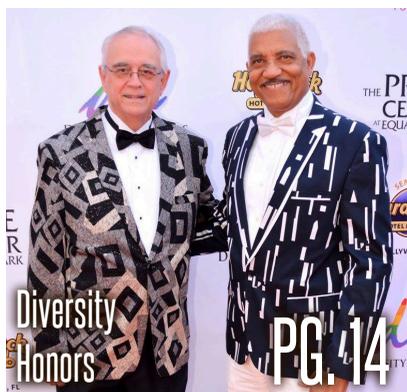




THE PRIDE CENTER VOICE

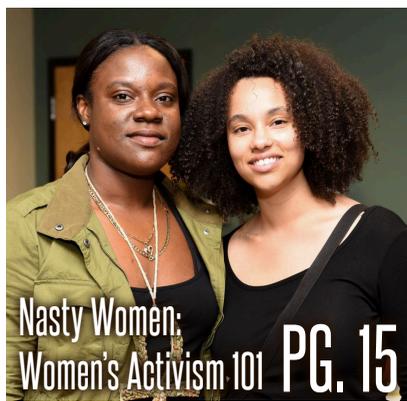
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Up! Up! And Away!

"Wicked Manors 2017: HeroIcons—Rise Up! Speak Up! Stand Up!" to Inspire Super Halloween

By Doug Cureton

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird. It's a plane. It's...time to get ready for Wicked Manors 2017: HeroIcons.

"HeroIcons: Rise Up! Speak Up! Stand Up!" is the theme for the 11th Annual Wicked Manors Halloween Street Party. The Pride Center once again will create the largest Halloween Street Party in the Southeast on Tuesday, October 31st from 7 pm to 11 pm on Wilton Drive.

Now, more than ever before, with all the uncertainty, chaos and danger in the world, we need to celebrate our heroes, sheroes and icons who inspire us to show the power of community spirit and harmony.

"We are excited to continue to organize Wicked Manors as a fund raiser that supports the programs, outreach and community efforts of The Pride Center at Equality Park," says Robert Boo, Pride Center CEO.

The Pride Center produces this over-the-top, entertaining block party each year in close collaboration with The City of Wilton Manors.

+Continued on pg. 4



Gonna Be a Lovely Day

Boomer/Senior Health Expo Shines Bigger and Better Than Ever

By Bruce Williams, Senior Services Manager

Don't miss out on all the free goodies at the Boomer/Senior Health Expo! Free chances to win amazing door prizes including a giant, high-definition, flat-screen television. Free coffee and breakfast treats from Stork's Bakery. Free lunch (for the first 400 attendees) by Broward Health Imperial Point. And the opportunity to communicate directly with a plethora of incredible community resources in a one-stop, fun-filled day.

Join us for The Pride Center's Eighth

Annual Boomer/Senior Health Expo on Saturday, October 21, 2017 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 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.

+Continued on pg. 7



Roadmap for the Future

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

In a recent interview, I was asked what accomplishment brings me the most pride since I became CEO of The Pride Center at Equality Park. It's a tough call. The Board of Directors, staff and volunteers have accomplished many significant projects and provided countless life-changing services. But, the completion of the new Master Plan for our campus is the project that brings me the most joy. The Master Plan is our roadmap for the future. It is our dream. Our vision. Only time and history will tell if this becomes our biggest accomplishment.

I understand that change is hard for many people. I've been a change agent my entire working career; so the thought of change excites me and empowers me to envision new possibilities for The Center. Two of the top three projects identified a few years ago as part of the Master Plan are completed or in process. The community wanted to make Equality Park more family friendly, so we sought funds and partners and built our playground. The community also prioritized building senior affordable housing on our campus. We applied and received funding for Phase 1. The process towards construction has slowed due to the Federal Government, but it remains in process. We look forward to building.

The Residences at Equality Park, our senior affordable housing project, recently received some negative comments from a few community members. Most comments were based on false information and rumor. I can't say that I fully understand the "Not-In-My-Back-Yard" mentality or why anyone would be opposed to helping LGBTQ Seniors in need of housing or those community members who may be less fortunate. Our Board and our staff will continue to pursue every achievable opportunity to ensure that older adults in our community receive needed care and to provide welcoming, safe spaces on this campus so that they can be their authentic selves.

Hurricane Irma recently caused damage across our campus. Maybe your home or business suffered, too. Like you, we've been scraping together our resources to make needed repairs.



We are grateful to the many community members who stepped forward to donate so repairs could be made swiftly. There is still work to be done. So, if you'd like to donate, please contact us today or visit PrideCenterFlorida.org

This season is vibrant and full at The Center. In this issue, you can learn about many activities. This is the seventh year for the popular Boomer/Senior Health Expo. Hundreds will come through the doors to visit with the 60+ service providers. This is also our seventh Community Day in collaboration with BSO. It always is a fun-filled day with the men, women and dogs from BSO. The kids' and pets' costume contests will warm anyone's heart. November welcomes many activities for Transgender Awareness Month. Take a look at the Community Calendar on our website for a complete list of all the upcoming events and activities.

Halloween is on a Tuesday night this year, but that won't prevent The Center from organizing and welcoming thousands for a great time at Wicked Manors. Our annual party starts at 7:00 and ends at 11:00 pm. Wilton Drive will be blocked so that we can provide a safe space for revelers. We will host costume contests with prizes. We are grateful that Hunters Night Club and AHF once again are presenting sponsors this year. The event literally would not exist without their generous support. We organize Wicked Manors annually to raise funds for the vital programs and services we provide. Know that proceeds from the official event bars along the street benefit The Center! And please be on the look-out for donation buckets throughout the event to support your Center!

We are your community center. I hope that you take full advantage of all the opportunities that we provide for meeting people, helping yourself and helping others. Be part of the future of The Center and our community!

About The Pride Center

The Pride Center at Equality Park celebrates 24 years of service in 2017. 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 LGBTQ+ 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 individuals, communities of color, recovery, health, the arts, athletics, spirituality, games and more. Outreach activities over the past year directly impacted over 250,000 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. Prevention programs include the LIFE Program, PrEP with Pride, the Kiki Project, social media outreach, condom distribution, CHOICES, Couples Speak, healthcare navigation, ARTAS, peer mentoring,

VOICES and wellness workshops. 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; a speaker series; recreational activities; healthy aging seminars; cultural events; and our annual Boomer/Senior Health Expo. The Center also spearheads the three-county collaboration to organize, develop and market the current online health directory of culturally competent providers for LBTQ women at LBHealth.org. Stop in and learn about all we provide: a community Flea Market; women's health initiatives; parenting workshops; transgender education series; family outreach days; Bingo; a playground for children and families; Wicked Manors; financial investment series; art gallery openings; couples coaching; a rentable auditorium; Diversity Honors with the Harvey Milk Foundation; a beautiful courtyard; the Rainbow 5K; music, movies and live theater presentations; a variety of health fairs; and a spectrum of creative symposiums, speakers, forums and events for the entire community. We own five-and-a-half acres of property with 30,000 square feet of office space that provide homes for programs and services, as well as synergy among organizations. Our Vision is to be the premier point of connection for our community.

The Pride Center

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Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33305

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THE PRIDE CENTER™
AT EQUALITY PARK



7TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY DAY

SATURDAY
OCT. 28, 2017
11:30A - 2:00P



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

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- Funky police vehicles • Hot dogs
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Costume Contests with prizes for kids and pets at 12:15 p.m.



954.463.9005

2040 N. Dixie Highway, Wilton Manors, FL 33305

www.pridecenterflorida.org

Connect
with Your
Community

Up! Up! And Away!

“Wicked Manors 2017: HeroIcons— Rise Up! Speak Up! Stand Up!” to Inspire Super Halloween

+Continued from pg. 1

Hunter's Nightclub and AHF return as co-presenting sponsors.

“Wicked Manors has become one of The Pride Center's best outreach events that brings people from all walks of life literally to the streets to show the power of community through creativity, music, dancing, indulging and just having an overall great time,” says Co-Founder and Event Chair, Doug Cureton. “I can't believe it's been 11 years since Co-Founder Bobby Kyser and I were brainstorming about a street party for Halloween.”

