



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

# April 2026 NEWSLETTER



**GA Engages Students in Meaningful Prevention Work**

During Youth Violence Prevention Week 2026, observed from April 27 to May 1, Gang Alternative, Inc. implemented its Project BRAVE initiative at Westpine Middle School in Broward County, engaging approximately 150 students in a structured, prevention-focused experience.

Project BRAVE, which stands for **Building Resiliency through Anti-Violence Education**, is GA's in-school violence prevention program serving middle and high school students. The program uses a trauma-informed approach to help youth recognize, respond to, and prevent violence, while also equipping educators and school personnel with tools to identify and address risk factors, including those linked to mental health challenges.

At Westpine Middle School, students rotated through interactive stations focused on emotional regulation, conflict resolution, and safe decision-making. The structure encouraged active participation and created an environment where students felt comfortable engaging in honest conversations about real-life situations.

To reinforce engagement, students earned scratch-off tickets at each station, which they could redeem for snacks. This approach incorporated elements of gamification, a strategy used within Project BRAVE to reinforce positive behaviors and sustain student participation.

The impact was evident in both student engagement and staff feedback. Students demonstrated the ability to connect the lessons to their own experiences, while school administrators and staff expressed strong appreciation for the relevance and value of bringing this type of programming directly to their campus.

Project BRAVE reflects GA's broader commitment to addressing the root causes of youth violence. By combining trauma-informed practices, skill-building, and early intervention within the school setting, the program strengthens students' ability to make positive choices and contributes to safer school environments across Broward County.



## A Summer of Learning and Fun with GPS

Each year, Gang Alternative, Inc. provides families across North and South Miami-Dade with access to its free **GPS Summer Camp**, a high-quality program designed to support children academically, socially, and emotionally in a safe and structured environment.

The GPS (**Guiding Path to Success**) program is GA's K–5 enrichment model, focused on strengthening academic skills while building character, confidence, and positive peer relationships. During the summer months, this model expands into a full-day camp experience where students continue learning in a setting that is both engaging and supportive.

Open to students in Pre-kindergarten through 5th grade, the camp operates weekdays from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM across multiple sites in North Dade and South Dade. Students participate in hands-on STEM activities, creative arts, literacy enrichment, and team-building games that promote collaboration, curiosity, and healthy lifestyles.

In addition to daily programming, students take part in weekly fun and educational field trips, along with themed days and special events that keep the experience dynamic and engaging. The focus is not only on preventing summer learning loss, but on helping students grow socially, build confidence, and develop skills they carry into the school year and beyond.

By offering this program at no cost, GA continues its commitment to ensuring that families have access to safe, enriching spaces for their children throughout the summer.

Families can learn more **here**, **register online here**, or contact the program directly. For North Dade locations, reach out to Mrs. Jazmine at 786-593-8462. For South



## A Second Chance Starts Here

In recognition of Second Chance Month, GA's **Project ACTION** hosted a Second Chance Resource Fair aimed at equipping returning citizens with essential tools and information to support their transition toward self-sufficiency. Project ACTION supports transitioning citizens on personal paths to self-sufficiency.

Through strategic collaboration with community partners – including the **Miami-Dade County Public Library System, Miami Dade College, and PNC Bank** – program participants gained access to a range of critical resources and services.

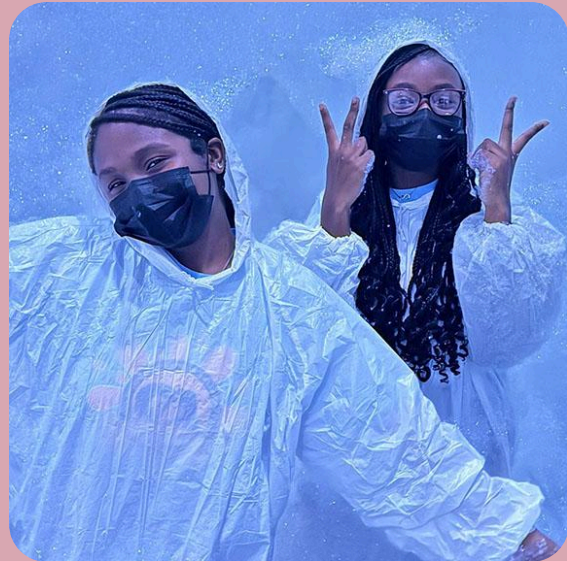
The Miami-Dade County Public Library System provided information on free public services. They offer internet access, on-site case management, library card enrollment, and assistance with obtaining vital documents and employment-related credentials.

Miami Dade College shared opportunities for educational advancement. That included GED preparation support, postsecondary application and financial aid guidance, and apprenticeship pathways that allow participants to earn while they learn in high-demand industries.

