

# South Florida Hospital News<sup>TM</sup>

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## Salute to Minorities

### Alex E. Contreras-Soto Chief Operating Officer Palmetto General Hospital



As the person directly responsible for the day-to-day operations of fifteen separate departments at Palmetto General Hospital, Chief Operating Officer Alex Contreras-Soto is one of the busiest people in healthcare. Fortunately, Contreras-Soto has more than twenty-five years of combined experience as a nursing assistant, public accountant, chief financial officer and chief operating officer that allows him not only to succeed as a hospital executive, but also to positively impact the surrounding community.

Contreras-Soto's background has played a strong role in his healthcare career, from his personal choices to his professional advancement. Originally from Chile, he came to the United States in 1978 to attend college. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Florida International University and

being promoted through several financial positions as a CPA, Contreras-Soto decided to follow in the footsteps of his mother, a nurse, by pursuing a career in healthcare administration. He became chief financial officer of Coral Gables Hospital in 1997 and of Palmetto General Hospital in 1999, helping the hospital achieve "Most Improved Health Information Management Operations" by Tenet at its Financial Leadership Conference. In July 2002, Contreras-Soto was promoted to chief operating officer of Palmetto General Hospital, and he since has been recognized twice by Tenet for outstanding performance in this position. Always continuing to better himself, in 2004, he earned a Master's in Healthcare Administration from the University of Miami.

While Contreras-Soto's professional responsibilities are considerable, he consistently makes time to support his family and community. Due in part to his efforts, Palmetto General Hospital was recognized in July 2006 with a "Merit Award" from the cities of Hialeah and Hialeah Gardens for noteworthy assistance to the community. Contreras-Soto also volunteers with his local church providing advice to young married couples and helping organize youth groups.

Contreras-Soto lives in Miramar with his wife of 25 years, Fabiola, and their two children, Nicholas and Melissa. Nicholas is a high school student. Inspired by her father and grandmother, Melissa has decided to pursue a career in healthcare and is enrolled at FIU, where she is studying to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

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