So, when you're feeling strange in the neighborhood, who ya' gonna call? Ghostbusters? Wonder Woman? Superman? The Golden Girls? Who are your heroes and sheroes? What icons have inspired you to take action? Bring your favorite, inspiring or hilarious HeroIcons to life through your creative costumes! Costumes are the stars of the show at Wicked Manors, so get started designing your individual and group costume ideas!



Wicked Manors always is free, and The Pride Center deeply appreciates all of the support and donations you make at the event to help cover the expenses, keep Wicked Manors happening and enable the many programs and services The Center provides year-round. Please remember that when you buy your

drinks at the official “Wicked Manors” bars in the street, buy a Wicked Manors tee shirt or donate at our Pride Center Donation Stations, you make a difference in our community!

“We are so fortunate to have AIDS Healthcare Foundation and Hunter's Nightclub return for another year as our Co-Presenting Sponsors to help cover major expenses for this event including police, fire and rescue services that insure our guests have a safe and fantastic experience,” says Roger Roa, Director of Development.

Wilton Drive will be closed to all traffic from NE 21st Court to Five Points starting at 1:00 pm until the end of the event to provide a safe and secure area for our costumed guests to celebrate. There will be plenty of parking options surrounding the event. Please check the website WickedManors.org for specific locations and updates.

So, what's going on at Wicked Manors 2017?

- Trick or Treat On The Drive starts at 5:00 pm. Stop in to visit our local businesses on Wilton Drive for family-friendly fun and let your kids enjoy some treats!

- Our Mainstage will feature Miss Bryan and Kimmy B from the DJ Laz Show on 97.3 THE HITS playing the best dance music to keep you boogying in the streets all night long.

- Misty Eyez will return for her 11th Year as our Mainstage Emcee to reign over our fantastic Hollywood Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Costume Contests. We will start with the Kid's Costume Contest at 7:30 pm and end with the Grand Prize for Best HeroIcon



Themed Costume at 10:15 pm.

- Progress Bar will sponsor the Fright Night Stage (North end of Wilton Drive) with DJ Alex Infiniti and feature performance by The Queens of Darkness with a Halloween Horror Closing Production.

- Michael Jackson's HeroIconic Thriller Flashmob will return, so sign up to join our talented choreographer Tito Abdeleda and bring it to the streets!

Remember, to get the latest information and updates on contests, drink tickets, parking and events, please visit our Wicked Manors Facebook page or our website at WickedManors.org! You may also contact Roger Roa, Director of Development at RRoa@PrideCenterFlorida.org or Doug Cureton at WickedManors@PrideCenterFlorida.org for sponsorship opportunities.

See you on October 31st. Up! Up! And away!



Did you know?

- + In November, The Pride Center will again organize and host several events for Transgender Awareness Month. Check out the community calendar at PrideCenterFlorida.org to learn more!

- + We provide fast, free HIV testing every day. Over 600 people get tested at The Center each month. Invite a friend to get tested!

- + On October 28, we again will have a team called Pride Rack Pack for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. Join our team through our website or Facebook page!

- + Over 100 people play Bingo at The Pride Center on the second Saturday evening of every month. Check out our Facebook page to learn more!

What About The T?

TransInclusive Group Empowers New Trans Leaders

By Lorenzo Robertson, Emerging Interventions Manager

There were voices missing from some of the community tables, says Tatiana Williams, Testing Expansion Coordinator with The Pride Center and Co-Founder of the TransInclusive Group. Tatiana had served on several local committees and had led on work around HIV and other social issues. "Those voices needed a seat at the table, and that was the inception of the TransInclusive Group," says Tatiana.

The TransInclusive meets weekly at The Pride Center at Equality Park. The TransInclusive Group is an Action Group. Their mission is to advocate and work collaboratively with community partners, in efforts to build trust and relationships within the South Florida Transgender community, by reducing barriers, providing resources, and conducting outreach and education to a population that has been marginalized and disadvantaged.

"It is all about family and how family love and supports one another," says Asher McQueen, a member of the TransInclusive Group. "The TransInclusive Group offers its transgender men and women a place to feel free to express themselves without regard to who is watching or listening. The group has built a sense of family for many of its members, giving them the security to be themselves. When I met with the group, I felt the love and family. I had a ton of questions that I wanted answered, and the group was very forthcoming and candid."

A question posed to the group was, "What is it that you want people to understand about the transgender experience?" That question offered the members opportunities to talk and they did just that. According to Brianna Young, she wanted people to know that, "we are not a fetish for the pleasure and desires for others. We have morals and are not just sexual objects." Transgender men and women are multifaceted individuals with hopes, dreams, goals and aspirations to have great loves and lives.

The men and women of the TransInclusive Group shared their visions of what the future holds. "We want the group to evolve into something amazing and phenomenal, not only for the transgender community, but for all people," says Carson Graham co-Founder of the TransInclusive Group.

"We want to be a beacon of light where there is darkness. TransInclusive wants be the space for young people that might



be struggling with their gender identity or homelessness. We want to be the place where people can access resources for their needs," says Brianna.

When a parent kicks their kid out of their house, because of their gender expression, the TransInclusive group wants to be a haven for them to live and learn about life. "We want all transgender men and women to eat well, drive well and live well," according to Brianna.

The TransInclusive Groups wants to be there to offer other options for transgender men and women aside from selling drugs or sex. "The TransInclusive group wants to take care of all transgender needs for all transgender people," exclaims Brianna.

"One of the realities is one of inclusivity which I feel is lacking in the LGBTQ+ community," says Tatiana. "The LGBTQ+ community is very willing to embrace and protect the LGBQ+, but they have difficulties with the T. One blaring example is with the Transgender Flag that furls in front of City Hall in Wilton Manors only when there is an issue specific to transgender issues. Unfortunately, those have been deaths of transgender women of color, and then the flag goes away until the next time to show transgender support. Real inclusion would have the transgender flag furling all the time."

TransInclusive recently held "One Night Only," a fundraiser for the group. This LGBT prom was an amazing evening of style and elegance. The "One Night Only" TransInclusive Prom gave many people the prom experience they did not get to have when they were in high school. The prom was a great success.

The TransInclusive Group wants to cultivate transgender leaders that can carry the torch and blaze new frontiers for transgender men and women into the future. The TransInclusive Group realizes that they have to do it for themselves because others do not see them as leaders.

Tatiana Williams exclaims, "The TransInclusive Group stands for all of those people that never wanted to fit in, but wanted to stand out."

For more information, contact:
954.463.9005 ext. 206.

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“Teddy Bear Inside”

Former Law Enforcement Serves His Community Through Volunteering

By Tatiana Williams, Testing Expansion Coordinator

After 30 years of working with law enforcement, Lonzo Lowery retired. He knew he wanted to continue to serve the public. A good friend suggested that he research working as a volunteer HIV Testing Counselor. Being a part of the community, Lonzo chose The Pride Center for its long, outstanding reputation in the community for the work its team has done through various programs. Lonzo decided to pursue a position at The Pride Center as a volunteer HIV Testing and Outreach Specialist. The Center welcomed him with open arms.

After volunteering for about a year, Lonzo says he's impacted in so many ways by the work he is able to do with The Pride Center. Meeting people from all different walks of life is one aspect that he loves about his job. He has learned more about issues of HIV, how it has impacted others, the importance of getting tested and knowing your status.

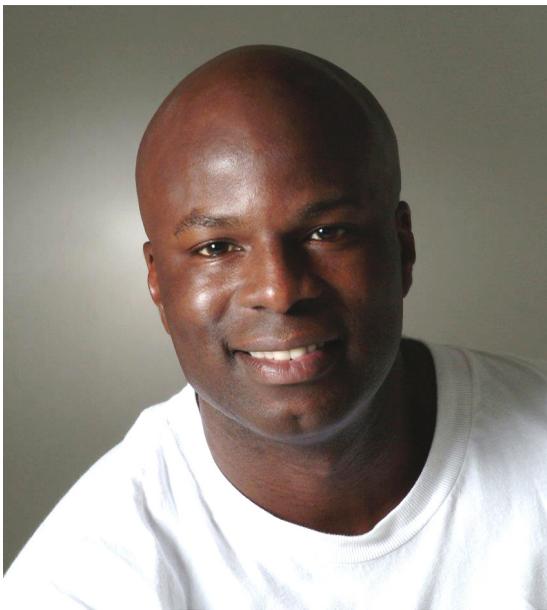
“The surprising aspect of this position taught me that HIV is not just an LGBTQ issue, it's a public issue,” says Lonzo.

