forget classics like Nixon's 'I am not a crook' parting-shot, Marilyn Monroe's Happy Birthday serenade to JFK or the toe-tapping bathroom stall performance of Larry Craig," said Doug Cureton, Co-Founder and Event Chair of Wicked Manors. "Remember, costumes are never limited to the yearly theme so go wild with your imagination!"

Wicked Manors is returning to the Drive in 2016, despite challenges and obstacles.

"Security expenses have tripled since last year due to understandable global security concerns," said Boo. "We have never charged admission, but we hope all community members will consider donating to help defray increased costs. Please visit our website [WickedManors.org](http://WickedManors.org) or drop off a donation in person at The Pride Center! Any and all amounts are appreciated. We're truly grateful to our presenting sponsors, Hunters Night Club and AHF, for believing in the investment of community."

Wilton Drive will be closed to all traffic

from 5 Points to NE 21 Court in order to provide a safe and dream-like time for the 15,000-18,000 costumed revelers expected to be "Stronger Together" as they "Make Wilton Drive Great Again." The Pride Center will have 10 beverage stations along Wilton Drive serving premium liquors, including Smirnoff, Captain Morgan, Don Julio, Crown Royal and Terrazas.

"We've been working for over six months with all of our partners to ensure another fantastic night of fun and fantasy for our thousands of guests," says Cureton. "The costumes are really the stars of the show so we're looking forward to seeing more over the top, creative and amazing costumes."

There's something for everyone at Wicked Manors, including the kids. Trick or Treat On The Drive starts at 5:00 pm. We ask local businesses to have some treats for our younger revelers.

The Mainstage will feature The HITS 97.3 with emcees Miss Bryan and Kimmy B from the DJ Laz Morning Show. Misty Eyez will

also bring her dragtastic emcee talents to showcase some of our finest local and nationally known drag performers.

Mark Seymour and Patrick Volker, owners of Hunters Nightclub--Presenting Sponsor again this year--said, "We are proud to be a Presenting Sponsor for the third 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."

"AIDS Healthcare Foundation is proud to support the The Pride Center's superb Halloween celebration, Wicked Manors," said Jason King, Legislative Affairs Manager. "We are delighted to partner with The Pride Center on many programs that better our community, and to be able to sponsor this event for the third year in a row. Happy Halloween, South Florida!"

The Center would also like to recognize the following sponsors who will help make Wicked Manors a reality: Stage Sponsors - Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau and Hits 97.3; VIP Sponsors — The City of Wilton Manors and Rosie's

Bar & Grill; Tent Sponsors — Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, The Manor and Georgie's Alibi Monkey Bar; General Sponsors — Some Men Like It Haute, City of Oakland Park, Emerald Elite Senior Home Care, Sound Media, Vitas Healthcare, Progress Bar and Sunshine Tent & Event Rentals.

Wicked Manors also would like to thank valued media sponsors for their help in promoting this amazing event: Genre Latino, Hot Spots Magazine, Liquid Radar, Mark's List, Minuteman Press, OutClique, She Magazine and South Florida Gay News.

For more information on parking, costume contests or event details, visit [WICKEDMANORS.COM](http://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](mailto:RRoa@PrideCenterFlorida.org). All proceeds from Wicked Manors will benefit the vital programs and services of The Pride Center. For more information please visit [www.PrideCenterFlorida.org](http://www.PrideCenterFlorida.org)

None of this could happen without the help of dedicated volunteers. If you are interested in learning more about how to become a volunteer, contact Samantha McCoy at [smccoy@PrideCenterFlorida.org](mailto:smccoy@PrideCenterFlorida.org)!

## 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](mailto:LRobertson@PrideCenterFlorida.org)  
or call **954.463.9005 Ext. 306**

THE PRIDE CENTER



## Did you know?

+ Our SAGEWorks program helps older LGBT adults gain vital skills for finding employment. Contact Bruce Williams to learn more at [954.463.9005](tel:954.463.9005)!

+ Pride Center volunteers have provided more than 10,000 hours of service so far this year. Contact The Pride Center to volunteer!

+ Over 1000 visitors and 80 vendors attend The Pride Center's Flea Market on the first Saturday of every month. Check it out!

+ In November, The Pride Center and the Florida Health Department in Broward County will again organize and host several events for Transgender Awareness Month. Check out our monthly Trans Educational series!

# Sold-Out

## Boomer and Senior Health Expo Bigger and Better Than Ever

By Bruce Williams



**D**on't miss out on our Seventh Annual Senior Health Expo — the most spectacular yet. What started out as a project to find out if there were any LGBT-friendly and culturally competent providers in our area has mushroomed into a gathering that boasts over 60 businesses, draws an annual crowd of over 600 LGBT adults and serves as a fun-filled opportunity to get to know our many community resources.

The Pride Center's Seventh Annual Boomer/Senior Health Expo will be held Saturday, October 22, 2016 from 10 am until 2 pm at The Center, 2040 North

Dixie Highway in Wilton Manors. The Expo once again will provide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) adults with a unique, comprehensive overview of community healthcare resources. Booths and display spaces at this year's fair sold out this summer to over sixty LGBT-friendly medical, professional, support & financial providers in the fields of wellness and lifestyle who will showcase their services and products through this popular event.

Exhibits will reflect Health, Finance, Insurance, Travel, Entertainment, Retirement, and a number of helpful

community organizations. Vendors who are eager to serve our LGBT Boomers and Seniors will provide valuable information on Senior Living Facilities, Home Health Care resources, Legal information and an assortment of other areas affecting our community, family and friends. The Expo will offer flu shots, blood pressure screening and testing for hearing, cholesterol, glucose, HIV and more.

Admission and parking are free. Complimentary coffee and pastries will be provided by Stork's Bakery, and there will be free lunches for the first 300

attendees by Broward Health Imperial Point. Furthermore, everyone is eligible to win one of many premium door prizes including a giant, high-definition, flat-screen television.

We are thrilled to welcome our impressive list of exhibitors, both those who have been with us since the first expo as well as those who will be here for the first time. Their generosity and support are integral factors in enhancing our booming senior programming here at The Pride Center. Sincere thanks go to a roster of great sponsors:

### PREMIER SPONSOR:

Broward Health Imperial Point

### PRESENTING SPONSORS:

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CareFree Insurance, Emerald Elite Senior Home Care, Florida Medical Center and Senior Medical Associates

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Acute Hearing & Balance, Barbara Falowski Funeral & Cremation, Health Coverage Solutions, Midland Medical, Premier Smile Center, PRIDEone, Senior Bridge, United Health Care and Walgreens

None of this would be possible without our wonderful collaborating partners, including: Fort Lauderdale Primetimers, Gilda's Club South Florida, Impact Broward, Light of the World Clinic, SAGE of South Florida, SunServe, Women In Network (WIN) 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](mailto:bwilliams@pridecenterflorida.org).

**SOUTH FLORIDA'S  
ONLINE DIRECTORY OF  
HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS  
FOR LBT WOMEN**

**LBTHEALTH.ORG**

A SERVICE OF: THE PRIDE CENTER Women With Pride WIN Women in Network SPONSORED BY: OUR FUND AHF

## Founders Circle Reception Sponsored by Alpine Jaguar

Alpine Jaguar hosted a recent Founders Circle Reception at Marriott Fort Lauderdale. Founders Circle members underwrite life-enhancing programs and services to the community. To learn more about Founders, contact Roger Roa at RRoa@PrideCenterFlorida.org. *Photos by James Dillon O'Rourke*



## Exposed Gallery Reception

The Center's PALS Project collaborated with Broward House to organize and host Exposed, a gallery exhibit focused on fighting HIV-related stigma and improving body image. *Photos by Anthony Brautigam*



# Juliette Love Leaves Legacy of Leadership

(June 1948 - May 2016)

By Ross Seligson and Paul M Smith

This summer, The Pride Center at Equality Park joined the family, friends and the greater community in celebrating the life and legacy of Juliette Love.

A long-time Board Member, Juliette has been very special to The Pride Center and was an integral part of The Center's mission for many years. In fact, she served as one of the original donors to Alan Schubert's vision for The Center (see article on Page 29). Her advocacy and activism in the service of HIV/AIDS on local, state and national communities have been hallmarks of her generous service to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of HIV/AIDS in the LGBTQ's broader community, but with a particular focus on the health and welfare of people of color.

Juliette Love received her BS degree in 1970 from Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL where she acted in several productions in the theater department. She earned a MPS from FAU, Boca Raton, FL in 2008. Juliette launched her illustrious career as a STD Specialist at a clinic in Toledo, OH. She was promoted to manage a Regional STD program over a 19-county district in Northwest Ohio. In 1982 Juliette shifted her focus to include HIV/AIDS and became a federal employee with the Center for Disease Control.

In 1986, Juliette moved to South Florida to manage Center One, RWI and HOPWA programs in Broward County. She provided HIV/AIDS training programs to professionals through the AIDS Counseling and Education Program at Hospice Care of Broward County. A master planner and grant writer, Juliette served the Florida HIV/AIDS Prevention Planning Process from 1994, and following that with service to the Broward Community Planning Group in 1997 until her retirement. Along with her professional services, Juliette remained



a strong community activist which brought her to The Pride Center. She was one the center's original Founders Circle members. Juliette also held membership in the Association of University Women, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and AARP.

Stricken with cancer in her later years, Juliette kept a brave face and resilient resolve to stay active and involved. She was appointed to the Board of Directors in 2013 and also served on the Governance Committee for The Center. Juliette's compassion for young people brought her to volunteer as a Foster Grandmother in a Broward County Elementary School. Her love of singing led her to the choir at Saint Helen's Church.

When Juliette's health declined, she became increasingly debilitated. By April 2016, she became severely weakened. After a brief hospitalization in late April, family and many of her Pride Center friends visited her in her final days at Hospice by the Sea in Boca Raton, Florida. Eventually on May 4, 2016, she died from cancer. A Memorial Mass was held at a church in Deerfield Beach, FL, honoring Juliette's many personal and professional accomplishments and contributions to the community.

# Tzedakah: “Good Deeds”

*Siegel’s Passion for Children and Seniors Enhances Center Board*

**H**eidi Siegel is as an accomplished, busy woman. Yet over the past few years she has served The Pride Center in leadership roles for its most visible projects. She recently was voted enthusiastically onto our Board of Directors.

