

# Olivas Joins Board of Directors

When asked what services provided by The Pride Center most excite him, Ernest Olivas doesn't hesitate to answer. "Of course the Senior Services," he replies enthusiastically. "They provide a valuable sense of community, information and activities for our growing LGBT senior community."

Olivas is the newest member of The Center's Board of Directors. Olivas has invested energy, resources and leadership as a Founder and volunteer with the annual Senior Health Expo and other Center fundraising activities.

"I was so impressed with how far The Pride Center has come as an institution, a program and service center," says Olivas. "The breadth of the activities touch so many different communities. The quality of the services and the information is so competent, reliable and caring. I wanted to be part of an even further expansion of services and functions that I see in The Pride Center's future."

Olivas is the owner of Emerald Elite Senior Home Care. He operates all aspects of this boutique nurse registry, providing concierge services to seniors in their homes and private facilities. He recruits, vets and verifies all experience, training, certification, licensure and insurance for Certified Nurse Assistants and Home Health Aides designated by the State of Florida and eligible for private placement. He also handles marketing and sales necessary to build awareness of their placement services. Olivas hopes this seasoned skill set will benefit The Pride Center.

"I hope that my marketing background will help with development activities of The Center to bring in more Founders, sponsors and supporters," says Olivas. "I also hope that if I dig deep back into my government background that we can



look for contract, grant and other funding sources. And of course, I want to ensure that outreach and services to our growing LGBT senior communities make Fort Lauderdale the national leader in Senior advocacy and programs."

Serving as a volunteer and donor at The Center has impacted Olivas personally. "I not only have made great new friends," he says, "but I have learned so much about our community, the breadth of activities and services that can be accessed and even learned how to provide my own services better to the community."

Olivas has great hope for the future of The Pride Center. "I see continued growth to reach all corners of Broward County, beyond our Wilton Manors and Fort Lauderdale core," says Olivas. "I hope for outreach to all communities, including retirees, senior shut-ins, seniors living in facilities, the Latino community and to our LGBT Business community, especially. And I hope we will become the national leader and Center for LGBT Senior advocacy and services."

Olivas also is clear about what he hopes people will say about him after seeing his work on the Board: "How can I help?"