



**GANG ALTERNATIVE, INC.**  
BUILDING CHARACTER THAT LASTS

# February 2026 NEWSLETTER





## Love Letters to God

At **Kids Splash** and **Youth Splash**, our mission is simple: to bring our children into a lifelong relationship with Jesus. Rooted in the promise of Proverbs 22:6, we believe that by training up a child in the way they should go, we are building character that lasts far beyond their time with us.

In February's "Love Month," our students journeyed through what it means to love their parents, their friends, and themselves — all through the lens of Scripture. We ended the month with a beautiful "bang" as our students wrote personal love letters to God.

Watching these young ones pour out their hearts, thanking Him for their "mommies and daddies" and expressing their own love for the Creator, was a powerful testament to their growing faith. We are so proud to partner with all the families as we watch these children grow deep roots in the Word of God.

Youth SPLASH is held every Friday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for middle and high school-aged youth, and Kids SPLASH takes place every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for elementary school-aged children, both at GA's Little Haiti Community Center.

We invite individuals who feel called to mentor, support spiritual growth, assist with Bible-based activities, and help create a safe and uplifting environment for children and teens to email [info@myga.org](mailto:info@myga.org) to get involved.



## Canvas Community

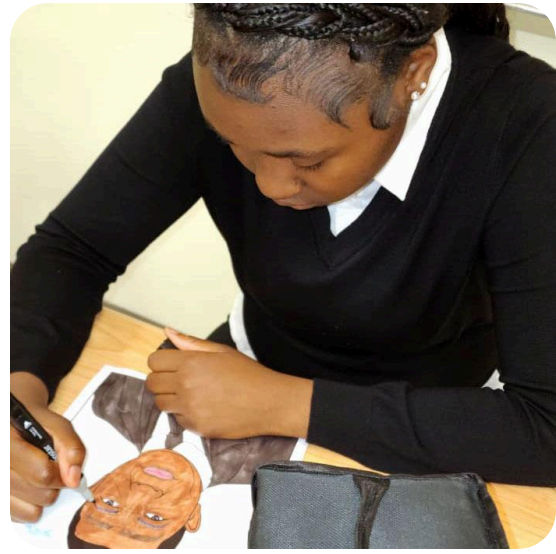
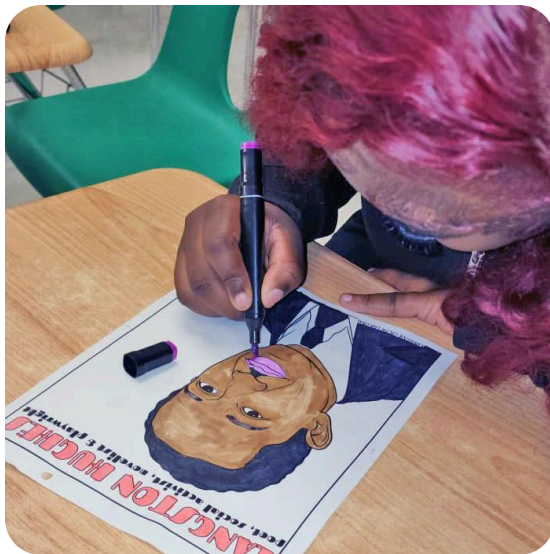
Healing Through Art is one of the strategies Gang Alternative, Inc. implements under its **Collective Action for Addressing Trauma and Stress (CAATS) Project** to support community healing. This recent session was facilitated for community social service providers and focused on processing the collective impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Collective trauma refers to the shared psychological and emotional impact experienced by a group of people following a widespread crisis, violence, or prolonged disruption. Unlike individual trauma, collective trauma affects entire communities, influencing relationships, trust, safety, and overall functioning.

The COVID-19 pandemic created sustained stress, grief, economic instability, social isolation, and loss that continue to affect families and frontline providers. Healing Through Art is a structured two-hour experience designed to support groups experiencing collective trauma.

The session integrates facilitated Healing Circles, where participants reflect on lived experiences, with intentional creative expression activities that allow individuals to communicate emotions that may be difficult to put into words. Art serves as a tool for reflection, release, and restoration while strengthening connection within the group.

Organizations or groups experiencing collective trauma and interested in hosting a Healing Through Art session should identify the specific shared stressor, crisis, or community impact they would like the session to address, and may contact [info@myga.org](mailto:info@myga.org) to coordinate a tailored experience for their team or community members.