“I like to be involved with things I am passionate about,” says Heidi. “At the same time, there are just so many hours in the day. So I choose to be involved in the Board so I can help shape The Pride Center’s future and hopefully make the path easier for young people and our senior community members.”

Heidi served as community co-chair for The Center’s playground build and has been involved with the shaping of the new Master Plan and the Senior Affordable Housing project. She is a professional land planner and municipal administrator. Heidi currently works in the private sector.

“For many years, I was a silent, occasional user of The Pride Center,” confesses Heidi. “I went to the original Center that Alan (Schubert) set-up on Oakland Park Blvd for community information and support. I also went to some programs at the Andrews Avenue location. It was not until I started working in my former position in the City of Wilton Manors that I sought out opportunities to be involved in the programs and eventually the Board.”

Heidi knows she already has impacted the future of The Center and the community through her volunteer efforts.

“I am proud of my role in the housing component we

will be adding,” says Heidi. “As the former Community Development Director with Wilton Manors I was aware of many conversations in our community about LGBT housing for seniors — both market rate and affordable. The opportunity for implementation was presented to me while I was at the City. I worked with many different land owners and developers to see how we could bring this to Wilton Manors but I did not feel like it was getting traction and that scared me. I didn’t want to lose this opportunity. From there I reached out to Robert Boo. I was not sure if housing fit into the vision of The Center, but figured it was worth a conversation and from there the idea evolved into where we are today. I will never forget the cheers and applause this idea got early on in the process when I told the Coffee and Conversation group that I was looking for a way to bring affordable LGBT housing to Wilton Manors.”

Heidi doesn’t hesitate to point out what she’s most enjoyed about working with The Center: “Of course, the playground project! The grant process, as tedious and long as it was, was fun. It allowed us LGBT parents to bond and become more vested in The Center. Then to see our daughter have a hand in the design of the project with her peers made me a proud mother. And of course the actual building of the playground.”

She values the enhanced diversity of the work that The Pride Center does in the community.

“The evolution of the last few years under the leadership of Robert, Kristofer and Roger is just amazing,”



says Heidi. “The Pride Center has expanded its programs to be more inclusive to the whole community without neglecting any segment.”

Heidi was born and raised in Broward County. She received a Bachelor’s in History with a focus on race relations in the post Jim Crow South from Queens College in Charlotte, North Carolina and a Master’s in Heritage Preservation from Georgia State University.

“I am always happy to help with the technical side of the Master Plan process and provide moral support to the staff,” says Heidi about her role with the Board.

Heidi first got involved in a leadership role in the LGBT community through her local synagogue.

“When I was in graduate school in Atlanta I served on the board of the gay and lesbian synagogue I attended,” she says. “I was the Tzedakah Chair. Tzedakah means ‘good deeds’ and I came up with programs where we gave back to the larger community as well as serving in a leadership role on the Board of Directors.”

Heidi is a strong advocate for equality and safe spaces for children and the elderly. In her free time, Heidi enjoys reading fiction, camping, fitness training, running and cooking. Heidi is married to Marlene Marante Siegel, originally from Havana, Cuba, and they are mothers to 11-year old Shoshana.

Heidi is clear on the skills, vision and passion she brings to the table: “My positive attitude, sense of humor and my passion for the children and seniors.”



## Stonewall Street Festival & Parade

Pride Center staff and volunteers participated in a packed-day of outreach at Stonewall Summer Pride. The Center’s popular float won best Community Float in the parade. The Center utilizes diverse events each week to educate the community on its vital resources, programs, services and opportunities.

*Photos by Steve Shires and James Dillon O’Rourke*



# Volunteer Spotlight: 14 Years and Counting

By Samantha McCoy, Customer Service Coordinator

**P**aul Alpert has been volunteering with The Pride Center at Equality Park (formerly known as the GLCC) since January 2002. When Paul and his late partner, David Fisher, decided to leave the Maine winter for three months, they rented an apartment in Victoria Park. With hopes of meeting new people and a desire to give back, Paul began volunteering at The Center.

Fourteen years later, Paul still sits behind the front desk, greeting community members on Tuesday evenings. Paul's volunteerism does not stop at the customer service reception desk. Paul wakes up at 4:45 a.m. every first Saturday of the month to volunteer at The Center's monthly Flea Market.

Paul remains very active in the community and is the past treasurer of Front Runners of Ft. Lauderdale, The Equality Park Garden Club, and the East Neighborhood Association. Paul belongs to the Dolphin Democratic Club, HRC, Equality Florida, PFLAG, Lambda Legal, SAGE, Primetimers, ACLU and various other organizations. If all of that was not enough, Paul is a Master Gardener and as part of his community service, he planned and supervised the installation of a butterfly garden at the Wilton Manors Library.

Paul's spirit of volunteerism and motivation to continue his service to Equality Park is fueled by compassion and his desire to help make life easier for the younger generation navigating their sexuality.

"I would have been much happier when I was growing up if there was more acceptance of gay

Paul Alpert



people and a place that was safe for me to visit and discuss all that was happening to me," says Paul.

When Paul is not saving the world one organization at a time, his main hobby is gardening. His house is on a large lot and all around his home are tropical plants and 500 orchids. Paul spends between two to four hours every day in the garden, pruning and caring for his precious plants.

Paul has three grown children and seven grandchildren ranging in age from 17 to 28. Certainly visiting and keeping in contact with his family takes a great deal of time.

Living on a canal which connects to the Middle River allows Paul to launch from his dock and canoe or kayak through the city. The City connected Paul to us here at The Pride Center at Equality Park, and for that we are so grateful. Thank you, Paul Albert, for 14 years and counting!

# "Accept People for Who They Are"

*Reichman Uses Life of Service to Impact Trans Community*

By Tatiana Williams, Testing Expansion Coordinator



**T**he Pride Center is fortunate to have such an amazing person as Jodi Reichman working as our Transgender Services Coordinator. Jodi works within the Transgender Community, providing referrals and linkage to services such as medical and mental health. She organizes and provides cultural competency trainings and education to service providers and agency support staff throughout South Florida, which is paramount when working with transgender individuals. She helps coordinate our regular Transgender Education series in collaboration with the Florida Department of Health in Broward County. She creates regular workshops to foster inclusiveness through understanding, including helping spearhead the many Transgender Awareness Month activities in November each year. And she helps lead the annual local Transgender Medical Symposium.

Jodi, a native of Chicago, became involved within the HIV/AIDS Community in the late 1980's as a volunteer for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. She found her reason and purpose in life. Jodi decided to leave her profession in corporate accounting and follow her passion; she soon gained employment at Center One. She worked hands-on in hospitals, developing HIV programs and training staff. Jodi has worked for over 25 years in community based organizations in various positions, including developing programs for the homeless and public health and safety.

In 2007, Jodi began her amazing work in public service for the Health Department. She began working within the Transgender Community. Jodi created the first local Transgender Medical Symposium for the Department of Health in Broward County. The symposium was designed to educate medical students, doctors and mental health providers. The symposium has grown and six years later it still educates the healthcare community in cultural competence for transgender individuals.

One thing Jodi values about her job as an ally is the ability to provide assistance where and when needed as well as offer acceptance by those in the community. Jodi says her passion is knowing that she is able to help someone and change their lives for the better with understanding, love and kindness.

Jodi says that her father raised her with the acceptance and inclusion of all people. She remembers his words of wisdom: "Accept people for who they are, not for what you want them to be".

"Life has taken me on an amazing journey, one which I have never regretted," says Jodi. "I have been given many amazing opportunities."

## Did you know?

- + Over 200 people attended our last Founders Circle reception. Founders donate at least \$100 monthly to support our vital programs and services.
- + The Pride Center has provided more than 6,800 HIV Tests over the past year. Do you know your status?
- + Over 100 people play Bingo at The Pride Center on the second Saturday evening of every month. Check out The Center's website to learn more!
- + More than 1,000 people use our David Bohnett Cyber Center every month.

# BREAST FEST

## OCTOBER 24

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.  
THE PRIDE CENTER  
2040 N. DIXIE HIGHWAY  
WILTON MANORS, FL 33305  
MAIN HALL, SCHUBERT BUILDING

An evening of Breast Health Awareness  
and information! Celebrate with:

- Vendor booths
- Live Entertainment
- Hors d'oeuvres & Beverages
- 50-50 Raffles and more!
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FOR MORE INFO GO TO:  
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JOIN THE PRIDE RACK PACK  
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**Women With Pride**  
A Program of The Pride Center at Equality Park



AUGUST GOLD



# Where, Oh Where Are My Brothers?

## Kiki Project Graduate Moves from Isolation to Community

By Lorenzo Robertson, Emerging Interventions Manager

**A**lfredo is a native of Nicaragua but now lives in Wilton Manors. He has lived in three cities around the country: New York, Charlotte and Tampa. His experiences with Black same-gender-loving men have been good, bad and ugly.

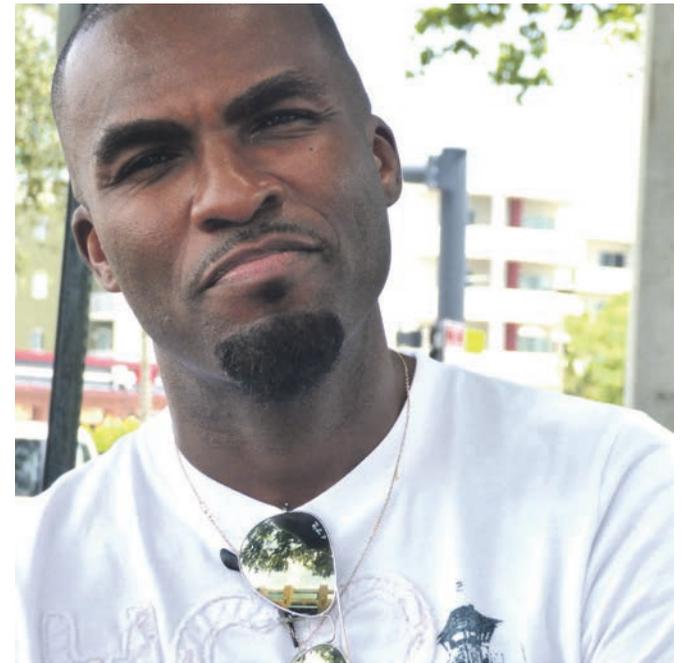
Alfredo was invited to a Kiki Project session and his experience was amazing. He was not sure what to expect attending a workshop with The Pride Center's Kiki Project. But, during the Kiki session he realized this would turn out to be a great opportunity to share, and he freely expressed his views in a safe and nurturing environment. The conversation flowed and included many topics and subjects. The Kiki Project addresses issues persistent in the Black same-gender-loving community regarding high rates of HIV, homophobia, racism and the stigmas surrounding HIV and sexual orientation.