Lonzo says what he most enjoys the opportunity to assist everyone who walks through the doors.

“Being able to help someone is most important,” says Lonzo. “I feel like I have not only been a benefit to them, but to the community. Working with the team members at The Pride Center, the initial word that comes to mind is ‘Gratitude.’”

Lonzo enjoys outreach, working in the community with the diverse populations The Center serves. The opportunity to provide HIV education and testing among high school students sticks with Lonzo.

“Knowledge is power,” says Lonzo. “Learning at



school age gives our youth the opportunity to change tomorrow. Having the knowledge and education helps me keep my friends and family well informed about HIV. Working to help improve the community you are a part of is the most rewarding feeling for me.”

Although Lonzo has a strong and dominating presence, he's a teddy bear inside. He's always willing to go above and beyond to assist with anything the community asks of him. Lonzo explains that working with the community has helped him realize that there are a lot of myths and miseducation about HIV, and he's glad that he has secured knowledge and training through The Pride Center to educate others.

“This position as an HIV Testing Counselor has enabled me to continue to serve the public in a unique and much needed capacity,” says Lonzo. “I'm very honored to be associated with The Pride Center and to assist them with the work they do.”

“I pride myself on helping others without judgement,” says Lonzo. “We all have a past and some are brave enough to share theirs, hoping not to be judged.”

Hurricanes Blow

Irma Damage Impacts Equality Park Campus



Hurricane Irma has affected us all in one way or another. Despite all the damage that many incurred at home, many Pride Center employees were able to come to campus immediately after the storm to help assess and address the damage we received. Our goal was to get our doors open to serve a needy community. As we've reported, several of our rooftop AC units received considerable damage and need to be replaced. The damaged AC units allowed water to come into the building, prompting leaks and mess. Just as many local residents had trees and limbs knocked down in yards, The Center was no different. Our campus, which is filled with large and small trees, took quite a beating.

Luckily we have many faithful and committed business partners, staff and volunteers who came to the rescue. Through everyone's hard work we were able to do a “soft” opening four days after the storm so that people could come in out of the heat, recharge their phones and receive a hug, if needed. We also wanted to ensure that the many groups and organizations that provide vital support groups could once again meet in a safe space and offer their valuable services to their clients.

The Center's insurance works just like your homeowner's or renter's insurance. You have to meet a deductible before it kicks in. You insure your home based upon the value to replace it. Our deductible for the Schubert Building is \$63,000. The deductible for Building B is \$83K. Commercial insurance has either a 5% or a 10% deductible. We have a 5% deductible. That is the amount we are attempting to raise so that we don't have to dip into our reserves. So far, we have raised close to \$50K, and we are grateful to the many kind and generous people in our community. If you would like to help us provide a safe and welcoming space for people to come together, please make a donation on our website: www.pridecenterflorida.org.



Did you know?

- + More than 6,300 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!
- + 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!

Gonna Be a Lovely Day

Boomer/Senior Health Expo Shines Bigger and Better Than Ever

+Continued from pg. 1



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.

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 at The Pride Center. What started out as a project years ago 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. Sincere thanks go to a roster of great sponsors:

PREMIER SPONSOR:

Broward Health

PRESENTING SPONSORS:

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COMMUNITY SPONSORS:

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

TRANS AWARENESS MONTH

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, November 8th - 7:00 p.m.

The Renaming Ceremony

An evening dedicated to the 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 evening includes musical solo, spoken word, refreshments to follow.

The Sunshine Cathedral
1480 S.W. 9th Ave
Fort Lauderdale

Thursday, November 16th - 6:30 p.m.

Film Documentary screening

"Majesty Girls"

A documentary that brings a spotlight to trans women who have accomplished and overcome self doubt, discrimination and transgender violence. Panel discussion with the director. Refreshments to follow.

The Pride Center - Schubert Building
2040 N. Dixie Hwy, Wilton Manors

Monday, November 20th - 7:00 p.m.

TDOR Observance

At the Pride Center Schubert Building main room this worldwide annual candle lighting observance honors the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender bigotry and violence.

The Pride Center - Schubert Building
2040 N. Dixie Hwy, Wilton Manors
Down Wilton Manors Drive.

Monday, November 21st - 7:00 p.m.

Meet N Mingle Ice Cream Social

Sponsored by Care Resource in partnership with TransSocial, presented by Talkin T. Come learn about PrEP and free ice cream for the first 30 people attending!

Wilton Creamery

Monday, November 27th - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

3rd Annual Transgender Equality Awards

An evening acknowledging those who have advanced Transgender equality in the community.

Infinity Lounge
2184 Wilton Dr, Wilton Manors, FL 33305

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AT EQUALITY PARK

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

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Join Robert Boo on a magical journey totaling 11 Days/10 Nights (3 Nights in Upscale Hotel in Rome + 4 Nights in Luxury Boutique Hotel in Florence + 3 Nights in Upscale Boutique Hotel in Venice). The tour features the gay history of Rome, Florence, and Venice!

\$5,800*
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“I Love Working at The Pride Center”

Ederick Johnson Uses Humor, Creativity and Tenacity To Educate Community

By Lorenzo Robertson, Emerging Interventions Manager

When you first meet Ederick Johnson, you know instinctively that he has a very endearing personality and demeanor. He works as The Pride Center's Kiki Project Coordinator, but has made such an impact on all that come into his presence. Ederick has burst onto The Pride Center scene, creating an invigorating sense of what the Kiki Project can become. One of Ederick's most endearing traits is his sense of humor.

With youth comes social media savvy, and Ederick is a social media maven. This has opened the door to more and more Facebook selfies and Facebook live activities. All of the social media activity has helped the Kiki Project spread the scope of its impact and service delivery. Ederick is making the Kiki Project and the very regular Kiki small-group gatherings into must-do events. People clamor to become part of and involved in the Kikis.

The Kiki Project, with funding assistance from the Florida Department of Health in Broward County for the past three years, consistently has improved its outreach and HIV prevention efforts among same-gender-loving men of color. Ederick participated with the Kiki Project as both a participant and volunteer in the beginning and later became Coordinator.

When asked about the future of the Kiki Project, his desire is for more funding to continue the vital services provided in underserved areas of Broward County.

The Kiki Project Team, Ederick and Jakari Roundtree, hit the streets regularly to educate the community about safer sex practices, testing, biomedical interventions including PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) and TasP (Treatment as Prevention) and just to give some people on the streets of Sistrunk Boulevard a listening ear. Ederick is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of people in our community, especially Black people. He understands the apprehension of Black people to talk openly and honestly about HIV, and he knows that there is a great deal of work to accomplish.

“It is one thing to talk to Black people about HIV, which is a huge challenge in itself, but to add sexual orientation to the mix...that is when things down the road get extremely rough.” Ederick and the Kiki Project team are equipped to take the conversation to the people on the streets, in the classroom and even to the church. Ederick is one of those people that will force you--in a nice Southern Belle manor--to host a Kiki event, even when you said that you were not hosting anything. The Ashe' Alliance is the advisory group for the Kiki Project, and

that is the one thing that Ederick wants to built into a formidable group to propel the Kiki Project into the stratosphere.

Years before he worked for any agency, Ederick was doing HIV prevention education and outreach to those who needed it, wanted to learn and know more about keeping safe from HIV infections. Ederick has a vast background in national and statewide advocacy work with various agencies and organizations.

Though the Kiki Project's design is for Black same-gender-loving men, Ederick realizes that men presenting a heterosexual lifestyles may indulge in some activities with other brothers. We need to educate that HIV is a disease that can infect all people and not just the Black and gay ones.

He also stresses that when people are talking at the kitchen table or from the pulpit that their comments about HIV should be facts and not just what they have heard or thought they heard from someone else. He wants to spread accurate HIV messages in the community.

With Ederick at the helm, the Kiki Project forges ahead, making strides



to change the narratives about Black same-gender-loving-men. He educates the community that The Pride Center is a community center for all.