## Walk Through History

This month, our **Building Leaders of Character (BLOC)** students celebrated Black History Month with a "Walk Through History." While we honor well-known legends, we chose to focus on lesser-known pioneers —the quiet trailblazers whose courage and grit shaped our world.

By exploring these hidden stories, we reminded our students that every voice matters. Through various multimedia, we discussed the deep resilience found in their heritage and how that same strength lives within them today.

At GA, we believe understanding history is one of the key elements to building lasting character. We want our youth to see themselves not just as spectators, but as the next generation of history-makers. Seeing our students connect past struggles for equality to the world they navigate today is inspiring.

By celebrating these voices, we are teaching our youth that their own voices carry immense power. We are so grateful to see our students embrace their heritage with

## GA Client Success: Maurice



In November 2024, Maurice was referred to the Broward Youth Treatment Center for substance abuse services. As a teenager, he was also facing multiple criminal charges, including robbery with a firearm, trespassing, gang affiliation, and loitering.

GA responded by meeting with Maurice at the detention center and providing weekly sessions until his release. These sessions focused on work readiness, career exploration, soft skills, and basic counseling to help him begin envisioning a different future.

While in residential detention, Maurice completed his GED coursework and proudly earned his certificate, a major milestone in his re-engagement with education.

After his release in September 2025, GA's ReWIND staff reconnected with Maurice. We assisted him in developing a resume, practicing interview skills, and completing job applications. To support his transition, staff also provided a men's essentials bag, which included hygiene items, and a cell phone to help him stay connected with prospective employers.

Throughout this process, GA maintained regular contact with his probation officer to coordinate care and document his progress. With consistent encouragement and guidance from GA, Maurice secured employment in the construction field as he continues to thrive.

As of February 2026, Maurice remains employed in the construction field, continues to comply with the terms of his probation, and maintains consistent communication with his GA Family, demonstrating sustained stability, responsibility, and forward momentum in his personal and professional growth.



# STRENGTHENING FAMILIES WORKSHOP

## **Empowering Families and Strengthening Community**

Strengthening Families. Those two words reflect so much of what we do here at Gang Alternative, Inc. This month we teamed up with the HEAL Team at Smith Community Mental Health to bring a powerful two-day curriculum to the communities we serve in Broward County.

This initiative is delivered under our Collective Action for Addressing Trauma and Stress (CAATS) Program, which focuses on strengthening protective factors in communities impacted by collective trauma. Collective trauma refers to the shared emotional and psychological impact of prolonged stressors such as violence, economic instability, displacement, or public health crises. These stressors affect family systems, parenting practices, youth behavior, and overall community stability.

Strengthening Families is a structured curriculum designed to strengthen communication between caregivers and youth, reinforce shared values, build resilience, and reduce behavioral risk factors linked to substance use and delinquency. By bringing middle school youth and their parents together in a guided setting, the program helps families rebuild trust, improve supervision, strengthen conflict resolution skills, and increase their ability to respond to stress together.

Last week's session provided families with practical tools to navigate rising living costs and the lingering effects of community-wide stress following the pandemic and other shared disruptions. Through structured activities and facilitated dialogue, parents and youth strengthened connection and reinforced protective factors within the home.

Families interested in participating in upcoming Strong Families sessions, or organizations that would like to coordinate a session for the families they serve, may contact [info@myga.org](mailto:info@myga.org) for more information.



## Inside Parent Circle: Supporting Student Success

On Tuesday, February 17, **Project HAPPINESS** hosted a HAPPINESS Parent Circle at Miami Edison Senior High School. This workshop reflects Gang Alternative, Inc.'s Positive Youth Development approach, which intentionally uses a two-generation model that engages both youth and their parents to reinforce consistent messaging at home and at school.