But workshops tie these social determinants to the underlying focus of building knowledge and skills around HIV prevention for Black same-gender-loving-men.

Our facilitator made everyone feel comfortable and everyone in attendance contributed to the conversation. When asked about what should HIV prevention programs for Black same-gender-loving men include in his opinion he stated, "We have to find them first."

He has not participated with many groups, and he considers himself a loner. He prefers his own company, but realizes that joining and participating with groups like the Kiki Project is a great way to learn and understand what is happening in his community when it comes to HIV Prevention.

Without intervention, according to recent CDC reports, half of young Black same-gender-loving



Alfredo Hudson

men in the US will become HIV positive. We are at a critical phase in the US when it comes to saving our Black same-gender-loving men. Our charge is to reach out to our brothers to help them understand that HIV is real and impacting us daily. But, the other side of the proverbial coin, is that common prevention methods must change to address holistically the myriad social issues impacting Black same-gender-loving men and influence their thoughts, feeling and behaviors.

Alfredo's life in the other cities gave him a clear perspective about how Black same-gender-loving men can build comradery. In those cities, there were opportunities to meet other like minded men to build family. He sees some of that expressed in Broward County, but on a much lower scale. While living in the other cities he came to understand that, "I could not build a nation by myself."

He understands that to move forward he needed to surround himself with like minded people and stop isolating himself. He is grateful for the opportunity to participate with the Kiki session. It opened his eyes to one biomedical intervention in particular, PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis). He now talks about PrEP with his friends, and to his amazement many are unaware of PrEP's existence, even friends who are educated and knowledgeable.

The Kiki Project session opened Alfredo's eyes to some of the obstacles that still impact how Black same-gender-loving men navigate through their life experiences. He plans to participate more with the Kiki Project, joining the Ashe` Alliance and other groups that support and empower Black same-gender-loving men.

If you want to learn more about the Kiki Project at The Pride Center and its ongoing work in HIV prevention among Black same-gender-loving men, contact us at [kikiproject@pridecenterflorida.org](mailto:kikiproject@pridecenterflorida.org) or 954-463-9005, ext. 309, 306 or 308.

## Capital Campaign Contributors

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To give to our Capital Campaign, contact Robert Boo at [RBoo@PrideCenterFlorida.org](mailto:RBoo@PrideCenterFlorida.org) or Roger Roa at [RRoa@PrideCenterFlorida.org](mailto:RRoa@PrideCenterFlorida.org)

# Changed For The Better

Local Men Share Testimonials of LIFE and CHOICES Programs

LIFE and CHOICES are two health-enhancement and prevention programs offered by The Pride Center's PALS Project for people living with HIV/AIDS. Several local men share how the lessons they learned and the relationships they made enhanced their holistic health and impacted their lives. To learn more about LIFE or CHOICES, call The Pride Center at 954.463.9005.

## Tom Doucette

I was very reluctant to even start the LIFE program as I was afraid to be around groups of people. I hated having HIV. I had no self-esteem. I had just moved here and was all alone with no friends; and I was a broken man with absolutely no direction in life. All this changed thanks to the LIFE Program and the people in it.

I will never forget the first night, as I got there early and sat in the back row, far away from the other person there, and kept my head down and hoped and prayed no one would talk to me. As people trickled in, I started to panic and almost snuck out the door, but was stopped by this smiling lady who gave me a huge hug and welcomed me to the program. I can't tell you how much that hug meant to me the first night. After that huge hug and welcome, I got another hug from someone else on staff. After those hugs, I felt welcomed and decided to stay.

When the program started, we were split off in small groups. Two men guided us through all our cofactors of living with HIV as a group, and were so caring and kind to all of us

with the different issues that we deal with living with HIV. Our group was very diverse in ages, as we had long term HIV survivors, newly diagnosed, and different personalities. We shared deeply about everything we were going through and we helped each other get through things that only people living with HIV could understand.

As the weeks went on, I started to meet the most incredible men that were participants in the program, facilitators donating their time, and people involved in the program. Over the course of 17 weeks, I have become a different person than when I first came in, as I am smiling again and loving my life. Every week I learned a different cofactor that effects me living with HIV, and have learned how my disease works, how the drugs fight it, how to read my labs, how to ask questions to my doctor, how to deal with grief and depression, and so many other things that have changed the way I look at how to live my life with HIV. I learned this is not a death sentence anymore and I have stopped living in shame, remorse, and guilt for having contracted this disease. I learned in this program that I control how to live my life with HIV, not HIV controlling me.

So in closing, I would like to thank everyone in LIFE who



has changed my life for the better and allowing me to love myself again. I walked through the doors a few weeks ago so alone, broken, and hating life...to walking out the doors, no longer alone, but with the most amazing friends, a new knowledge of everything associated with living with HIV, but most of all not hating myself and not hating that I have HIV. I hope the LIFE Program finds other men living with HIV so they also can change their life for the better, but most of all, meet the most amazing, kind, generous, and loving people.

## Ryan Pyles (and his partner Miguel Gonzalez)

At first, I was a little apprehensive about taking the LIFE Program. I figured that there wasn't anything it could teach me that I didn't already know, but my boyfriend Miguel Gonzalez convinced me to do it with him; I am so glad that we chose to go through with it.

LIFE was a very insightful and well articulated program. For us, it was not that the information was some huge revelation, but it brought a new level of self-awareness that we are able to apply to our daily lives. That awareness coupled with the perspectives of the other men in the group (who ranged from the newly diagnosed to men who have been living with this disease since the 1980s) was the perfect blend to create a truly profound experience, both as individuals and as a couple, that we would recommend to anyone living with HIV.

After the LIFE program ended, we decided to also take CHOICES which commenced the following week. It

was a much briefer, but much more intimate experience that taught some coping skills and how to deal with the disclosure of one's status and negotiating safer sex. We would recommend CHOICES to people living with HIV, especially if they aren't sure if they want to take the LIFE Program. It is a great way to ease yourself into this process.

We think that both these programs also helped us as a couple because we learned new ways to communicate about different areas affecting our lives, since we are both HIV+. We have been able to foster new dialogue about our health routines, and we also keep each other accountable on medication adherence.

In both programs, we found the facilitators to be very welcoming and helpful and the atmosphere to be safe and nonjudgmental. The only downside is that once completing the programs, we found ourselves itching for something else to do on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. We have made some great friends from both programs and now have a desire to be more involved in the community.



## Walter Wilt-Wright (and his partner Greg Wilt-Wright)

My partner Greg and I were new to Ft Lauderdale, having moved here from Columbus Ohio. We needed to find good medical care and services and to create a good social network of friends. We had lived in Florida for a year and hesitated to register for LIFE due to the length of the program. 18 weeks seemed like a long commitment to us, but we finally decided to take the class and are very glad we did.

One of us was backward and analyzed everything (me), while the other was more expressive of their feelings (Greg).

We both were accepted just as we were. We found a home among the group and a real connection with the facilitators and the other participants.

Throughout the weeks, we gained increased knowledge of the HIV services that were available in the area and also built self assurance that we both strongly needed. Our relationship to each other grew even closer after 15 years together, and we were able to build a bond with several of the participants and facilitators.

We now feel like we have created a good social base that we longed to have even back in Ohio. Thank you to The Pride Center for offering the LIFE program.



## Maturing with HIV

The Center recently hosted a workshop on the challenges of aging with HIV. This workshop was a collaboration with our PALS Project and our ongoing "Maturing Together" series with funding assistance by Our Fund. To learn more about the series, please contact Christopher Matthews at 954.463.9005. *Photos by Steven Shires*



## Women's History Month Art Reception

Our Women with Pride program again held a popular art reception for Women's History Month. This year's exhibit was Icon: Women Who Changed the World. Closet Talk once again helped The Pride Center spearhead the event. *Photos by Manuel Leon*



THE PRIDE CENTER  
AT EQUALITY PARK



## PRIDE CENTER FLEA MARKET

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH | 8AM to 1PM

2040 North Dixie Highway Wilton Manors, FL 33305

# “No Greater Reward”

*Baumgartner Discovers New L.I.F.E. Purpose and Goals*

by Shanna Ratliff, Prevention with Positives Manager

In 2010, L.I.F.E. Program Coordinator, John Baumgartner, left a lucrative career in interior design to follow his life-long dream of becoming a social worker. When John decided to head back to school to obtain a degree in social work, he had a successful career in upper management in the interior design/furniture industry that left him somewhat unfulfilled. He always had wanted to help people through meaningful work. After enrolling in the Masters of Social Work program at Florida Atlantic University, John completed an internship at The Pride Center. John admits that he had heard about The Center but never visited before the University placed him in the position. John was truly blown away by all of the services The Center offered, and he knew immediately that he wanted to be part of all that was being accomplished.

During the second half of John's internship at The Center, he began working with the PALS Project, which provides prevention, behavioral health interventions and linkage to care programs for people living with HIV. John worked closely with the L.I.F.E. program by conducting intakes, observing small group facilitation, and providing one-on-

one coaching sessions to participants. Instantly, John developed a special connection to the program.

“L.I.F.E. is an amazing program and it encompasses all of the factors that I believe have aided in my personal success as a long-term survivor of HIV,” said John.

During his internship, John quickly became such a necessary part of the program that when the position of L.I.F.E. Program Coordinator became available, several Pride Center staff and volunteers encouraged him to apply.

John was hired as the L.I.F.E. Program Coordinator at The Pride Center in January 2016. Since then, he has been developing goals that he would like to achieve in his new position.

“My goals in the LIFE program are simple: to engage a greater percentage of the community living with HIV,” says John. “There are so many men living in Broward County that can benefit from the program, and I wanted to be a part of a collaborative effort, along with other agencies, seeking to lower the collective viral load and cultivating greater awareness of others living with HIV in the county in which I live.”

