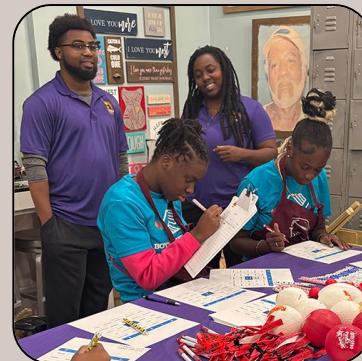




GANG ALTERNATIVE, INC.  
BUILDING CHARACTER THAT LASTS

# October 2025 Newsletter

Happening This Month at GA!



## From Tenant Rights to Togetherness: How Parent Circle Empowers Families

We continue to strengthen our community by creating spaces where families can learn, connect, and grow together. Our most recent Parent Circle was another inspiring example of what happens when collaboration and compassion come together for the benefit of our families.

In September, UPLIFT welcomed Legal Services of Greater Miami as the guest presenter, focusing on Tenant's Rights. Parents asked questions, shared personal experiences, and learned practical ways to advocate for their families. Beyond the learning, everyone enjoyed food together, laughed, and strengthened connections.

A special thank-you goes to Legal Services of Greater Miami for their outstanding work in the community, offering families legal support, advocacy, and access to important resources that make a real difference. We also want to thank BLOC staff for always supporting this activity in so many ways.

Looking ahead, we are excited to invite families, partners, and supporters to our upcoming Parent Circle, held in partnership with the COS/P Program, focusing on Breast Cancer Awareness. Who will be our special guest this time? Check our social media for dates and times. Join us to learn, share stories, connect with other parents, and enjoy a fun and inspiring afternoon. Don't miss this chance to be part of an experience that uplifts families and strengthens our community.



## Project BRAVE's Stand Against Bullying

This October, Gang Alternative Inc's (GA) Project BRAVE led a month-long Anti-Bullying Challenge, bringing students together to spread kindness during National Bullying Prevention Month!

In recognition of the occasion, Project BRAVE launched its Anti-Bullying Youth Leadership Program, engaging students from Broward County schools

in a four-week inter-school challenge. This initiative aims to cultivate awareness, empathy, and leadership while fostering unity among youth.

Each week focused on a core theme, "What Is Bullying", "Be an Upstander", "Pause Before You Post", and "Together We Rise", encouraging students to reflect, create, and take meaningful action. From creating inspiring posters to sharing videos about what kindness means, students used their voices and creativity to stand up for others, culminating in a celebration and poster contest showcase.

On October 20, Project BRAVE joined the Urban League of Broward County for the Anti-Bullying Teen Summit, standing together for peace and kindness! The goal was to amplify youth voices and inspire students to be Upstanders – championing empathy, inclusion, and the courage to stand up for others.

By uniting schools and community partners, Project BRAVE continues its goals of building resiliency through anti-violence education, fostering safe, inclusive spaces where every student feels empowered to lead with kindness during National Bullying Prevention Month and beyond.

## BLOC's Career Day Expo Was a Blast!



This year's Expo was amazing. We had three special guests come in and drop some knowledge for our BLOC kids during programming. The entire purpose of this event was to give our BLOC kids the opportunity to interact with someone in the profession of their dreams.

Army recruiter Sergeant Rodass stopped by and gave the kids insights and knowledge about the Armed Forces. FIU football player Kejon Owens dropped gems from his journey and the football world. Young entrepreneur Joey Ware provided business knowledge and tips to our kids who hope to start their own business one day.

Our students were able to get a taste of life after high school, putting themselves in the shoes of these three outstanding individuals. Events like this are very important because it gives our BLOC kids real insights on different careers from the active professional. It's one thing to read about a career, but to actually interact with someone who is currently in that specific field provides information you can't find online. This event was an amazing experience for our kids!

## GA Client Success: Eugene Hunter Jr.

In 2021, Eugene Hunter was released from a 19-year prison sentence. Eugene needed some marketable skills to qualify him for meaningful employment. At the time, he was also unhoused and had no place to call home. One thing he knew for sure is that he was mentally and physically strong and filled with determination. He wanted a better life yet lacked the resources and support to do so.



He enrolled in one of GA's workforce development programs, and Eugene's life quickly started to improve. Eugene enrolled in a free Commercial Drivers License (CDL) course offered by GA. We also helped him update his resume, participate in mock interview practices and provided appropriate clothing for job interviews.

Eugene now felt better prepared with the tools he needed to transform his life. It was not long before he landed a job driving for the Coca Cola company. As a result, he was able to secure permanent housing and significantly improve his quality of life. Since that time, he has held truck driving positions for two other major companies, Cisco and US Foods.

Although his children are now independent and self-sustaining, he prides himself on being able to financially and emotionally support his grandchildren. He credits GA for helping him gain the training, which gave him a career.