Kiki Project Townhalls

The Pride Center's Kiki Project continues to organize and host fascinating community dialogues. “Obsession with Masculinity” discussed the labels and pressures society places on men. There was a short film of men discussing their personal stories and struggles. “The Pew” examined how homosexuality, spirituality and HIV in the Black church intersect and how these impact safer sex practices. “Is Your Man on the Down Low?” explored the intersection of high rates of HIV among Black women, Black same-gender-loving men and debunking the DL myth. *Photos by Melvin Terrell, Lorenzo Robertson and Chris Chavez.*



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It Was Just in the Cards

Volunteer Spotlight: Patricia Card

By Samantha McCoy, Customer Service Coordinator

It doesn't take a tarot card reader to see the future for The Pride Center at Equality Park's customer service volunteer Patricia Card. She will continue to make a difference in the community she loves.

Patricia, originally from New York, was encouraged to perform community service for her Master's studies at Nova Southeastern, and thought she would like to do something within the LGBTQ community. Having never heard of The Center before researching its amazing work, she realized that it was the perfect place for her to learn, help and experience life through other perspectives.

"I have always felt a special connection to the LGBTQ community," she says. "It could be due to being raised in an intolerant environment where I never felt a connection to my family. My brother remained closeted until he was nearly 50 years old and watching his struggle growing up affected me also."

Play your "cards" right, and you'll find Patricia volunteering on Thursday evenings.

"The most interesting part of working at The Pride Center has been learning the peace of mind people associate with The Center," she says. "It is a place where everyone can be themselves, and they

do not fear the stigma and judgments they may feel elsewhere. Everyone is an individual, a human being, and The Center provides that safe place.

When Patricia is not greeting our community members and making a difference, she enjoys bicycling to community events and great local restaurants. Patricia and her amazing partner enjoy travel; her partner is a yacht captain. Patricia has explored the Caribbean, South and Central America with ease.

"I always thought that I would remain single, but somehow I met this amazing person who is able to accept me for everything I am," Patricia beams. "I am very lucky." We think true love was in the "cards" for Patricia.

The Pride Center is extremely "lucky" to have such a fantastic volunteer as one of the first faces you'll encounter when you visit the campus of Equality Park.

"I have encountered mostly people looking for information on classes and meetings, but others who are just looking for someone to listen to them," she says. "For instance, I had a caller who was going through a realization in their life and just needed someone to affirm that their feelings were normal and didn't feel they were ready to confide in anyone at



home yet. Others I have spoken with are interested in my story and have been genuinely interested in my perspective. It has been an intriguing experience which has given me confidence and enabled me to feel I may be able to make a difference within the community which I love. "

Through her volunteerism with The Center, Patricia has realized that she would like to continue to work with the LGBT Community in the future. We think that Patricia's future in LGBT social service is definitely in the cards.



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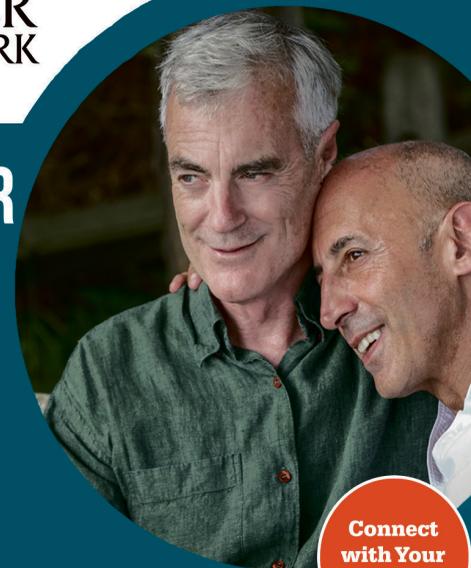
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A Place Called Home

Update on Senior Affordable Housing

By Robert Boo, CEO

I want to make sure that you know the latest about Senior Affordable Housing on our campus. The Residences at Equality Park will be affordable housing for Senior adults, with a special focus on LGBTQ individuals. We will give local LGBTQ Seniors a permanent and safe place to live along with the culturally competent supportive services they need to stay there. As we've announced previously, Phase I of The Residences at Equality Park will be built utilizing the 9% Federal Tax Credits issued by Florida Housing. With the current administration in D.C. exploring major tax reform, the tax credit market has been unstable this year. The potentially lower value of the awarded tax credits to investors would not have raised the required funds to build our project. So this Spring, Carrfour--our partner in the project--requested Florida Housing to place our tax credits on a temporary hold. There are currently 30 - 40 projects just in the State of Florida that are in a similar holding pattern, waiting to see what will happen with the tax credit market. In the interim, Florida Housing put out an RFA making \$20M available. Carrfour submitted our application to receive some of this gap funding. Thankfully, we recently learned that we received additional funding of \$862,000. This is big news. This helps close the gap--but does not represent the entire amount needed.

Recently I attended several community meetings with Housing Broward, the coordinating council of Broward Housing Council. Broward County has the most cost burdened rental market in the nation. Local households are the most severely burdened in the nation. Today, for current residents, Broward County needs 70,000 affordable rental units. That's why Housing Broward is dedicating \$5 million per year for the next three years from the General Fund. We hope to be able to apply for a portion of that funding in Year 1 to close the gap entirely for our project to proceed.

We remain passionate and excited about meeting this real community need. The Residences at Equality Park will represent South Florida's first affordable housing project with customized supportive services for LGBTQ seniors. We already provide a safety-net of services on this campus for local Seniors. The Residences, coupled with The Center's growing seniors programming--the largest LGBTQ seniors program nationwide--will give residents a permanent, safe place to live and support services they need to age in place. The Residences 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.



Most recently a project was announced on Long Island.

As we've shared over the past few years, this is affordable housing, as compared to "low income" housing. The difference is that "affordable housing" is for tenants with three to four times the rent amount in income. "Low-income housing" is for tenants with barely two times the rent in income.

The ultimate goal of the project will include 120-130 units. Phase I will include 48 units. This is the phase for which we applied--and were successfully awarded--the 9% Federal tax credits issued by Florida Housing. All units are affordable housing for older adults (55+) earning less than 60% of the area's median income (AMI), approximately \$35,000 annually. Please note: every single unit is for Seniors; no one under 55 can live in The Residences (sorry to all the young hotties out there!) I most recently confirmed this with our attorney for the project, Wendy Wilson, at Legal Aid Broward County. Ms. Wilson specializes in the area of affordable housing.

In addition, 70% of these units (34) are designated for seniors living with disabling conditions, such as physical illnesses or disabilities due to complications from HIV/AIDS. These Seniors must be able to live independently, but will benefit from the array of services available on campus. 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. This is the personal reality we face every Tuesday morning when over 200 Seniors gather in our main hall for Coffee and Conversation.

The Proposed Phase II, including an additional 70-80 units, would be developed at a later date. We have not applied for or received funding for Phase II. Over the past two years, The Center has partnered with Carrfour, Florida's largest nonprofit affordable housing developer in the development of The Residences at Equality Park. Carrfour will serve as the project's developer, operator and service coordinator. The Pride Center, with over 24 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.

Not a week goes by that Kristofer Fegenbush, COO, or I don't get a phone call from someone asking if they could add their name to "the list". It hurts to hear the disappointment in their voice when we tell them we are not at that point in the process, and that it will probably be two years before we are. It solidifies in my mind that the Board of Directors, the staff and The Pride Center are headed in the right direction. It shows the foresight of our Board of Directors who worked with the community to revise our Mission Statement when we moved to this campus: "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."

Capital Campaign Contributors

John Graves Society - \$500,000

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

Cornerstone Society - \$250,000

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To give to our Capital Campaign, contact Robert Boo at RBoo@PrideCenterFlorida.org or Roger Roa at RRoa@PrideCenterFlorida.org

They Get Around

Testing and Outreach Team Impacts Broward's HIV Epidemic

By Tatiana Williams, Testing Expansion Coordinator

Our HIV Testing and Outreach team works tirelessly spreading HIV prevention messages throughout Broward County. Maybe you have seen the team out and about in their bright green or blue t-shirts. You can find them from Wilton Drive to Sistrunk, Urban League to Club Fort Lauderdale, Fat Village to the Beach, and even your nearest Walgreens location. You may even have come to The Center, where we conduct HIV testing 7 days a week, and received an HIV test from one of these warm and friendly folks.