Center staff and volunteers are very

supportive of John's promotion to L.I.F.E. Program Coordinator. Ebony Wilson, Prevention Outreach Coordinator, who previously supervised John while he was working in Testing and Outreach, shared her experience regarding working with him.

“As soon I began working with John, I knew we could never let him leave The Pride Center,” said Ebony. “John is a very hard worker. He brings a lot of passion, compassion and experience to his position at The Center.”

Buddy Stein, a long-standing volunteer at The Pride Center, acknowledges that John has the drive, passion, and compassion to be successful in his new role.

“John's an incredible guy,” says Buddy. “He has taken on so much so quickly and has done a brilliant job. Even though John is busy in his new role, he always calls and checks on me anytime he hasn't heard from me in a while. He's just loveable.”

John's passion is evident as soon as you speak with him about his position at



The Center. John states that “coordinating the LIFE program has given me renewed hope for those living with the disease.”

John further explains the foundation for his drive: “The experience of watching others engage and flourish as a result of attending the LIFE program gives me the strength and courage to continue my work in the field and helping others. There is no greater reward to witness such astonishing transformation in others and this alone further ignites the passion — this is my greatest reward.”

## Art to End AIDS Mural Unveiling

The Center hosted the unveiling of a 50ft long mobile mural to launch the Art to End AIDS project organized by ArtServe. This is the first of a number of planned murals in the Florida Department of Health (DOH)-Broward County's #ArtToEndAIDS initiative. Congratulations to artist Georgeta Fondos, for the stunning Fort Lauderdale Beach mural. *Photos by James Dillon O'Rourke*



## 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



## Diversity Honors

The Harvey Milk Foundation and The Pride Center collaborated on this second annual gala, hosted by the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood. This milestone event recognizes South Florida and international honorees who have made a significant impact on improving the quality of life for the LGBT community. *Photos by Michael Murphy and Stephen Lang*



More than 1000 community members gathered on the Equality Park campus to sing, cry, grieve, yell, hug, rally, remember and stand in solidarity with the victims of the Pulse Massacre. The Pride Center organized one of the first vigils in the United States. We remember the 49 LGBTQ brothers and sisters whose lives were senselessly cut down at the Pulse Nighclub in Orlando. The Pride Center is grateful to the countless law enforcement officials, LGBTQ and community organizations, spiritual leaders, elected officials, civic leaders, volunteers, city employees and companies who organized, planned, prepared, donated and otherwise helped facilitate this vigil. *Photos by Steve Shires and James Dillon O'Rourke*



## What's Slavery Got to Do With It?

The Pride Center's Kiki Project organized a great community conversation about post traumatic slave syndrome, race and healing. *Photos by Manuel Leon*



## Founders Circle Reception at Bayview Cadillac

Bayview Cadillac recently hosted a Founders Circle Reception. If you'd like to become a Founder and empower the work of The Center, contact Roger Roa at 954.463.9005. *Photos by Stephen Lang*



# The Pride Center Founders Circle

## LIFETIME

Bob and Hal Bernier-Peterson  
Gil Corvin  
John C. Graves Charitable Fund  
Alan Schubert and Robert Suzuki

## PREMIER LEVEL (\$20,000 - and above)

AIDS Healthcare Foundation - Southern Bureau  
Cox Media Group  
Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau / Richard Gray  
Hunters Nightclub / Mark Seymour and Patrick Volkert  
JetBlue  
Richard and Emilio Quadracci Cabrera  
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino - Hollywood  
The Harvey Milk Foundation  
The Howard Greenfield Charitable Foundation

## PLATINUM LEVEL (\$10,000 - \$19,999)

Anonymous (2)  
City of Wilton Manors  
Dr. James Doan  
Freedom Travel / Richard Safaty (Board Member) and Omer Mizrahi  
Hotspots Magazine and Mark's List / Peter Clark  
Oliver Kamm  
Joseph Krause  
LSeven Solutions / Scott Kean  
Panache Style / Bobby Kyser  
Robert S. Kecskemeti Trust  
Rosie's Bar & Grill / John Zieba and Cliff Mulcahy  
South Florida Gay News / Norm Kent  
The Alfred Wohl Family Foundation  
Wells Fargo Foundation

## DIAMOND LEVEL (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

D.C. Allen and Ken Flick / No Hate Fund at Our Fund, Inc.  
Argenti Jewelers / Mark Silver  
Broward Health - Imperial Point  
Diago / Coastal Wine and Spirits  
Ilene Berliner (Past Board Chair) and Maura Lane  
Jared Falek and Don Chorpennig  
Kenneth Hollander and John Kardos / KSH Charitable Foundation  
David Kyner and Richard Bray  
Dr. Leslie (Board Vice Chair) and Fritz Leip  
Liquid Radar / Eduardo Garcia and Charles Rube  
Law Office Arthur B. Smith  
Pinnacle Housing Group / Michael Wohl  
Manor Night Club / Paul Hugo and Brett Tannenbaum  
Dr. Dale Russell (Past Board Chair)  
Wayne Schrebe and Roy J. Stegman Charitable Fund at Our Fund, Inc.  
Ted Schultz  
Scott L. Bennett Fund at Our Fund  
Jim Stepp and Peter Zimmer

## GOLD LEVEL (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Anonymous (2)  
Alpine Jaguar  
Chris Ambs and Scott Clearwater  
Atlantic Surf Club  
Ron Ansin and Jim Stork  
Biehn & Associates / Don Biehn  
Michael Camardello  
Doug Candler  
Harvey Chasser  
CLAD Tile and Stone / Earl Rynerson and Michael Shroyer  
Michael Dager and Harvey Shapiro  
Events by Grateful Palate / Leslie Grossman  
Fast Printz / Victor Flores  
Alex and Chris Garcia-Halenaar  
August Gold and Carol Logen  
Tyler Healis  
Neill Hirst, MD and Greg Hughes  
Robert Hubbard and Bill Greeves  
James A. Johnson / James A. Johnson Fund for Giving at Our Fund  
Robert Judd and Russell Neal  
Dr. George Kling (Board Member)

Don Kocher and Jonathan Salt  
Steve Lovci  
Marriott Fort Lauderdale - North  
David Moon and Eugene Smith  
Richard Nolan and Robert Pingpank  
Howard Novie  
Metro Media Works / Chris Caputo (Board Member)  
Natura Dermatology & Cosmetics / Dr. Will Richardson  
Oakland Park Dental / Dr. Howard R. Cunningham  
Pallant Insurance Agency, Inc. / Joe Pallant  
Periodic Products / David McLaren  
Progress Bar  
Lightship Media / Andy Perrott  
Herb Reis and Dr. William Coffey  
George "Bill" Rogers  
Runyan Law Firm, PA / Tom Runyan, Esq.  
Richard Schwarz and Tom Massey  
Tony Seguino and Dan Ayers  
S. Mark Graphics / Mark Budwig (Board Chair) and Nick Scalzo  
Temptations Catering and Event Planning / Maurice Mizrahi  
The Law Offices of George Castrataro, Esq.  
The Pride Institute at Fort Lauderdale Hospital  
The Westin Fort Lauderdale / Deanna Sylvestri (Board Member)  
Tower Club  
John-Charles Toussaint  
Vilas Healthcare Corp.  
Jim Walker (Board Member) and Lee Rubin  
Wilton Metropolitan Apartments

## SILVER LEVEL (\$1,200 - \$2,499)

Anonymous (3)  
Ted Adcock (Board Member) and Ken Keech  
Affordable Health Insurance / Sam Chalfant  
Paul Alpert  
Michael Altman and Miquel Garcia Rivera  
American Pain Experts / Neel Amin and Tom Macek  
Al Bacchi and Craig Ross  
BankUnited / Brenda Hartley (Board Member)  
Don Barlow  
Steve Barnard  
Mark Barron and Joel Rubin  
Christopher Bates  
Jim Baxter  
Ed Morse Bayview Cadillac  
David Bebbington  
Tom and Steven Begert-Clark  
Dr. Louis Benevento and Patrick Duffy  
Norman Berkowitz  
Better Homes & Gardens / Steve Gray  
Bitner Group / Gary Bitner  
Lenny Blicher  
Mitch Bloom (Board Member) and Paul Wardell  
Boardwalk / Victor Zepka  
Dan Bohanan and Guillermo Licea  
Bruce Bolton  
John Bolton  
Robert Boo  
Lester Borenstein and Michael Wade  
Bove Dental / Al Bove, DMD and Coco Alarcon  
M. Deric Bownds and Len Walker  
Brian Boyle  
Broward Burial and Cremation  
Broward County Sheriff's Office  
Gerald Byers and Rudy Wengenroth  
Daniel Byrne  
Rene Cantu and James Gigliello  
CareFree Insurance Service / Manuel Matos and Eddie Sierra  
Robert Caruso  
Chic Optique / Karen Carroll and Julie Slater  
Church of the Holy Spirit Song / Pastor Leslie and Sandra Rutland-Tipton  
Ron Clark  
Coach Bill for Life / Bill and Brian Sullivan  
Coffee and Conversation  
Bob Collier and Chuck Hunziker  
Concept International Design / Daniel Wasinger  
Coral Shores Realty / Daren Painter  
Rocco Costello and Jay Roehrig  
Courtyard Marriott Ft. Lauderdale Beach  
Crunch Fitness / Marc Delisle and Steve Diguardi  
Jimmy Cunningham and Jerson Velazquez  
D'Angelo Realty Group / Michael Faerber  
Don D'Arminio and Marc Martorana  
Lyle Davis  
Dominick De Stefano  
Dental Associates of Boca Raton / Dr. Michael Costabile  
Dennis Dean Photography / Dennis Dean