PNC Bank delivered financial education, offering guidance on checking and savings accounts, retirement planning, financial literacy, and steps to establish and manage

personal banking relationships.

Engagement with community partners remains central to GA's mission. By connecting participants to these essential resources, the organization continues to advance its commitment to "Building Character That Lasts."



## BLOC Summer Camp is Here

Looking for a safe, fun and free way to spend the summer? GA is now enrolling students for our free **BLOC Summer Camp**, running from June 8 through July 31, 2026.

The BLOC (**B**uilding **L**eaders of **C**harter) program is GA's middle and high school youth development model, designed to cultivate leadership, strengthen decision-making skills, and build character through positive peer engagement. During the summer months, BLOC expands into a full-day experience where youth continue to grow in a structured, supportive environment that blends leadership development, academic enrichment, and hands-on activities that prepare them for future success.

From 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM each day, students will enjoy weekly field trips, sports, and hands-on projects at our Little Haiti, North Miami, and Homestead locations. Participants will explore STEM, college readiness, and career pathways through interactive leadership workshops — and much more.

Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't wait to secure your spot. Whether you want to gain new skills or make lasting memories with friends, BLOC is the place to be.

For more information or **to register online**, please contact Charlene A. Simillien at [calcide-simillien@myga.org](mailto:calcide-simillien@myga.org).



## Showing Up Matters — CAATS in Action

Gang Alternative, Inc. continues to expand its impact through **Project CAATS**, a community-based initiative focused on addressing trauma and strengthening families through education, connection, and culturally responsive engagement.

On April 8 and 9, the CAATS team facilitated Nurturing Parenting workshops in Broward and Palm Beach counties, bringing parents together for guided sessions centered on strengthening parent-child relationships. These workshops are designed to help parents build healthier communication patterns, understand the role of emotions in behavior, and develop practical strategies for nurturing their children in a way that supports long-term emotional well-being.

Throughout the sessions, participants engaged in interactive exercises focused on recognizing and expressing feelings, both their own and their children's. Parents explored how their lived experiences shape their responses and parenting styles, creating space for reflection and growth. The conversations were honest and participatory, with parents actively sharing challenges and learning from one another.

In Belle Glade, the workshop reflected a deeper level of community impact. Parents from diverse cultural backgrounds and neighborhoods came together in one space, creating a rare opportunity for cross-community connection.

Participation exceeded expectations, with the room filled beyond capacity by individuals committed to strengthening their families and supporting one another.

Project CAATS continues to create spaces where families feel seen, heard, and supported, while equipping parents with tools that extend beyond the workshop setting and into their daily lives.



## Faith, Fellowship, and Fun at Kids Splash

For several years, Gang Alternative, Inc. has partnered with **VOUS Church**, whose volunteers consistently show up to serve through GA's Kids Splash program, supporting meaningful and engaging experiences for elementary school youth. We are grateful to VOUS Church for their continued partnership and for consistently showing up to serve our youth with compassion, faith, and intentionality.

**Kids Splash** is GA's faith-based outreach initiative designed for elementary school students, providing a safe, structured environment where children can participate in enrichment activities while building positive relationships with peers and caring adults.

Grounded in a foundation of faith in Jesus Christ, the program creates space for children to experience fellowship, encouragement, and a sense of belonging. Through a blend of fun, relationship-building, and age-appropriate faith-based messages, students are reminded of their value, purpose, and how to demonstrate compassion and kindness in their daily lives.

Kids Splash takes place weekly at GA's Little Haiti Community Center, offering families a consistent and welcoming environment where youth can grow both socially and spiritually.

As part of VOUS Church's "I Love My City" campaign, volunteers once again joined GA during a recent Kids Splash session, bringing energy, compassion, and a genuine heart to serve. Children participated in arts and crafts that encouraged creativity and self-expression, along with interactive games that promoted teamwork and connection. The space was filled with excitement as students engaged in activities designed to be both fun and intentional.

What continues to make this partnership impactful is the consistency and depth of connection. VOUS volunteers do more than support activities. They take time to listen, encourage, and engage with each child, reinforcing a sense of value and belonging.

The day also included an age-appropriate, faith-centered message about sharing the love of Jesus with others, leaving participants encouraged and inspired. Through ongoing collaboration, GA continues to create environments where children feel supported, connected, and empowered.

Kids Splash welcomes volunteers who are interested in serving and making a direct impact in the lives of youth. More information about the program and opportunities to get involved can be found at [\*\*Kids Splash - myGA\*\*](#).





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

# MAY

6 BLOC Senior Night  
Celebration

15 BLOC Haitian Heritage  
Month Celebration

# JUNE

8 Free GPS Summer Camp  
(through July 31)

8 Free BLOC Summer Camp  
(through July 31)



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