Eric Weir has a personality you won't forget. He is so warm and welcoming, right when a client walks through the door. The first time I met Eric, he was there to complete his certification as an

HIV tester. I was coming into the office to pick up some testing supplies. Eric greeted me with a smile saying, "Hello, I'm Eric." He explained his passion for the work he would like to do in the community. My first thought was, "WOW, he would be a great fit for the team." I immediately contacted the other members of the supervisory team, and let them know that we had to have him. Eric is an innovator working in the field in unconventional ways. Eric leaves Club Ft. Lauderdale after his shift and continues his work in Sears Town and Sistrunk distributing condoms and making sure the sex-workers are well educated. Eric introduced The Pride Center to Teleperformance, a large company with whom The Pride Center partners in their annual employee Health Fair



Julia Schwartzman joined The Pride Center last year as a Bachelor's in Social Work intern. We knew we could not let her leave after her internship completed. Julia feels very passionate about providing free services to the community. She says The Pride Center gives her the opportunity to do what she loves.

"Julia brings so much to the Testing and Outreach Department," says Shanna Ratliff the Prevention Outreach Coordinator. "I love going to HIV prevention community planning meetings with Julia, she never shies away from advocating for the community or her clients." Julia also helps with other Pride Center events like the PrEP with Pride Program and The Center's annual school supply drive.

Christopher (Kirk) Wells our newest team member, arrived at The Pride Center with many connections in the South Florida Community. Kirk has utilized these relationships to help us provide HIV testing at outreach at new locations.

"Working with The Pride Center gives me the ability to meet multi-cultured groups of individuals and to educate them on the importance of knowing your status, says Kirk. He expresses that working in the community feels like he's filling his emotional gas tank, and keeps him full of energy.

Tim Krier, a former L.I.F.E. program facilitator, expressed interest in the job as he wanted to expand his work with The Center and in the community. Tim approached me one day with a smile saying, "I want to be a volunteer tester can you help me". Of course, I could not say no to him. After volunteering for four months, we hired Tim to join the team. Tim, known among his colleagues as the Silver Fox, is always there when you need him. Tim works hard to represent The Center in a positive light: "I always remember that we live in a fishbowl. You never know who's watching."

Ryan Pyles also was a former L.I.F.E. program facilitator and joined the team with a lot of knowledge about HIV prevention. Ryan has excellent public speaking skills; he's been very helpful provided HIV education to large groups

during Pride Center outreach events.

"Ryan commands the room when he presents," says Ebony Wilson, Prevention Outreach Coordinator. Due to Ryan's excellent presentation skills and HIV knowledge, he was a natural fit to implement the VOICES intervention. VOICES, is a one session, video-based HIV/STD prevention workshop that encourages condom use and improve condom negotiation skills through video scenarios.

Ashley Lormil is no stranger to The Pride Center's Testing and Outreach team. Having also worked at another agency, Ashley says working for the Pride Center groomed him on how effective prevention work is best conducted in the community. "I enjoy working for The Pride Center, because it's more than just a numbers game. It's about reaching out and providing a good service to various communities."

"I love having Ashley on the team," says Jakari Roundtree, the KiKi Project Program Specialist. "He has such a calming presence and brings balance. He's also been very helpful helping us conduct outreach with the black, same-gender-loving community."

Joel is the inquisitive one, Joel says he loves working at The Pride Center because it gives him the opportunity to learn. Working in the field of HIV isn't new for Joel, working at various organization including Planned Parenthood and Broward House. Joel says, "I'm always eager to learn."

Working as a HIV Testing Counselor fits Joel personality; he enjoys educating others and being educated. "I'm an open book ask me anything," Joel always says.

The Florida Department of Health in Broward County makes it possible for The Pride Center to expand its HIV Testing and Outreach services in creative ways to diverse communities. The Center has been able to build an experienced, skilled team with unique backgrounds and innovative ideas. The Center continues to work with many of the faith based institutions, colleges and high schools in efforts of lowering the rate of HIV/STI incidences in Broward County.

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All proceeds of this event go to support the vital programs and services of The Pride Center. To pre-purchase drink tickets or to donate to the event visit: WICKEDMANORS.ORG

Growing Gray Pride

The Pride Center continues to provide fascinating panel discussions and workshops focused on the needs of older adults. "Medicare or MediScare? Before You Need It" discussed information on how the systems work, what the rules are that determine your benefits and how to make informed decisions. "Taste The Rainbow" explored exercise, nutrition and living healthfully. *Photos by Steven Shires, Rex Coston and Cida Glavin.*




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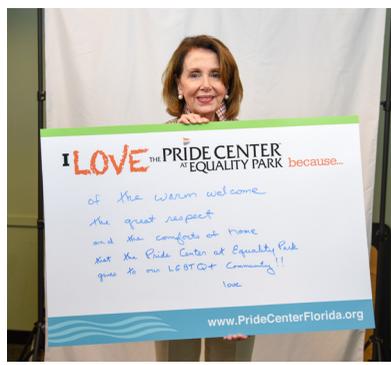
THE PRIDE CENTER AT EQUALITY PARK

Did you know?

- + Every day, The Center hosts a variety of 12-step meetings, including AA, NA and CMA. Over 65 different groups meet on our campus each month.
- + Each month, hundreds of women visit our LBT women's Health Directory at LBTHealth.org. Check out this great resource of culturally competent healthcare providers!
- + On Sunday, January 21, The Center will again host the Rainbow 5K in Wilton Manors. Make plans now to register and participate!
- + More than 1,000 people use our David Bohnett Cyber Center every month. Our computer lab always is packed with folks reading the news, communicating with friends, searching for jobs or registering for classes.

Leader Pelosi Promotes Equality Act

Pride Center CEO Robert Boo, Senior Services Manager Bruce Williams and others joined House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Representative Ted Deutch and Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz for a discussion on the Equality Act, federal LGBT legislation. *Photos by Christina Mendenhall.*



“My HIV Does Not Control Me”

Graduates Share Their Testimonials about LIFE and CHOICES Programs

The LIFE and CHOICES programs offer support for gay and bisexual men living with HIV

The 18-week L.I.F.E. program offers men effective ways to lead healthier and richer lives. In a fun, supportive setting, participants get the latest reliable information about HIV and health during large group meetings, exchange firsthand experiences in small group gatherings, receive personal coaching in one-on-one sessions to boost emotional well-being, build strong relationships, and bolster healthy habits. Men who've participated in the L.I.F.E. program have even seen their immune system strengthen and viral load decrease.



Greg

“I enrolled in the L.I.F.E. Program as I was seeking a way to connect with other HIV-positive gay men. I had been positive for 5 years when I began the L.I.F.E. Program and my only goal was to meet other poz guys and isolate less. I had no idea what a miraculous transformation was in store, and quickly began to understand that every Health Action Plan I set and worked to complete during the course would potentially result in a happier life and a longer life expectancy.

As a result of the program, I learned to communicate better with my doctor and was able to disclose my status to others comfortably, perpetuating greater trusted support. I began to use ‘breathing milestones’ to increase my deep breathing throughout the day for greater stress reduction. And I solidified my ideas of at the time what I felt to be my purpose.

Since the program ended, I met someone nice and was able to rise to the challenge of entering a serodiscordant relationship. I was finally armed to communicate well and even maintain my personal composure when problems arose. I understand the benefits of the program, and I am grateful for it.”

Frank

“It was an absolute pleasure to participate in the L.I.F.E Program. What a life changing experience it was for me. Before, I was a depressed and anxiety-ridden mess. Being a newly diagnosed participant, I came to the program with so many questions and confusion. The L.I.F.E Program's facilitators made me feel so welcomed and helped me focus on what I needed in my life. The tools they gave me in the L.I.F.E Program gave me exactly what I needed. As a result, I am now gainfully employed and I am no longer dealing with issue of depression and anxiety. I am just plain ol' happy!”