Philip Dearborn and Mark Bereyso  
William Desautels and Lee Moffitt  
Dolphin Democratic Club  
Downtown Loft Studios / Bruce Presley and Chris Hedlund  
Stephen Draft and Allen Peterson  
Irvin Drucker  
Gregory Dudzek and Jayant Goyle  
Eden Funeral Services / Keith Epstein and Norm Jacobs  
Edward Jones Investments / Darcy Beeman  
Michael Ekman  
Yadin Elcon  
Emerald Elite Home Health Care / Ernest Olivas (Board Member) and John Foxx  
Ted Emery  
Craig Engel (Board Member)  
Paul Fasana  
Andrew Fischman  
Stephen Fleishman  
James Flora  
Florida Medical Center  
Futura 1st Ins. Group - South Florida / Gary Kempler  
Gables Wilton Park / Joe Markonic  
Galleria LOFT  
GalleryONE Fort Lauderdale  
Jerry Ganz and William Hirsch  
Joel Geils  
Will Gibson  
Glenn L. Goldberg  
Golden Age Living  
Steven Goldgram  
Goodman Public Relations / Michael Goodman  
Mark Gordon and Aldo Buono  
Scott Gray  
Greater Fort Lauderdale Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce / Keith Blackburn  
Donald Green and Gene Ingledue  
Marc Grossman  
Robert Grossman  
Robert Gunning  
Mark Halacy and Thomas Pollock  
David Hall  
Peter Hardy-Smith and Victor Soto  
Dr. J. Heider and Thomas Carr  
Richard Herman  
Scott Herman and Cale Choi  
Lazaro Hernandez and Steve Figlmiller  
Hans Hochkamp and Joseph DeBacco  
Paul Holoweski  
Kenley Hoover and Tom Pflipsen  
Gary Hummel  
Paul Hyman and Bill Bracker  
I.D.O. Custom Events / Devin MacLachlan  
Island City Smiles / Dr. David Warner and Chris Shultz  
J.P.'s Chocolate Shoppe / J. P. Cobleigh and Barry Miller  
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Francis Leynaert and Fritz Martinez  
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James Martinez and Kenneth Sanchez  
Joe McConnell and Michael Lennon  
Kent McIntyre and John Tambasco Charitable Fund at Our Fund, Inc.  
W. Lynn McLaughlin and David Webb  
Ken Merrifield and Fred Berger

Michael Murphy Photography / Michael Murphy  
Midland Medical Center / Steven Levin and Gregg West  
Anthony Molluso and Bill Volbrecht  
Monk's Corner Estate Liquidators / Jim Fowler and Dennis Gluck  
Moonrby, LLC / Stanley Lou  
Gregory K. Moore and Allan Barsky  
Anthony More and Fred Paiz  
Kevin Murdoch and Carlos Prado  
Bill Murphy  
National Stonewall Democrats / Hon. Stephen Driscoll and Robert Tocci  
New Your Life Insurance / Michael DePaolis  
Newman Insurance / Lynn Corning  
Charles Ohsiek  
Palm Beach County Human Rights Council / Rand Hoch  
Douglas Pew and Donald Croxton  
Sam Picciotto  
Peter Pileski and Bob Avian  
Pinnacle Constructors, LLC / Doug Tinklepaugh and James Rickard  
Mona Pittenger / Mona Pettinger Giving Fund at Our Fund  
Randy Plummer  
Bob Poster and Carmine Martorilli  
Premier Smile Center / Dr. Charmiane Johnson-Leong and Warren Leong  
Pride Carpet Cleaning / Bill Thornton  
Joe Pumphrey and Carl Whitley  
R3 Accounting, LLC / Timothy S. Hart  
RBC Wealth Management / Ellen Krider, CFP  
Brian Reardon and John O'Brien  
Rick Reddington and Rob Brinbaum  
Greg Rigoff  
Real Estate South Florida / Anthony Kulp and James Beauter  
Dr. G. J. Rockwell, Jr.  
Paul J. Rolli and W. Bennett Quade  
Donn Rubin and Stephen Harmon  
RWE Real Estate / Robert Eldredge  
Rick Salomon  
Lee Sathre  
Jack Schlossberg and Greg Fineman  
Danny Selvin and Sidney Goldenberg  
James Senior  
Shawn and Nick's Courtyard Café / Shawn Bombard and Nick Berry  
Garrick Shear and Terry Siden  
Steve Shires Photography / Steve Shires  
Dr. Robert Shore  
Heidi Siegel (Board Member)  
Paul M. Smith (Board Member) and Gerald Kennedy  
Some Men Like It Haute / Douglas Cureton  
Tomas Soto and Frank Lefevre, M.D.  
Sterling Tax and Accounting / Jeffrey Sterling  
Terry Stone and Mike Bush  
Stork's Bakery Café / Esmeralda and Peter Dekaj  
Dave Stubbins  
Sunshine Athletic Association  
The Bears of South Florida, Inc.  
The John H. Le Blanc Charitable Fund at Charles Schwab Charitable Fund  
The Pink Submarine / Dawn Holloway  
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Richard Vallari  
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Vincent Vigiotti  
James Wagner  
We Florida Financial  
Steve Wetzler  
C. Theodore Wolf and Frank Decolator  
Tom Wolf and Fernando Rodrigues

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 Roger Roa, Director of Development, [RRoa@PrideCenterFlorida.org](mailto:RRoa@PrideCenterFlorida.org)

# Leading By Example

**A** trusted, established leader is providing fresh guidance at The Center. Mark Budwig recently was voted Board Chair for The Pride Center at Equality Park. He previously served as Vice Chair under long-time Chair Ilene Berliner (see article on Page 28).

“The Pride Center has some exciting plans coming up in the next five years,” says Mark. “I look forward to serving in a leadership position through this expansion.”

He deeply values the life-changing work of The Center in the community.

“The Pride Center staff does everything so well,” says Mark. “I guess what I value most is the amount of people The Pride Center staff is able to help and, as a result, makes South Florida a better community.”

Budwig is the owner and president of S.MARK Graphics since its founding 32 years ago. The boutique creative agency designs marketing materials for print, electronic and advertising media. Budwig is responsible for new business development, maintaining client relationships and developing project concepts. S.MARK works with a wide range of businesses on both a project-to-project and retainer basis. He is also

publisher of Go Riverwalk magazine, Fort Lauderdale’s City Magazine, which distributes 15,000 magazines monthly.

Mark exhibits a proven legacy of leadership in the LGBTQ community and at The Pride Center.

“In 2003, I was introduced to Broward House,” relates Mark. “My graphic design agency did a lot of pro bono work for them and as a result, they asked me to sit on their Board. I became board chair in 2009 and just ended my term June 30th. I joined The Pride Center Board four years ago because I am such a believer in The Pride Center’s mission. I wanted to be a part of the team.”

Mark has enjoyed working with The Center, on leadership committees and the Board.

“It is truly a pleasure to work with CEO Robert Boo — such a professional gentleman,” says Mark. “The same goes for senior staff at The Pride Center — both COO Kristofer Fegenbush and Director of Development Roger Roa are great to work with.”

Since relocating to Fort Lauderdale in 2001, Mark has served the community where he lives. Mark is Past Chair of Riverwalk Trust, Oakland Park Main Street, American Marketing Association South Florida Chapter and the Greater

## *Budwig Becomes Center Board Chair*

Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce. He is a graduate of Leadership Fort Lauderdale Class 11. He is an active board member of the Tower Club and Florida Atlantic University’s President’s Community Council.

“I lead these groups by setting an example of how to take on a responsibility and doing the best job possible to do what I say,” says Mark.

Though he already has made a profound impact on The Center through his years on the Board and on leadership committees, he is humble and quick to point out the leadership of his predecessor.

“My term as board chair just began July 1,” says Mark. “Past Chair Ilene Berliner deserves immense credit for all the years she was Board Chair.”

“I think I help The Pride Center through my volunteerism, spreading the word and getting ready for the upcoming capital campaign.”

Mark knows his leadership to the Board directly will enhance the lives of others.

“By keeping the board on track and



meeting our goals and objectives, The Pride Center will continue to provide excellent services to the community — and this has an impact on the lives of others in the community,” he says passionately.

A graduate of University of California San Diego, Budwig resides with his partner of 33 years. Mark enjoys many friendships and family as well as maintaining his home. He also is a collector of contemporary art and Coca-Cola memorabilia.

## Did you know?

+ Our PrEP with Pride program helps people get information, education and access assistance for Pre Exposure Prophylaxis. Email [Prep@PrideCenterFlorida.org](mailto:Prep@PrideCenterFlorida.org) for more info.

+ Over 200 Seniors join us for Coffee and Conversation every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m.

+ There have been more than 2,255 group meetings at The Pride Center this year. Take part in an activity at The Center!

+ The Pride Center’s CouplesSpeak program builds relationship skills, improves communication, lowers risks, and enhances sex.

**YOU NEED A SPACE? WE GOT THE PLACE!**

**CALL 954.463.9005 EXT. 101 FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**EQUALITY PARK AUDITORIUM**

**THE PRIDE CENTER AT EQUALITY PARK**

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

2040 . Dixie Highway, Wilton Manors, FL 33305

Connect with Your Community

- Weddings
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- Parties
- Training Sessions
- Life Celebrations
- Trade Shows
- Permanent Office Space
- And More!



# Volunteers Needed!

The Pride Center needs volunteers for the following:

- Customer Service
- Graphic Design/ Marketing
- HIV Testing
- Art Galleries
- Fundraising/Development
- I.T.
- 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

Connect with Your Community

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

## Rainbow 5K

The Pride Center produced and hosted its inaugural Rainbow 5k in Wilton Manors presented by Broward Health Imperial Point to raise funds for vital Center programs and services. *Photos by Manuel Leon*



## 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: JOHN BAUMGARTNER AT 954.463.9005 EXT 302  
OR [JBAUMGARTNER@PRIDECENTERFLORIDA.ORG](mailto:JBAUMGARTNER@PRIDECENTERFLORIDA.ORG)



# My Experience with the LGBT Roundtable Discussion in The Capitol

By Bruce Williams, Senior Services Coordinator

Our nation is a nation of over 75 million Baby Boomers entering or nearing retirement, with over 40 million Americans ages 65 and over. Sadly, our LGBTQI senior community was not even identified until late in the last century, and consequently accurate demographics and subsequent representation simply do not exist. A widely held “guesstimate” is that there are about 30 million LGBT adults aged 50 and older whose access to later life benefits is greatly restricted.

In 2008, Reps. Barney Frank & Tammy Baldwin created a Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus which now boasts 89 members from both sides of the aisle. The Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus in turn has created a 10 member task force to further legislation and administrative action on behalf of LGBT seniors, with local Congressman Ted Deutch serving as Chairman. Other South Florida members include: U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel (Dem), U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Rep) and U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy (Dem).

Congressman Deutch, a long-time advocate of legislation to ban anti-gay discrimination notes, “For many older Americans who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, a lifetime of discrimination has undermined their right to a retirement with dignity.”

