

Building the Community

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

Our 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

The 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

2040 N. Dixie Highway
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33305

Mail Correspondence to:

P.O. Box 70518
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0518
(954) 463-9005
Fax (954) 764-6522

Email: info@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Website: www.PrideCenterFlorida.org

Board of Directors

Mark Budwig, Chair	Brenda Hartley
Dr. Leslie Leip, Vice Chair	George Kling
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Mitchell Bloom	Paul Smith
Mark Budwig	Deanna Sylvestri
	Jim Walker

Pride Center Staff

Robert Boo, CEO,
rboo@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Kristofer Fegenbush, MSW, COO,
kfeigenbush@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Janet Weissman, Business Manager,
jweissman@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Roger Roa, Director of Development,
roa@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Samantha McCoy, Customer Service Coordinator,
smccoy@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Dr. Listron Mannix, HIV Outreach and Testing Manager,
bmannix@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Bruce Williams, Senior Services Coordinator,
bwilliams@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Shanna Ratliff, Prevention with Positives Manager,
sratliff@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Lorenzo Robertson, Emerging Interventions Manager,
lrobertson@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Roya Amirnroumand, Women with Pride Coordinator,
WomenWithPride@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Ebony Wilson, Prevention Outreach Coordinator,
ewilson@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Manuel Leon, Social Media and Marketing Coordinator,
mleon@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Tatiana Williams, Testing Expansion Coordinator,
twilliams@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Paul Ward, Facilities and Technology Coordinator,
facilities@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Jodi Reichman, Transgender Services Coordinator,
jreichman@PrideCenterFlorida.org
John Baumgartner, LIFE Coordinator,
jbaumgartner@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Magno Morales, CHOICES Coordinator,
mmorales@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Rafael Reyes, Healthcare Linkage Coordinator,
rreyes@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Marvin Shaw, Kiki Program Coordinator,
mshaw@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Edgardo Medina, VOICES and Outreach Specialist,
emedina@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Jakari Roundtree, Kiki Program Specialist,
jroundtree@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Bryon Bowlby, Office Operations Specialist,
bbowlby@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Robert Cullen, Information Analyst,
rcullen@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Christopher Matthews, Senior Services Specialist,
cmatthews@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Julian Alterman, Outreach and Testing Specialist,
jalterman@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Charles Bowers, Outreach and Testing Specialist,
cbowers@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Anthony Brautigam, Outreach and Testing Specialist,
ABrautigam@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Daniel Dardenne, Outreach and Testing Specialist,
ddardenne@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Carl Fleurimey, Outreach and Testing Specialist,
cleurimey@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Shayna Forgetta, Outreach and Testing Specialist,
SForgetta@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Joel Kandarappallil, Outreach and Testing Specialist,
jkandarappallil@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Clarence Collins, Facilities Assistant,
ccollins@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Eugene Faber, Facilities Assistant,
efaber@PrideCenterFlorida.org
Jim O'Rourke, Facilities Assistant,
jorourke@PrideCenterFlorida.org

The Pride Center Voice

Production Managers: Kristofer Fegenbush

Creative Director: Brendon Lies

Contributing Writers: Rob Saunders, Doug Cureton, Tatiana Williams, Bruce Williams, Shanna Ratliff, Ebony Wilson, Listron Mannix, Lorenzo Robertson, Samantha McCoy, Bryon Bowlby, Manuel Leon, Roger Roa, Robert Boo and Kristofer Fegenbush.

Photographers: Steven Shires, Stephen Lang, Pompano Bill, Dennis Dean, Coco Alarcon Acosta, Jim O'Rourke, Anthony Brautigam, Manuel Leon and Kristofer Fegenbush.

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