Living with HIV can make dating, sex, and relationships stressful. The free five-weeks CHOICES course helps people learn to cope with these challenges. Participants meet in small groups to discuss building healthy relationships, how to negotiate safer sex, make better decisions, and ways to tell family, friends, and sex partners that they're thriving with HIV.

“Pedro”

“I had very recently tested positive for HIV. I remember feeling a multitude of emotions, and sorting through hundreds of thoughts. Primarily I was feeling overwhelmed, fearful and confused. Most of the ideas and thoughts I was dealing with were the preconceived judgments I had regarding HIV.

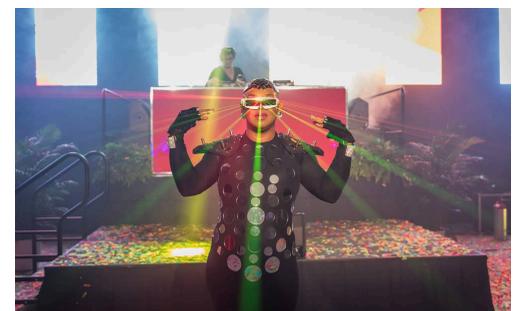
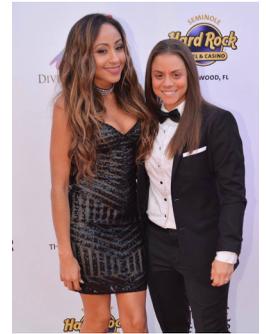
While attending CHOICES, I learned so much about myself along with an intimate group of others attending the program. The one thing that I remember the most about the information that I received from the staff was that it was delivered without judgment and anything we discussed was completely confidential. The diversity and sharing was extremely interesting and informative for me as some participants had been living with HIV for 20+ years. One of the greatest challenges for me was disclosure, one of the areas explored thoroughly through literature, videos, and role-plays.

I actually had a lot of fun and walked away with a greater sense of confidence and an understanding of the many choices I have in my life regarding not only my HIV status, but in any area. I learned that my HIV does not control me, but I control my HIV.”

For more information about the L.I.F.E. and CHOICES programs call 954-463-9005 ext. 302 or email PALS@PrideCenterFlorida.org.

Diversity Honors

The Harvey Milk Foundation and The Pride Center collaborated on this third 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 Stephen Lang and Michael Murphy*



Nasty Women: Women's Activism 101

Nasty Women: Women's Activism 101

Women with Pride organized and hosted South Florida activists and everyday community members as they explored practical strategies to become involved in significant ways to give back and make a difference. Photos by Christina Mendenhall/@Palette for Miami Herald Media Company and Jim O'Rourke.



Rainbow 5K

Over 400 runners registered for the Second Annual Rainbow 5K. Make plans to join us for the 2018 Rainbow 5k on Sunday, January 21, 2018. Register today at TheRainbow5k.com. Photos by Stephen R. Lang



Pulse Massacre One Year Anniversary Commemoration

On the one year anniversary of the Pulse Massacre, The Pride Center unveiled a framing of the U.S. flag that flew over the United States Capitol on the day of the massacre. *Photos by Stephen R. Lang.*



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Ted Schultz
Scott L. Bennett Fund at Our Fund
Jim Stepp and Peter Zimmer at Our Fund
Bob Swartz and Rob Hancock
Temptations Catering and Event Planning / Maurice Mizrahi
The Westin Fort Lauderdale
Thomas Tocalis

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

Anonymous (3)
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B Ocean Hotel / Mark Semple
Michael Camardello
Doug Candler
Harvey Chasser
CLAD Tile and Stone / Earl Rynerson and Michael Shroyer
Michael Dager and Harvey Shapiro
Daoud's Fine Jewelry / Patrick Daoud
Jared Falek and Don Chorpennig
Fast Printz / Joaquin Pastor
Alex and Chris Garcia-Halener
August Gold and Carol Logen
Goodman Public Relations / Michael Goodman
Grateful Palate Events & Catering / Leslie Grossman
Tyler Healis
Neill Hirst, MD and Greg Hughes
Kenneth Hollander and John Kardos / KSH Charitable Foundation
Robert Hubbard and Bill Greeves

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Lightship Media Group / Andy Perrott
Norton Lyman and Kimio Sato
Mind Your Manors / Alex Haywood and Joseph Kraus
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David Moon and Eugene Smith
Greg Moore and Allan Barsky
Richard Nolan and Robert Pingpank
Oakland Park Dental / Dr. Howard R. Cunningham
Pallant Insurance Agency, Inc. / Joe Pallant
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Mona Pittenger / Mona Pittenger Giving Fund at Our Fund
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Dennis Dean Photography / Dennis Dean
Dennis Hill Homes / Daren Painter and Dennis Hill

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We Florida Financial
Steve Wetzler
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, roa@PrideCenterFlorida.org



Women With Pride

A Program of The Pride Center at Equality Park

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

We Offer

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

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

 Find us on
Facebook



GET CONNECTED

- Newly HIV+ and need to connect to care?
- New to area and need linkage to care?
- Fallen out of care and need to reconnect?



Contact our Healthcare Linkage Coordinator **Rafael Reyes**
 (954) 463-9005, Ext. 307 or reyes@pridecenterflorida.org


THE PRIDE CENTER
 AT EQUALITY PARK

2040 N. Dixie Highway,
 Wilton Manors, FL 33305
www.PrideCenterFlorida.org



Refusing to Choose: Israeli, LGBTQ and Orthodox

The Pride Center and Congregation Etz-Chaim hosted A Wider Bridge to explore the personal narratives of being Orthodox and LGBTQ in Israel. Pride Center CEO traveled to Israel with A Wider Bridge.

Photos by Stephen R. Lang.



Join The Pride Center as a Member Today!

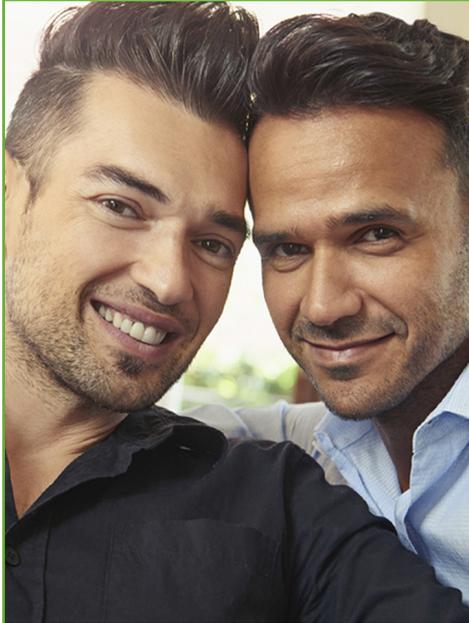
Types of Membership:

- 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

Couples Speak



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

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

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

**For more information contact
The Pride Center's PALS Project...**

Lorenzo Robertson
email LRobertson@PrideCenterFlorida.org
or call **954.463.9005 Ext. 306**

THE PRIDE CENTER



Black Art Awakening

The Center's Kiki Project organized and held a Black Art Awakening Reception to commemorate Black History Month and National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. *Photos by Stephen Lang, Carina Mask and Steven Shires.*



SENIORS



**Celebrate Life at the
Liveliest Spot in Town!**

- Coffee & Conversation Tuesdays @ 10 am
- Daily Enhance Fitness senior exercise classes
- Pot lucks, fun shows, movies and Bingo
- Games Days every other Tuesday afternoon



954.463.9005
www.PrideCenterFlorida.org
Seniors@PrideCenterFlorida.org
2040 North Dixie Highway
Wilton Manors, FL 33305



Stonewall Street Festival & Parade

Pride Center staff and volunteers participated in a packed-day of outreach at Stonewall Summer Pride. The Center used its popular float and parade presence to announce the top-secret theme of this year's Wicked Manors--HeroIcons. The Center utilizes diverse events each week to educate the community on its vital resources, programs, services and opportunities. *Photos by Carina Mask.*