Following one of his visits to our Coffee & Conversation gatherings, Congressman Deutch invited me to participate in an LGBT Leaders’ Roundtable Discussion of the issues important to our LGBT Community. It was hosted by the House Democratic Caucus and held on June 23rd at The U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. As it turned out, that was a particularly interesting day to be in our nation’s capitol. Democratic members of Congress had staged a sit-in the night before, and when I arrived on The Hill, there was a huge crowd protesting in front of The Supreme Court Building in response to its decision not to uphold President Obama’s executive action on immigration. Across the way on The Capitol grounds, there were other scenes reminiscent of the 1960s. There were a number of groups rallying for increased LGBT civil rights

and the Moms Demand Action group was protesting against the legality of weapons of mass destruction.

Our gathering inside was far quieter, consisting of several top-level members of The Obama Administration and about 50 invitees from across the United States. We were welcomed by Xavier Becerra, the Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus who in turn introduced our host, Randy W. Berry, Special Envoy for the Human rights of LGBTI Persons — United States Department of State. After a brief introduction of all in attendance, there was a review of recent events which have impacted our LGBTQI community and then a discussion aimed at fostering new ideas, building new partnerships and creating opportunities with a unified pursuit of equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The questions and concerns were as diverse as the attendees and reflective of topics ranging from workplace discrimination to transgender concerns to issues facing our senior community. We hope the round table discussion serves as one more step in the on-going process of turning words into actions.

In that vein, late last year, Congressman Deutch, in collaboration with Congressman Murphy and Rep Suzanne Bonamici, introduced the Connie & Ruthie LGBT Elder Americans Act in an effort to improve the Older Americans Act (OAA) so that it better serves LGBT seniors who often face fewer financial resources, severe social isolation and restricted access to health care services as a result of a lifetime of discrimination.

The Older Americans Act (OAA) funds critical services that help to keep older adults healthy and independent—services like meals, job training, senior centers, caregiver support, transportation, health promotion, benefits enrollment, and more. It expired in 2011 but was finally re-authorized by Congress and signed into law on April 19, 2016. As a result of the re-authorization, the new version of the OAA each state is required to submit a plan describing how it will utilize funding to serve those seniors in greatest need of assistance. As



(That’s Bruce Williams’ handsome little face over the “M” in “Disarm”)

noted in a recent article by SAGE USA, “For the first time, The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is adopting a Program Instruction that requires states to include specific information in their plan about how they will target resources to all elders with greatest social need, and it expressly acknowledges that LGBT elders

may be among those elders eligible for targeting.”

Sooooo as LGBT elders, or even someone who plans on living long enough to become one, it would serve us well to remind our representatives in Congress that we need their support in securing LGBT-specific funding under The Older Americans Act.

## THE KIKI PROJECT

**You bring your friends;  
we'll bring the food.  
You come to us,  
or we'll come to you.**

Let's talk about what really matters: relationships, love, the type of sex we have, how HIV affects us, stigma, and how we identify as Black gay men in our community.

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

**Contact Us:**  
Phone: 954.463.9005 Ext. 308  
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Connect with Your Community

# Founders Circle Reception by Metropolitan

Metropolitan hosted and sponsored a recent Founders Circle Reception. To learn more about becoming a member of the Founders Circle, and supporting the work of The Pride Center, contact Roger Roa at 954.463.9005. *Photos by Stephen Lang.*



# Key to Her Box

## Couples Speak Program Expands to Enhance Women's Relationships

By Lorenzo Robertson, Emerging Interventions Manager

**W**e implemented a recent multi-week Couples Speak program at Fountain of Love Ministries in North Lauderdale, one of our Faith Response to AIDS partners. This cycle presented us a unique opportunity because of the diversity of the participants. We facilitated this relationship-based HIV prevention program among a group of women with a male facilitator.

The response was amazing. The women felt comfortable enough to share many intimate aspects of their relationships, making the program even more powerful for graduates.

The Pride Center originally designed Couples Speak as an HIV prevention program to build communication, negotiation, conflict resolution, and health enhancement skills among sero-discordant relationships, where one partner is HIV-positive and the other is HIV-negative. After implementing the HIV prevention program, however, we realized that the activities, skills, exercises and trainings are beneficial to all sorts of couples, regardless of HIV status. We help couples enhance their relationships, stay healthy and help stop the spread of HIV. Couples Speak has graduated over 200 individuals since then.

During our closing gratitude circle with Fountain of Love, many graduates were grateful that Couples Speak provided them more understanding of how to keep their relationship transparent with open and honest communication.

Sister Yolanda shared that Couples Speak was "the key to her box." When asked about her comment, she expressed that Couples Speak gave her great insight into how to open up and be more transparent with her wife.

**We remain open to providing Couples Speak at organizations, agencies and groups across the community. We can bring the Couples Speak program to you. Couples Speak is a four week cycle and can be implemented during the day or evening. For more information, you may contact Lorenzo Robertson, Emerging Interventions Manager at 954-463-9005, ext. 306 or [lrobertson@pridecenterflorida.org](mailto:lrobertson@pridecenterflorida.org).**



Pastor Dallas Walker expressed her extreme gratitude, "We appreciate that The Pride Center would come to us to bring such a great program," said Pastor Dallas. "My wife and I plan to use some of the other tools that were shared during our Couples Speak sessions. I also have opted to use the information to enhance my couples counseling before people get married."

"I always was excited, anticipating what we would learn the next week," said Elder Keisha Green.

"This program has made a big impact on me, and I will continue to use some of the exercises with my wife," stated Deacon Liz Ortega.

Sister Sophie declared, "The program has opened our eyes to being more transparent with our conversations with each other."

The Couples Speak program has benefited many couples. We continue to analyze data from previous years to ensure the workshops' effectiveness in preventing the spread of HIV. We hope to replicate the program for other entities and organizations nation-wide.

We are continuing our Couples Speak program implementation while inputting data from previous years to complete an analysis to determine the feasibility of replicating the intervention for other entities and organizations. There have been very positive responses from community members that have participated with the Couples Speak program.

# SENIORS



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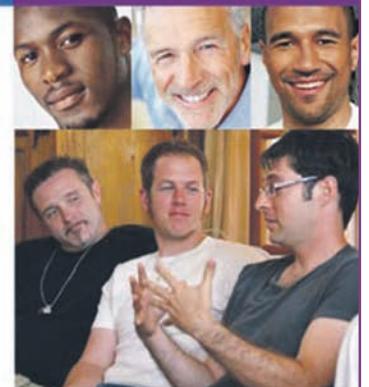
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If interested, contact Magno Morales at 954.463.9011 ext. 303 or email [mmorales@PrideCenterFlorida.org](mailto:mmorales@PrideCenterFlorida.org)

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



## Volunteer Appreciation Bingo

The Pride Center hosted a fabulous, fun bingo extravaganza to recognize and thank our faithful volunteers. To learn more about volunteering, please contact Customer Service Coordinator Samantha McCoy at 954.463.9005.

*Photos by Manuel Leon*



# Volunteer Spotlight: The Voice

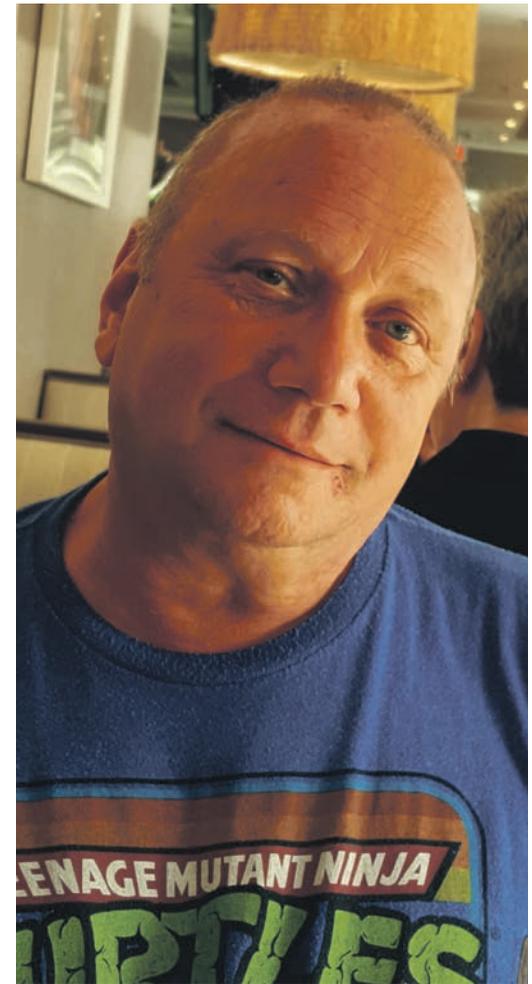
By Samantha McCoy, Customer Service Coordinator

Lights, camera... action! I am happy to showcase one of our Customer Service volunteers: Mr. Anthony Saracino. Anthony has volunteered at The Pride Center at Equality Park faithfully for two years.

If you happen to call The Center on Friday afternoons, you will hear Anthony's friendly and familiar voice providing resources and information about programs, events and services occurring on and off campus.

And when I say "voice" I mean it. Anthony is a proud member of The Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida and recently also was involved in the LGBT summer camp with Slow Burn Theatre. If you ever have enjoyed one of the Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida's concerts, you've heard our very own Anthony singing his heart out and soloing in a song or two. The Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida just so happens to be one of The Center's tenants, with its operating office right on the campus of Equality Park. The Slow Burn Theater hosted auditions on our campus as part of their LGBT Summer Senior Theater Camp. Two fabulous performances occurred at the beautiful Broward Center for the Performing Arts.

One of our community members recalls an encounter with Anthony one Friday afternoon that made such a difference in his life. "It was my first time visiting The Pride Center and I was so hesitant to open the door. When I finally mustered up the nerve, I was greeted by a volunteer named Anthony. I explained to Anthony that I was fairly new to the area and that I had recently lost my partner. Anthony was so kind and pointed me in the



direction of various places in town and groups that meet at The Center that may be helpful in getting me out of the house and active again. When I got home, I called to thank Anthony but he had already left for the day. I appreciate The Center and one it's best volunteers for helping me during a difficult time."

When asked about his experience as a volunteer with The Center, Anthony humbly replied, "I love giving back to the community and truly enjoy meeting new people and creating new friendships."