He now regularly goes into correctional facilities to share his story in hopes of inspiring those who are now where he once was, as he firmly believes that

## DEA National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day



Partnering with the Margate Police Department, Florida National Guard, and Walgreens, GA was honored to participate in the DEA National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on October 25. Together, we collected multiple boxes of unused medications for safe and responsible disposal, helping to prevent misuse and protect our community.

Throughout the event, we engaged community members of all ages with meaningful conversations about substance abuse prevention. Our interactive “Wheel of Misfortune” game, educational displays, and giveaways made the event both informative and enjoyable for everyone involved.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our partners and community members who contributed to making this event a success. By working together, we continue to build a safer, drug-free community and advance GA’s efforts of “Building Character That Lasts”.



# Give Miami Day is Coming!

Give Miami Day is an online fundraising event for over 1,300 nonprofits in Greater Miami, and it's right around the corner. Early Giving begins November 15, and Give Miami Day takes place on Thursday, November 20, 2025, which allows you to give over the course of six days. This is one of South Florida's most inspiring celebrations of generosity — a time when individuals and organizations come together to strengthen the communities we all call home.

GA is proud to participate once again this year, inviting our partners, supporters, and friends to stand with us as we work toward our \$60,000 fundraising goal. Give Miami Day is more than a fundraiser — it's a chance to share our mission of hope, healing, and empowerment. Programs like Kids Splash and Youth Splash are not covered by grants, so this support is vital to continue transforming lives every day.

Your support helps fill critical resource gaps and allows us to keep providing free programs that promote leadership, family stability, and community wellness across Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties.

The minimum donation is just \$25, but every contribution—no matter the size — creates lasting impact. Look out for our upcoming notices as GA's largest fundraising effort for the public happens. Together, let's show South Florida the heart, faith, and unity that define GA — because when we give together, we grow together.



GA's Podcast "Building Connections" is Back!

Gang Alternative, Inc. is proud to announce the relaunch of our podcast series, Building Connections! This series spotlights the people, programs, and partnerships driving positive change across South Florida.

Our most recent episode features a special conversation with our President and CEO, Michael Nozile, who shares how Gang Alternative, Inc. was founded, how our faith-based mission continues to guide our work, and how we remain grounded in our commitment to "Building Character That Lasts".

**Listen now** to our inaugural episode and hear the story behind one of South Florida's leading community-based organizations.

We're also excited to use this platform to highlight the incredible work of our partner agencies, the organizations that stand with us in service to South Florida's most underserved communities.

If your organization would like to be featured in a future episode of Building Connections, please email [media@myGA.org](mailto:media@myGA.org) with a short description of your services, your partnership with GA, and how together we're making an impact.

## Substance Use Prevention Month



October is Substance Use Prevention Month, and Gang Alternative is proud to engage our community in dynamic ways because "it's a vibe to be drug-free." Our mission is fueled by strong partnerships, parent involvement, and the collective strength of our community. Through the creativity and voices of the youth we serve, we remain committed to preventing substance use while promoting community upliftment.



This month, there were several events to promote drug-free behavior. Our prevention team participated in the Broward County Student Wellness Fair, engaging over 100 students with gamified activities that reinforced positive decision-making and life skills. During Red Ribbon Week (October 23–31), Gang Alternative's tabling events across Broward County empowered students to lead and educate their peers under the national theme, "Life is a Puzzle, Let's Solve It Drug-Free." Students are also creating original drug-free artwork, using creativity to express their commitment to healthy choices. This initiative encourages self-expression, peer support, and a positive school culture, while highlighting the important role youth play in substance use prevention.

On October 25, Gang Alternative hosted a Youth Mental Health First Aid certification, equipping parents, educators, and service providers to recognize and respond to early signs of youth mental health challenges.

We are also honored to have also partnered with the National Guard and Margate Police Department for DEA Prescription Take Back Day, providing a safe and anonymous way to dispose of unused medications. We're excited to wrap up Red Ribbon Week with our Trunk or Treat event, featuring Narcan prevention education and fun, drug-free activities for families.



## Fantastic Fun at BLOC Open House

Our recent BLOC Open House at the Little Haiti Community Center was a beautiful

reminder of what happens when families, staff, and students come together with one goal—Building Character That Lasts. Parents had the opportunity to meet our team, learn more about the programs their children love, and see firsthand how education and servanthood come together to shape our youth.

The evening was filled with laughter, connection, and gratitude as we shared highlights from the BLOC program, including our arts and culture activities, academic support, and college and career readiness components. Parents expressed excitement about partnering with us to continue strengthening their children's growth both at home and in the program.

At Gang Alternative, Inc., we believe it takes a village — and our Open House showed just that. Together, we're nurturing future leaders and strengthening the family bonds that make our community thrive.

## GA Observed Breast Cancer Awareness Month

On Friday, October 25, GA went PINK in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a day to celebrate survivors, honor fighters, and remember loved ones affected by breast cancer.



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