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- Newcomer Social, Support, 2nd Thurs, 7p-8p
 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 with Bob, Spiritual, Monday, 7:00-9:00p
 A Course in Miracles with Janet, Spiritual, Tues, 7:00p-8:30p
 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
 Latin Time Dance Classes, Social, Thurs, 7:30p-7:30p
 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
 Monday Night Women's Group, Social, Mon, 7:30-9p
 Narcotics Anonymous Rainbow Group, Recovery, Wed, 8-9p
 New Path Narcotics Anonymous Group, Recovery, Mon/Tue/Thu, 7-8p
 New Path Narcotics Anonymous Group, Recovery, Sat/Sun, 4-5p
 Open Hearts Meditation Group, Sat, 3:30p-5p
 Overeaters Anonymous, Recovery, Sun, 12n-1:30p
 Overeaters Anonymous, Recovery, Fri, 7:30-9p
 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
 TransInclusive, Support, Thurs, 7p-8:30p, Last Thurs open to all 7p-8:30p
 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

BI-WEEKLY RECURRING MEETINGS

Ballet & Opera Group, Educational, 2nd & 4th Sunday, 1-4p
 Connecting the Dots: Wednesday, Biweekly Social, 6:30p-7:30p
 POZ Long-Term Survivors, Gay Men/HIV Support, 1st & 3rd Tues, 6:30-8p
 Senior Games Day, Social, 2nd & 4th Tue, 1-4p

MONTHLY RECURRING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Pride Center BINGO, Open to Public, 2nd Sat, 7-10p and 4th Sun, 4p-7p
 Dolphin Democrats, Monthly Meeting, 2nd Wed, 7:30-9:30p
 Equality Park Garden Club, Educational, 3rd Wed, 7-9p
 Pride Center Flea Market, Open to Public, 1st Sat, 8a-2p
 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
 TransInclusive Support Group, Support, Last Thurs, 7p-8:30p
 AA Newcomers Social, Support, 2nd Thurs, 7p-8p

For further information or to rent a room for your special event call: Samantha McCoy at 954-463-9005 ext. 101. Visit www.pridecenterflorida.org/calendar for meeting room assignments. Room days/times subject to change.

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.

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

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

+ Did you know there have been more than 2,255 group meetings at The Pride Center this year? Take part in an activity at The Center!

Founders Circle Receptions

Each month, The Pride Center welcomes its Founders Circle members to a cocktail reception. Founders provide at least \$100 monthly to support the programs and services of The Pride Center. We don't spend any of our donors' dollars on these parties. The businesses that host us generously cover the costs of food and drink for these receptions. Recent hosts and sponsors have included The Historic Needham Estate, Grateful Palate Catering & Events, Mind Your Manors, Newman Insurance Agency, Mellow Mushroom, Sonesta Fort Lauderdale Beach, B Ocean Resort, Gulfstream Park, West Elm, Brio At Gulfstream Park, Adena Grill & Wine Bar and Williams Sonoma Village at Gulfstream Park. Funds donated by Founders Circle members underwrite life-enhancing work within our communities. 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.





Attention to Detail | Architect Joins Center Board

By Ian Robert Hemley

With two trusted, long-time advisors retiring, The Pride Center recently welcomed one new Board member, Miami architect Jason Hagopian.

Mr. Hagopian rushed into The Pride Center for our afternoon Voice interview not more than two minutes late. With sweat dripping from his handsome brow, he sincerely apologized for his tardiness. “No big deal,” I replied. “Understandable, really—you came up all the way from Miami during rush hour.”

But Mr. Hagopian is a man who pays attention to detail. This I could tell from his stylish Cole Haan shoes, form-fitting gun metal DKNY suit, “modern-plaid” Ben Sherman tie, and Cartier wristwatch. Whether the fashion sense is cultivated or comes naturally is unclear, but attention to detail and a sense of style are undoubtedly both good qualities in an architect.

Mr. Hagopian earned his degree in architecture from Rensselaer (RPI) in Troy, NY before joining San Francisco’s TSAO Design Group in 1997. He eventually became a principal at that firm before he moved back East to open their Miami office, which now employs ten people.

However, it was love—not work—that really brought Mr. Hagopian to South Florida. He met his partner Rick Fenstermacher while on vacation with friends in Palm Springs. The cross-continental move admittedly took some persuading, but he reflects, “It feels like it was meant to be.”

Mr. Hagopian is also Chairman of the Miami Beach Design Review Board and the immediate Past President of the Board of American Institute of Architects in Miami.

Pride Center CEO Robert Boo was particularly enthusiastic about Mr. Hagopian’s contributions to the planning of the Equality Park campus expansion. Before joining the Board, Mr. Hagopian and his firm organized a “Charette”, which is fancy French word for an elaborate brainstorming session. Mr. Hagopian created the guidelines, and tasked the Board with constructing a list of attendees including county and city government officials, Board members, Founders, LGBT and HIV community leaders, and Wilton Manors residents.

In all, 50-60 people were invited, and every last one of them enthusiastically showed up for the half-day weekend affair. They gathered at The Pride Center with marker boards, poster images, and Post-it notes, dividing into big groups then small groups with a diversity of ideas, creating a truly productive discussion. Mr. Hagopian took it all back to his office to create a “visioning document” (including “massing models” generated with 3D software) which served as the basis for Equality Park’s expansion.

The Pride Center will surely continue to appreciate Mr. Hagopian’s professionalism (and his South Beach flair) now that he sits on the Board. He will also be the only current member of the Board residing in Miami-Dade County, bringing fresh perspective and a bit of an outsider’s eye.

He spoke glowingly of the motivation and dedication of



his colleagues on The Pride Center Board. “It’s really a super talented group of people.” He further praised the overall organization of the LGBTQ community in Broward County.

While comparing Broward and Dade, careful “not to say that one is better than the other,” he nonetheless lamented the loss of South Beach’s “cohesive gay community that doesn’t really exist anymore.” Still, there are many LGBTQ people in Miami and substantial resources there from which to draw—Mr. Hagopian case in point.

Have You Named Your Brick Yet?

4 x 8 Brick - \$100

8 x 8 Brick - \$250

**BUILDING EQUALITY
ONE STONE AT A
TIME**

ADDITIONAL SIZES ARE AVAILABLE

For more information, please contact
Roger Roa or Bryon Bowlby at
(954) 463 - 9005


THE PRIDE CENTER

Connect
with Your
Community

www.PrideCenterFlorida.org
2040 N Dixie Hwy Wilton Manors, FL 33305

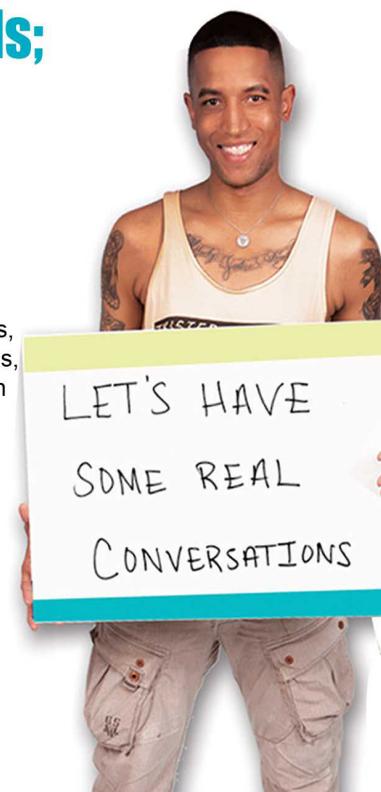
THE KIKI PROJECT

**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) 463-9011, ext. 305 or 306
Email: jgreen@pridecenterflorida.org
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At The Pride Center



www.pridecenterflorida.org



2040 . Dixie Highway,
Wilton Manors, FL 33305

Connect
with Your
Community

Florida AIDS Walk

The Pride Center organized a passionate team who raised money for the annual Florida AIDS Walk along Fort Lauderdale beach. The Pride Center team raised \$108,768 with over 100 team members. 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 Chris Chavez.*



Did you know?

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

+ 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.



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.

MEETINGS ON TUESDAYS @ 6:30 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

PALS@PrideCenterFlorida.org

954-463-9005 ext 302



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



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

Living with HIV?

Are dating, sex, relationships or disclosure stressful?

JOIN a free program to help you make smart **CHOICES**.



CHOICES is a five-week program that teaches you skills to handle challenges you may face.