When Anthony is not volunteering his time with The Center, he enjoys singing, acting and directing. Anthony brings such a positive and warm energy to Friday afternoons at the front desk. He smiles and greets each and every visitor who walks through the door. The Center is so grateful for Anthony's amazing spirit of service. Here's lookin' at you kid!

## PrEP Providers Appreciation and Networking

The Pride Center shared their gratitude with 35 health care providers that currently prescribe PrEP as an HIV prevention strategy in their communities. For more information on PrEP, please visit our website: [www.PrepWithPride.com](http://www.PrepWithPride.com). *Photos by James Dillon O'Rourke*



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## Tropical Plant Fair

The Pride Center produced the fourth annual Tropical Plant Fair. This year's Fair covered two days plus included some of the most prestigious nurseries in the area. Richard Perez spearheaded the event in collaboration with Chuck Nicholls. *Photos by Steve Shires*



# Nine Years

## Berliner's Life of Giving Back Improves Center

For nine years, Ilene Berliner served on the Board of Directors for The Pride Center at Equality Park. She has been the Board Chair for the past three years of her service. According to the bylaws of The Center, nine years is the max you can serve, so she recently stepped down from her position, and Mark Budwig became Board Chair.

Ilene Berliner moved from Manhattan to Fort Lauderdale in June of 2004. She was very familiar with the city, as she came to Florida many times in her life to visit family and enjoy vacations on our beaches. She participated in LGBTQ activities in New York by attending Empire Pride, GLAAD and Lambda events. It wasn't until she moved here that her interests became more involved. Over a lunch at Tropics with former GLCC CEO Paul Hyman, she was convinced that she could be an asset to the organization.

Her original mission was to recruit Founders. Everyone with whom she came in contact was subject to her litany of why they should become a Founder. At the 2008 Stars Of The Rainbow event, Ilene was recognized as "a force to be dealt with. If you go to lunch with Ilene, hang on to your wallet."

The number of Founders grew dramatically and Ilene's passion for what The Center was delivering to

the community grew. At that time, the monthly events were held at people's homes. There were few corporate sponsors and keeping the consistency of the program was a challenge. Ilene was determined and focused and began a pinpoint strategy on business owners. The next step was for the Board to orchestrate a move to a larger facility and work financial miracles to make it happen.

In 2012 our CEO Robert Boo asked Ilene to take a larger role on the board. He felt that Ilene was the perfect choice for the role of Board Chair.

"Ilene made things happen," says Boo. "She was an enthusiastic and involved Board Chair. Rarely a weekday morning went by when we didn't talk about the events of the week. She was invaluable to me as creative problem solver. Her involvement was unprecedented for the well-being and development of our talented staff, growth opportunities of the property and execution of programs for the community. I know I was lucky to have her in that leadership position. She was present, connected, active and available."

"The Pride Center has been a crucial part of this chapter of my life," says Ilene. "I couldn't imagine a life without giving back. There are more challenges ahead for us as LGBTQ people. Marriage equality was a major step forward,

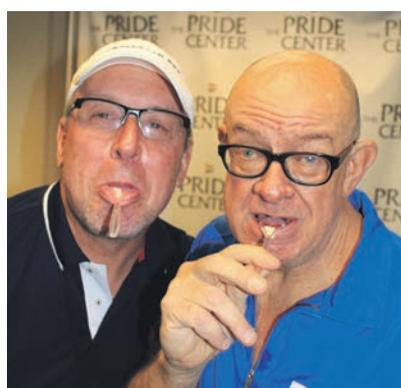


but there are still people who don't understand our need for rights and protection. There is still work to be done to help those with HIV. Work to be done to stop the spread of the virus. Work to be done to protect us in the workplace. Work to be done to help teenagers struggling with identity. There is plenty of work to be done, and I plan on continuing to be involved. I am going to take some time to decide what to do next, but I will certainly still be active in supporting, fundraising and cheering the efforts of Robert and team at The Center."

## Daddy's Ice Cream Social

The Pride Center hosted a recent ice cream social to help community members expand their social networks and build new friendships. A little over 100 were in attendance for sweet treats and lively conversation.

Photos by James Dillon O'Rourke



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**HIV Impacts Us All**

# A Place That Includes Everybody

## Alan Schubert's Vision Created The Center

By Martin Gould

**H**is name is on The Pride Center's largest building. His spirit can be felt throughout Equality Park. His dream of creating a place where everyone in the community—LGBT and straight, young and not so young, and everyone in between—could come together largely has been achieved.

Alan Edward Schubert squeezed every drop of life out of his seventy years, spent mostly in Chicago and South Florida. According to Robert Suzuki, his husband of 23 years, Alan's idea for a community center began to take shape in his Victoria Park living room.

"He just came up with the idea," said Robert. "He was able to get people to donate. That's challenging, asking people to donate to something that's not tangible, but he got it done."

In 1993 the idea became a place: the Gay and Lesbian Community Center (GLCC) and eventually ended up on Andrews Avenue. Schubert's vision was to bring all LGBT organizations together under one roof, rather than being in competition with each other, as was the case before the GLCC opened.

"He wanted it to be a place where everyone could come together," said Suzuki. "He wanted the plan to be

inclusive—regardless of whether you were gay or not."

Creating and maintaining a place for people and organizations led to finding financial support for the programs and services the GLCC began providing. Schubert personally funded numerous activities, especially those focused on LGBT youth, AIDS/HIV testing and treatment, and drug abuse.

Sixteen years later, having outgrown its original space, the GLCC moved to a five-and-a-half acre campus on Dixie Highway and was renamed The Pride Center at Equality Park. By that time, Schubert had moved back to his hometown of Chicago, but, according to Suzuki, he was overwhelmed by The Center's growth.

"Alan saw the new buildings and campus and said, 'this is awesome.' It was almost overwhelming. So many different places for people to meet," said Suzuki. "He was excited to see hundreds of seniors gather every week to meet and greet each other."

In honor of his vision, determination and philanthropy, The Pride Center named its front 15,000 sq. ft. building for Alan Edward Shubert, who died in June 2016 after fighting his own battle with cancer. His dedication to philanthropy with a purpose lives on through the thousands of donors who support The Pride Center every year. Robert Suzuki says his late



Alan Schubert (center) with the GLCC's original board

husband's vision, dedication and generosity sets a great example—and a challenge—for other individuals.

"I wish that all cities could have a community center like this," says Suzuki. "I'm so fortunate to live in a place that includes everybody."

Alan's philanthropy never stopped. Even from his hospital bed during his final days he would call Robert Boo, CEO, to suggest people to approach for support. Won't you honor Alan's request and make a donation to The Pride Center today?



### Florida AIDS Walk

The Pride Center organized a passionate team who raised money for the annual Florida AIDS Walk along Fort Lauderdale beach. Organized by AHF, the AIDS Walk allows The Pride Center to receive the funds specifically raised by our team for use in our vital HIV services.

Photos by Manuel Leon



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## Founders Circle Reception at Events by Grateful Palate

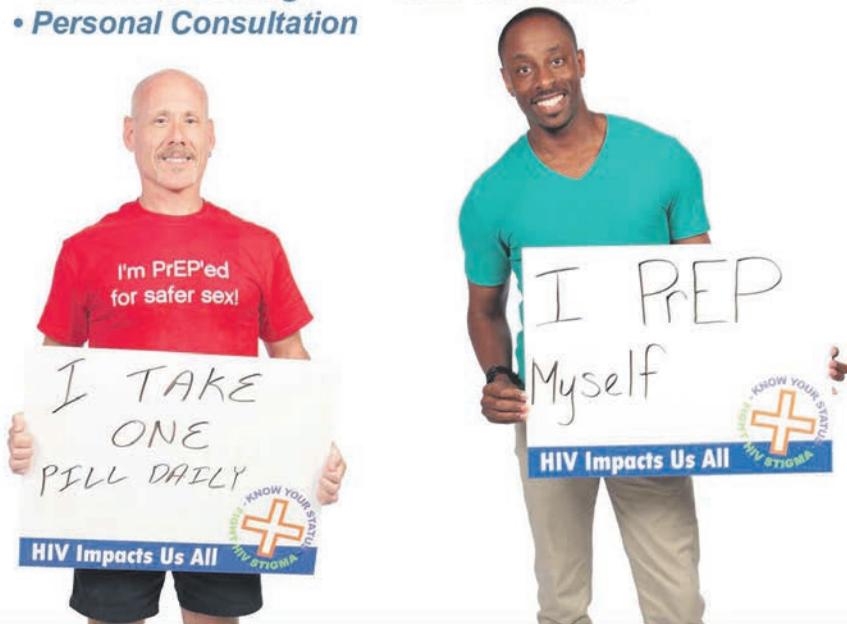
Events by Grateful Palate hosted and sponsored a recent Founders Reception along the water. Funds donated by Founders Circle underwrite life-enhancing programs and services to the community. To join Founders, please contact Roger Roa at 954.463.9005. *Photos by Steven Shires*



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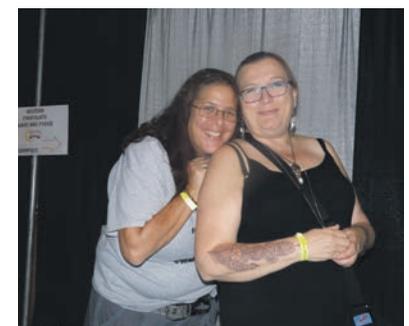
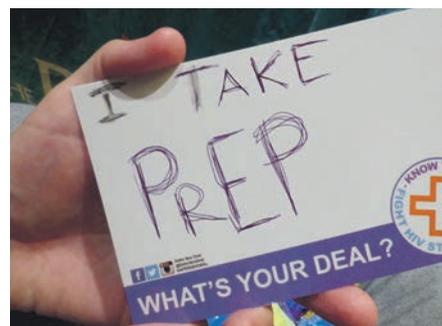
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## Tattoo Expo

The Pride Center recently provided personal HIV prevention outreach at South Florida's Tattoo Expo. Staff and volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to discuss proven, effective HIV prevention strategies with a diverse community. *Photos by Manuel Leon*



# Aging Isn't For Sissies |

## Matthews Leads "Maturing Together" Initiative

By Rob Saunders

**H**e's engaging, handsome — and pretty young. Not, perhaps, the first person you might think of to be involved in issues for aging adults.

