



GANG ALTERNATIVE, INC.  
BUILDING CHARACTER THAT LASTS

# November 2025 NEWSLETTER



**THANK YOU!**

**\$76,206.52**

**Was Donated by YOU  
for Give Miami Day**

**Community Support Makes This Year's GMD  
Campaign a Success**

We are proud to share that this year's Give Miami Day (GMD) was a success. We

surpassed our goal and raised \$76,206.52 from 239 donors in support of our youth, families, and community. This reflects the commitment of everyone who believes in our work.

We are deeply grateful for every donor whose generosity fuels our mission. Reaching out to each donor is a responsibility we do not take lightly. Every contribution, whether \$25 or \$500, shows how strongly our community stands with us and with the values of compassion, empowerment, and hope.

We also recognize the GA staff and champions who shared, posted, advocated, and encouraged giving throughout the campaign. Your effort helped ensure that thousands of young people and families will receive the support they need.

Together, we moved this work forward.



## An Unforgettable Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival was a beautiful reminder of faith, gratitude, and community! Thank you to everyone who showed up with joy, dedication, and a true spirit of service. Our prayer table became a powerful moment for many families—offering encouragement, reflection, and a space to feel God's presence together.

A special thank you to our incredible community partners, whose support, presence, and collaboration helped strengthen this event in meaningful ways.

We are deeply grateful for every volunteer, every parent, every student, and every hand that helped make this celebration unforgettable.

Thank you for sowing into our community and helping us continue the goal of "Building Character That Lasts".

## Compassion Project 2025!



GA held its 15th Compassion Project on Saturday, November 22 across four sites operating at the same time in Belle Glade, Fort Lauderdale/Sunrise, North Miami, and Homestead. Together, these sites distributed two thousand turkeys, warm meals, and essential toiletries to families preparing for the holiday season. Each location also served as a full community resource fair, bringing local partners on site to offer services, information, and direct support to residents.

This year's effort showed the strength of coordinated outreach and the commitment of staff, volunteers, and partners who worked side by side to meet real community needs. We thank our community partners for bringing their services directly to residents and helping make each site a true hub of support.

Belle Glade Site:

- Palm Beach Fire Rescue
- UM Game Changer Mobile Health
- Palm Beach Health Dept
- Palm Beach Community Services
- Glade's Initiative
- Rebel Recovery
- Project Lift
- Lutheran Services of Florida
- Career Source of Palm Beach

Fort Lauderdale/Sunrise Site:

- Florida Justice Center
- Sunshine Health
- Fort Lauderdale Fire Department
- Lauderdale Dentistry for Kids
- AHF Mobile HIV Testing Unit

North Miami Site:

- Colgate
- Fridge of Plenty
- Center for Family & Child Enrichment
- Care 4 U
- FIU
- Jackson Behavioral Health
- Jessie Trice
- Early Learning Coalition
- CBT

Homestead Site:

- Breast Health Initiative
- FIU HWCOM Green Family Foundation
- Neighborhood HELP
- M.U.J.E.R., Inc.
- FabLab
- CBT

Big thanks to CBT Technology Institute for being the main sponsor for this year's event. We are grateful to everyone who contributed their time, resources, and partnership to make this year's Compassion Project possible.

## GA Client Success: Shamariion Wheeler

Shamariona Wheeler enrolled in GA's Project ReWIND program, through collaboration with Eckerd Connects. Through ReWIND, Shamariona reached two key milestones: strengthening her relationship with her family and securing her first job.

She shared:

*...My mom never had the chance to finish school, so she always encouraged me to achieve what she couldn't. She wanted me to have more opportunities, and I'm proud to make that a reality..."*



Thorough case management support, Shamariona and her mother now engage in open and respectful two-way communication. Shamariona has also earned her high school diploma and has been accepted to Miami Dade College, where she plans to pursue a culinary arts degree.

Project ReWIND covered costs for her occupational skills training certification and helped her to secure employment at a well-established restaurant where she is currently gained on-the-job culinary skills.

## College Prep for GA's BLOC Students



Last month our BLOC afterschool program coordinated a series of Scholastic Aptitude Test Prep Sessions through Affordable College Solutions, one of the

nation's leading SAT tutoring resources.

ACS, led by Alberto Howe, brought exceptional energy, expertise, and practical strategies to help students prepare for the upcoming exam.

Over the span of four sessions, students explored a variety of materials and effective approaches to mastering the SAT. Lessons included targeted practice in grammar, algebra, and geometry, allowing our students to strengthen their skills and build confidence. The sessions were invaluable to the high schoolers, and instilled confidence in their ability to prepare for their



## Trunk or Treat: United for Drug Prevention and Family Safety

GA recently brought together youth, parents, youth-serving organizations, law enforcement, and community partners in a united stand against substance use. These Trunk or Treat events in both Broward and Miami-Dade counties provided a safe and festive environment for families, while delivering critical drug prevention education and resources.

Participants enjoyed interactive activities focused on prevention of substance use, healthy decision-making, and the importance of living drug-free. Law enforcement and community organizations collaborated to share information on local prevention efforts, while families received hands-on Narcan education empowering them with life-saving knowledge to address opioid

emergencies.

By fostering collaboration, GA continues to strengthen community resilience. We are grateful to all partners and families who joined us in making this event a success and reaffirming our shared commitment to a healthier, safer future for our youth.



## FAFSA Parent Engagement Night: Supporting Our Seniors' Next Steps

Our FAFSA Parent Engagement Night was a wonderful success! Thank you to all the parents, guardians, and seniors who attended with great questions and a strong commitment to preparing for college.

Throughout the evening, our team assisted students with completing their FAFSA applications, exploring scholarship opportunities, and reviewing important steps for college planning. It was encouraging to see our seniors focused, engaged, and taking meaningful action toward their future goals.

A special thank you to our Academic Success Coach for providing expert guidance and ensuring that families felt supported every step of the way. We are also grateful for our dedicated parents and guardians who continue to walk alongside their students during this important season.

Events like this highlight the core of our mission at GA—empowering youth, strengthening families, and helping students build character that lasts. By creating these opportunities, we not only prepare our seniors for the next chapter, but we also reinforce the value of education, perseverance, and community support.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event impactful. Together, we're helping our students step confidently into their future.

## Red Ribbon Week Celebrated Unity!



In this year's Red Ribbon Week, we celebrated our Tri-County community and honored the youth who are choosing a life of health, purpose, and joy by staying drug free.

A heartfelt thank you to the schools that welcomed us to share this vital message. Students signed a banner pledging to make safe and wise choices and to stay drug free, reinforcing that a fulfilling and successful life is within reach.



## Celebrating Project BRAVE's Poster Winners

As part of **Project BRAVE**'s month-long Anti-Bullying Awareness initiative, participating classrooms completed a four-week challenge focused on understanding bullying, promoting empathy, practicing digital kindness, and uniting as Upstanders. Each class created an original anti-bullying poster that reflected the weekly themes and encouraged kindness across their school community.

After reviewing all submissions, Sheridan Technical High School was selected as the winner of the Poster Competition! Together, our students continue to build a culture of respect, empathy, and courage.



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