We meet in small groups to discuss how to:

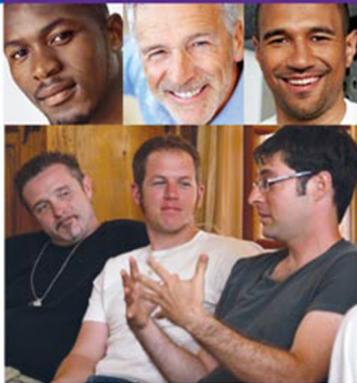
- Build healthier relationships and lower stress
- Make better decisions and improve health
- Disclose HIV-status wisely

Fun, interactive sessions include:

- Video clips for discussion
- Thought-provoking activities
- Small group discussion and role play

CHOICES can help you...

- Meet new HIV+ friends
- Share different experiences without judgment
- Improve problem-solving & communication skills
- Learn more health supporting behaviors



The PALS Project offers gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men living with HIV social support, accurate HIV information and skills to lead safer, richer lives.

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



CHOICES is FREE. Se Habla Espanol.
If interested, contact Magno Morales at 954.463.9011 ext. 303 or email mmorales@PrideCenterFlorida.org

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



Giving His All

Volunteering Helps Cureton Cultivate His Sense of "Mattering"

By Robert Cullen

Doug Cureton recalls being asked by a friend back in '95 to help a local LGBTQ agency that was moving its location from a small office on Oakland Park Boulevard to its then home on Andrews Avenue. Doug answered his friend's call and helped him move file cabinets for what then was known as the Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Thus began Doug's 22 year relationship with The Pride Center. From the beginning, Doug liked what he saw and heard at The Center and began participating in the many social activities offered, Bingo being one of his favorites.

In 2011, Doug's partner asked him to join him as a participant in The Pride Center's L.I.F.E. Program. Doug not only saw a valuable program that assisted men who were coping with living with HIV, but it also gave him an opportunity to offer his skills as an Education Consultant and peer co-facilitator. In this role, Doug's contribution not only benefited the program's participants, but also provided Doug with the personal and professional satisfaction he seeks. As Doug puts it, "Volunteering gives people the opportunity to cultivate their sense of mattering."

Doug's role as a co-facilitator began in Cycle 11 and continued through Cycle 22. Throughout this five-year period, Doug has brought insight, compassion and clarity to over 500 participants in the LIFE Program.

Doug's Pride Center involvement is not exclusive to HIV services. In 2007, Doug embarked on what would become an integral part of the LGBTQ experience and The Pride Center's flagship event in Wilton Manors—the Halloween Festival affectionately known as "Wicked Manors". Doug, together with some of his "nearest and dearest," set out to organize and put on an inclusive "street party" that would provide an opportunity for all who wanted to express their creativity, meet their neighbors and friends and just have a wonderful time. Doug and his planning group approached The



Pride Center with the idea, because as Doug puts it, "The Pride Center has the unique ability to bring together just the right combination of people and talent to meet the needs of the community."

As with all of Doug's endeavors, Wicked Manors is a huge success. In its first year 7,000 people attended, and in every year since, attendance has skyrocketed.

Doug also literally has had his hands in the construction of The Pride Center's playground. Doug volunteered shoulder-to-shoulder with many other community members and Pride Center staff as they set out to build a multi-faceted, colorful and engaging area for the community's children. Doug once again demonstrated his range of abilities by providing brains and brawn to help The Pride Center bring another community project to a successful completion.

Most recently, Doug joined the Gay Men's Chorus. Yes folks, he has a beautiful singing voice too, and holds a degree in Music Education. As with all of Doug's activities, he gives it his "all," and you can be sure the Chorus benefits from it.

During my interview with Doug for this article, he shared with me so many wonderful insights about our community and the human condition as a whole. I hope this bright, articulate and talented man will be gracious enough to share his next twenty years with The Pride Center. Many thanks, Doug!

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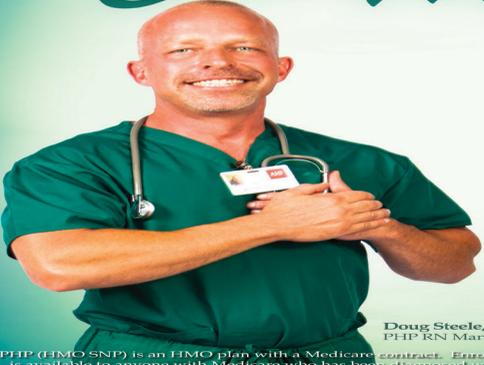
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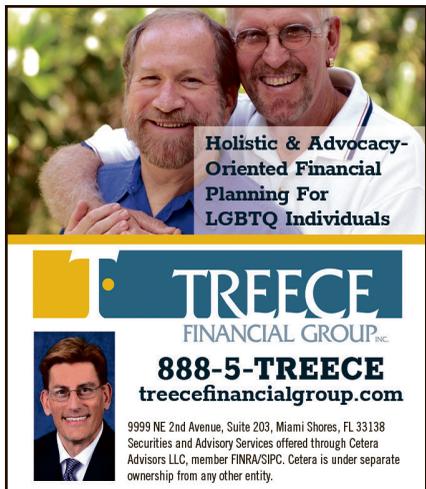
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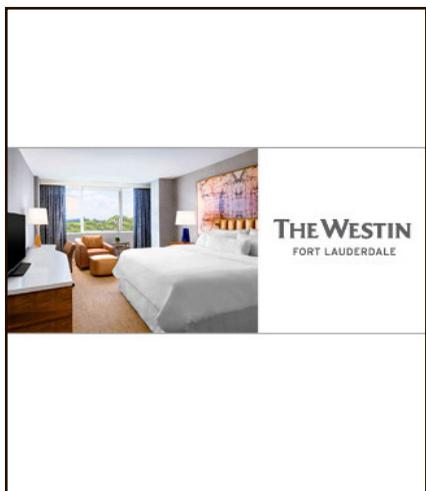
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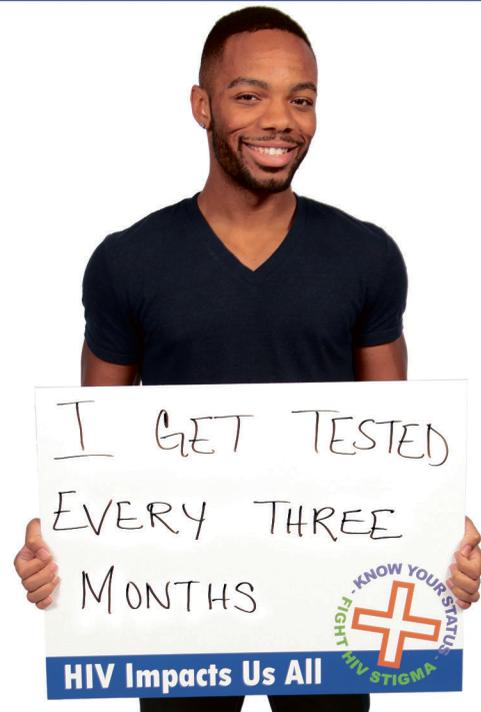
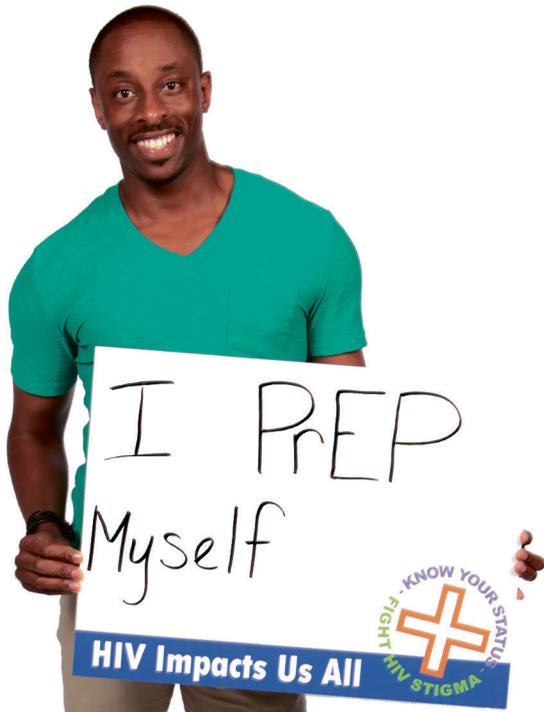
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