"Yes, I do get that sometimes," Christopher Matthews laughs. "What's a young'un like you know about getting old?"

Be that as it may, Christopher recently took on the job of Senior Services Specialist at The Pride Center. It's a new position, born of the realization that while The Pride Center's senior services have successfully focused on the older segment of the senior LGBT community, there's now a need to gear attention to 45-to-65 year-olds; those who are working or just about to retire and trying to deal with some of the issues of aging.

"We're seeing the baby-boomers and the aging Gen-Xers coming here. I call it the tsunami of seniors," Christopher said during a wide-ranging conversation. "Our Fund has been crucial in helping fund the position for me to be here part-time."

His background has prepared him

well for the job. He worked on a Masters in Counseling a while back but did his certificate in Gerontology; he worked as an Emergency Medicine Technician when he was younger, and then later as program director at a senior care facility; and he was in a Catholic seminary for four years. "So I have the medical aspect, the spiritual aspect and the psychological aspect, which, for me, is treating the whole person," he said.

In general, he noted, aging requires adjustment. "How do we adapt; how do we deal with grief and loss? If you can deal with those three things while aging, and be able to accept the next thing that happens, you can have some good adjustment aging."

One thing he quickly learned when he began the job was not to talk to Boomers or Gen-Xers "about aging, seniors, anything about getting old." So he's making the theme of his work at The Pride Center "Maturing Together," aimed at building a broad-based community.

"We have an interesting dynamic," he noted. The sad fact is that a generation of

gay men in the 1980s was devastated by the AIDS crisis, leaving us with a relatively small number of elders from that time. "Now, we're growing again and we're getting older but we don't have people to learn from. We've lost that. How do we build a community to take care of each other?"

The first challenge is just getting people together "outside of bars and sex clubs," Christopher said. Then the focus has to be on preparing the 45-to-65 year-olds to meet their needs as they age.

For example, he continued, folks with HIV on average are going to use services 10 years sooner than other people who are aging. "They're going to have to know how to negotiate the healthcare and insurance systems, which can be daunting and complex."

He organized a recent workshop to help address these needs.

Then there are bureaucracies like Social Security and Medicare, which some people need help navigating. "Or, the issue may revolve around how to work while growing older for those who may not have the resources to retire, or around questions about dating over 45," another recent workshop he helped provide.

Christopher already has organized several events and activities addressing such issues. He aims to organize regular sessions, such as a panel discussion or a talk or Town Hall on some aspect of maturing.



Part of the challenge is trying to set up some events on evenings and weekends to accommodate people who are working. "We hosted a Daddies' Ice Cream Social to provide a social opportunity for people in our target age range," he said. "This helped us build an audience for deeper topics. This is a new issue for our community and some of it is going to fail and some of it is going to take off."

He's looking for community partners to contribute to some activities. If you have some ideas, Christopher is at The Center each week and often at the Flea Market on the first Saturday of each month. Maybe you could seek him out there.

"All of us are getting older," Christopher said while summing up his thoughts, "and I feel it's better to be proactive about it than to stick your head in the sand. Aging is not for sissies!"

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## Did you know?

- + The Center regularly hosts art gallery openings, films, music and live theater presentations.
- + The Pride Center provides workshops for prospective and current LGBT parents. Follow The Center on Facebook to stay up-to-date!
- + Our CHOICES programs can help build coping skills for some of the stresses of living with HIV. Contact MMorales@PrideCenterFlorida.org for more information

## Founders Circle Reception at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

The Hard Rock hosted a recent Founders Circle Reception. Founders provide at least \$100 monthly to support the programs and services of The Pride Center.

Photos by Stephen Lang



# 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-Lunch Express, Recovery, Mon-Sun, 12p-1p  
 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, 7:00p-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  
 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  
 Living Agelessly @ Pride Center w/ August Gold, Tues, Social, 12-1p  
 Island City AI-anon-Support, Thur, 7-8p  
 Mahjong, Social, Wed, 1-5:00p  
 Man2Man Talk, Social, Mon, 7-8:30p  
 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-5:15p  
 SAGE CO-ED Discussion Group, Thurs, 1p-3p  
 Sunserve Pos Long Term Survivors, 1st/3rd Tues, 6:30-8:30p  
 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  
 Sunnywaters Reiki Circle, Social, Wed, 12-1p  
 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 yoa), Support, Fri, 7-9p  
 Yoga with Kai Garcia, 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  
 Dolphin Democrats, Monthly Meeting, 2nd Wed, 7:30-9:30p  
 Equality Park Garden Club, Educational, 3rd Wed, 7-9p  
 Monday Night Women's Group, Social, 1st Mon, 7:30-9p  
 Pride Center Flea Market, Open to Public, 1st Sat, 8a-2p  
 Primetimers, Open to Public, 1st Sun, 2-4:30p  
 SAGE Movie, Social, 3rd Mon, 4-6p  
 Spiritual Workshop with August Gold, Social, 2nd Sat, 1p-3p  
 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](http://www.pridecenterflorida.org/calendar) for meeting room assignments.

Room days/times subject to change.

## Beach Blitz

The Pride Center's outreach team participated in a targeted, high-impact HIV prevention event called Broward Beach Blitz, organized by The Florida Department of Health in Broward County. The Center's outreach team distributed HIV prevention program information, spoke with individuals about HIV prevention, took condom polls, talked about PrEP, and distributed thousands of condoms.



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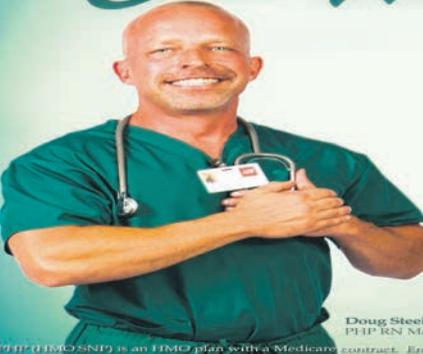

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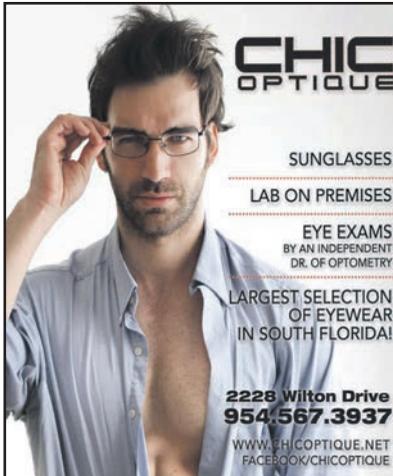
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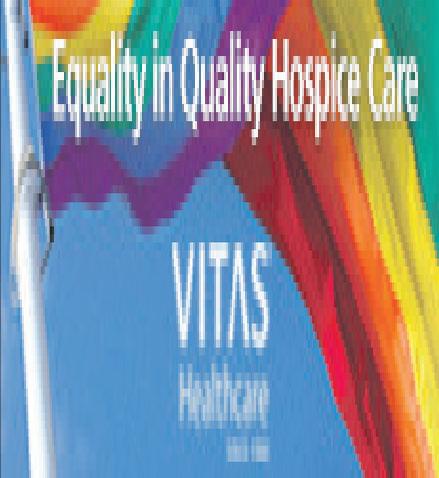
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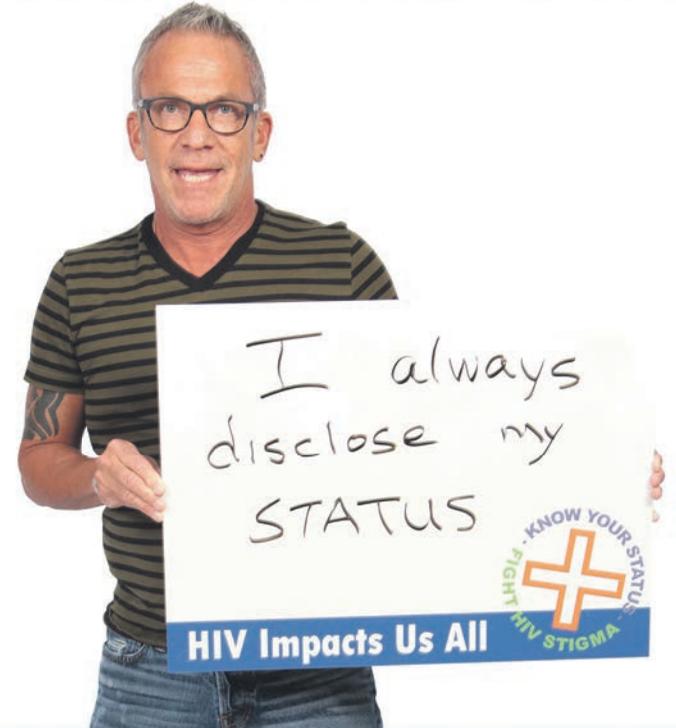
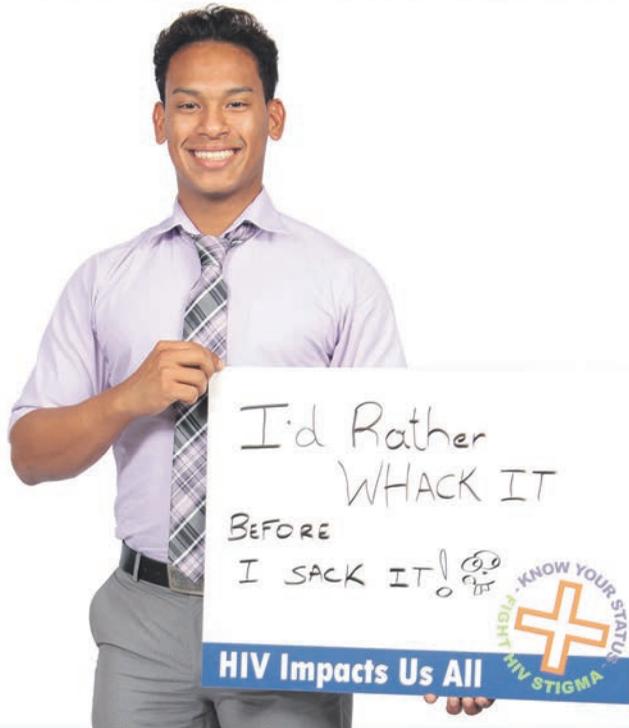
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