

The Toronto People With AIDS Foundation (PWA), joined by many voices at ACAS and within the broader community, mourn the loss of Nitto Marquez, cherished friend and colleague.

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Nitto Marquez, cherished friend and colleague. Nitto died April 29th, 2008 with his partner and sister present.

Nitto's community leadership included co-founding the *Gay Asians Toronto* in 1980 and co-founding the Toronto Chapter of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence dedicated to the "promulgation of joy and expiation of guilt".

After his HIV+ diagnosis in 1996, Nitto looked for information and support from ACAS. His natural leadership, insight and passion for supporting others resulted in his involvement on the ACAS Board of Directors followed by 3 years as Chair.

Nitto joined the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation in 2001, working in several roles including Intake Worker, Speakers Bureau Coordinator and Benefits & Assistance Case Manager. Throughout his community involvement, he touched many people and impacted HIV awareness by sharing his story publicly and in the media.

The following quote from Nitto's story, shared in the ACAS 10th Anniversary Book, captures Nitto's passionate commitment to helping others, "As time went on, my attitude of defeat and helplessness turned into one of empowerment against this disease, and into a definite resolve to help others who are facing the same health situation."

This passion, perhaps more than anything else will define our memory of Nitto and the huge loss to our community.

There will be an open funeral mass at St. Michael's Cathedral, on Monday, May 5th at 10am. All are welcome to attend. In addition, Nitto's lifelong partner Bill will be planning a community celebration of life within the next few months. Nitto's wishes were that no flowers be sent.

The following notice appeared in the Toronto Star on Friday May 2.

Juanito 'Nitto' Marquez passed away peacefully in his 49th year at St. Michael's Hospital on April 29, 2008. He will be greatly missed by his life partner, Bill Eadie. Nitto was a loving brother to Fortunato (Manuela), Apolonia (Francisco Tonido), Priscilla (Kaulayao Ilagan), Consolacion (Reynaldo Plata), Josefina (Fernando Fernando), Zenaida (Simeon Perez), Almario (Randee) and Angelita. He was a cherished uncle to 17 nieces and nephews, and seven great nieces and nephews. Born in Marikina, Philippines, Nitto had made his home in Toronto for the past 30 years. He will be remembered for his creativity, his passion for opera and, more than anything else, his unwavering devotion to family and friends. All are invited to attend a Funeral Mass on Monday, May 5, 2008 at St. Michael's Cathedral at 10:00 o'clock (65 Bond Street, corner of Shuter and Bond), followed by a reception. In lieu of flowers, Nitto's request was that donations be made to the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation (<http://www.pwatoronto.org/donate.html>).