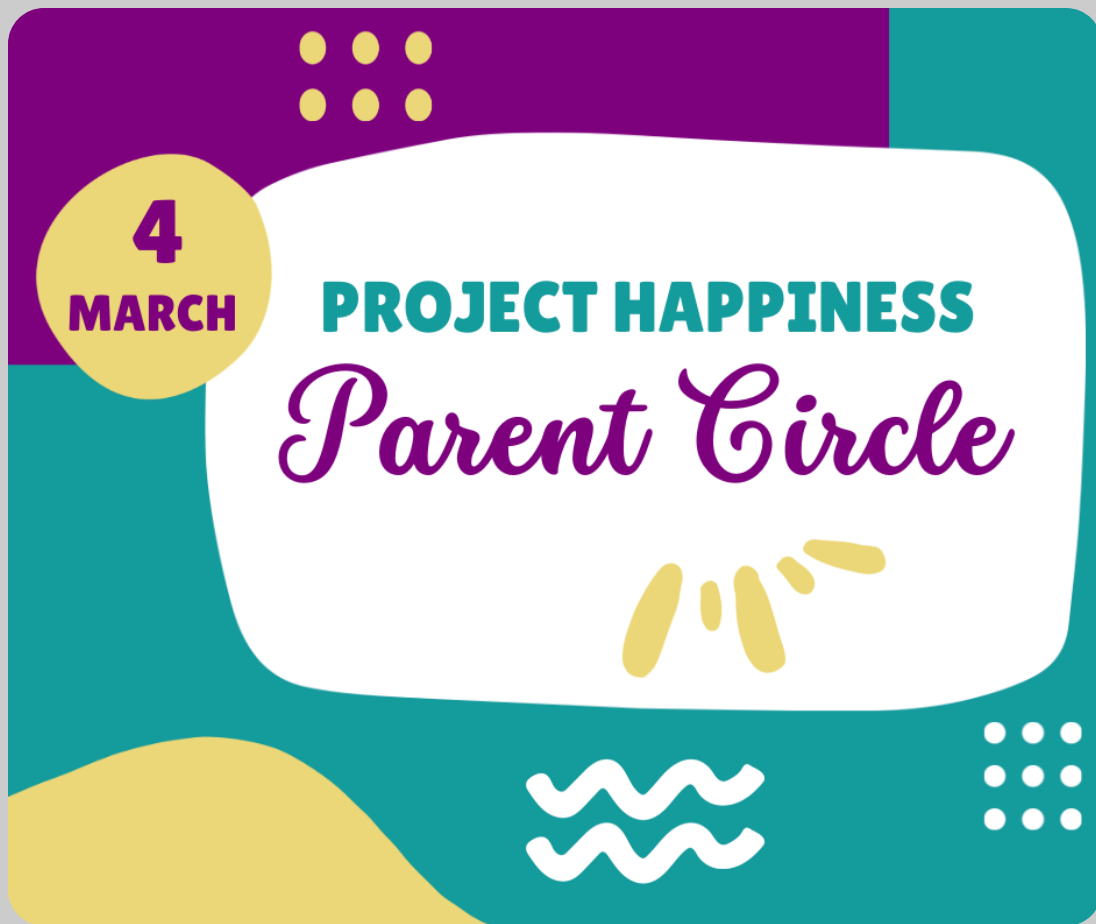
Project HAPPINESS is designed to equip young people with the skills necessary to build healthy, meaningful relationships. Through structured sessions, students develop communication skills, practice goal setting, strengthen self-awareness, and learn decision-making strategies that promote long-term well-being. However, GA does not stop with the student. Our two-generation framework recognizes that sustainable behavior change happens when parents are engaged as partners in the learning process.

Parent Circle creates space for caregivers to learn the same core concepts their children are being taught, including healthy communication, emotional regulation,

boundary setting, and navigating difficult conversations. By aligning instruction across generations, parents are better positioned to reinforce expectations, model healthy relationship behaviors, and create supportive home environments that strengthen protective factors and reduce risk behaviors.

During this session, parents and students participated in guided dialogue about why effective communication is foundational to healthy relationships. Families were provided with practical tools for discussing difficult topics at home, including conflict resolution, peer pressure, and digital communication. Parents shared that the workshop provided both clarity and confidence in addressing sensitive issues while maintaining connection with their children.

Parents interested in participating in future HAPPINESS Parent Circles may contact [info@myga.org](mailto:info@myga.org) for more information.





## Heart of Affirmations

This month at **BLOC** we celebrated February's "Love Month" by helping our students discover a vital truth – character starts with how we see ourselves. We sat down with our middle and high schoolers to explore why self-love is the foundation for a resilient heart.

To put this into practice, every student created a "Heart of Affirmations." These hearts were filled with powerful, positive words that described who they are and who they are becoming.

Our goal is simple but profound: we want our students to have a reservoir of truth to draw from, especially on difficult days. By teaching them to speak life over themselves, we are helping them build a "character that lasts."

We are so grateful to walk alongside your families. Thank you for letting us nurture these incredible young leaders!



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**Check out our upcoming March events. [Click for more info.](#)**

- 3 COSP Parent Circle
- 4 Project HAPPINESS Parent Circle
- 7 Strengthening Families Workshop
- 10 Project HAPPINESS Parent Circle
- 12 UPLIFT Service Partnership
- 24 COSP Parent Circle Graduation
- 26 UPLIFT Parent Circle



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