



**GANGALTERNATIVE, INC.**  
BUILDING CHARACTER THAT LASTS

# March 2026 NEWSLETTER



**Where Parents Learn, Connect, and Celebrate Together**

Earlier this month our weekly **COSP** Parent Circle brought together families for both learning and celebration. Parent Circle is a parenting workshop led by our COSP Family Success Coaches in a group setting. Parents explore topics from the curriculum while also building connections and support with one another.

The session focused on prenatal health and preparation, providing expecting parents with information on prenatal care, preparing for a newborn, and ways families can support mothers during pregnancy. These conversations help parents build confidence, while strengthening the supportive community that Parent Circle aims to create.

The session also included a special celebration for two of our expecting mothers. One participant is preparing to welcome her first child, while the other—already parenting a toddler—is expecting twins. Staff and participating parents came together to celebrate them with gifts, food, and encouragement. The room was filled with laughter, advice, and shared experiences as parents uplifted one another.

Moments like these highlight the true impact of Parent Circle. Beyond delivering curriculum, these workshops create meaningful connections, reduce isolation, and strengthen families' support systems. For staff across the agency, this work reflects our shared mission—helping families feel supported, prepared, and connected as they navigate parenthood.



## CAATS Coalition Expands Support for Youth and Families

The CAATS Coalition convened on March 16 to sharpen its focus on concrete actions that advance healing and resilience across South Florida. Coalition members reviewed current CAATS activities—including Strong African American Families (SAAF) cohorts, Healing Through Art groups, community healing circles, and ongoing documentary storytelling. Then they identified ways to expand their reach to more youth, caregivers, and neighborhoods.

Together, partners outlined clear priorities for the coming months: increasing participation in evidence-informed groups, strengthening referral pathways so families can easily access services, and deepening CAATS programming in communities like Belle Glade and other areas heavily impacted by ongoing stress and trauma.

The coalition also began shaping a sustainability plan to carry this work beyond the current funding period in September, ensuring that trauma-informed supports and cross-sector collaboration remain in place for the long term.

Rooted in our mission to build character that lasts, the CAATS Coalition continues to align efforts, share resources, and coordinate action so that youth, families, and communities across South Florida have greater access to healing-centered support.



**Community Comes Together for Food, Care, and Connection with Free Farmers Market**

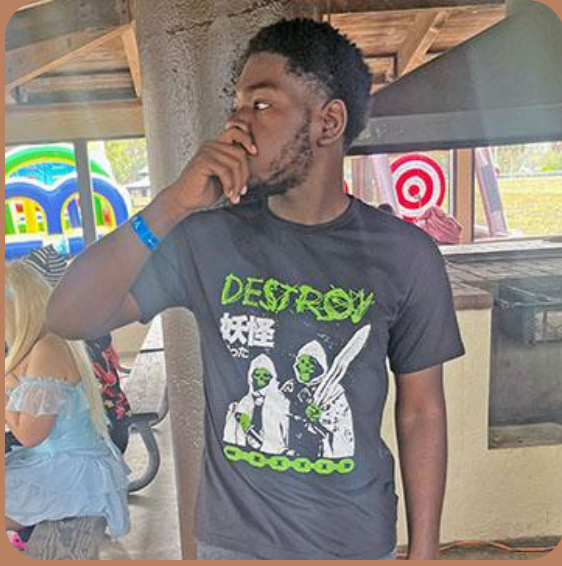
On Saturday, March 21, our Little Haiti Community Center became a hub of generosity and connection as we welcomed more than 300 community members. Presented by **The Brady Hunter Foundation** and **Food Rescue US South Florida**, the event went beyond distributing fresh fruits, vegetables, and essential items.

Starting with the early morning setup and continuing until the last guest left, our staff showed remarkable dedication and energy. They welcomed each person with warmth, guided families through the lines, shared information and resources, and took the time to connect with everyone who attended. Their care and attention created a space where every visitor felt recognized, respected, and truly supported.

This gathering demonstrated the remarkable effect that dedication, collaboration, and genuine care can have on a community. Every interaction, every moment of attention, and every contribution by our team left a meaningful mark.

The Free Farmers Market showed how committed staff working with purpose can create real change and strengthen community bonds. For all involved, the day served as a powerful reminder that thoughtful, intentional action can transform lives and foster lasting trust and connection.





## Senior Spotlight – Reginald Etienne

We are incredibly proud to celebrate our 2026 graduates from the **BLOC after-school program**. Today, we're putting the spotlight on a student who has truly defined what it means to lead by example.

We are proud to celebrate Reginald Etienne, a standout senior at North Miami Senior High School, and the current BLOC President.

Throughout high school, Reginald has focused on personal growth and sharpening his leadership and communication skills, while staying committed to his academic goals. Serving as a BLOC officer for two years, he credits the program with building the discipline, time management, and confidence needed for the next level.

What's next? Reginald is headed to Miami Dade College to study X-ray Technology. He is excited to begin hands-on training and pursue a stable, successful career as a radiologic technologist in the medical field.



## Project HAPPINESS Strengthens Family Communication

This month, GA's **Project HAPPINESS** held its second Parent Circle of the 2025–2026 school year at B. Wright Leadership Academy in Miami's Liberty City neighborhood.

Project HAPPINESS equips middle and high school students with skills to build healthy, meaningful relationships. As part of its two-generational approach, Parent Circles reinforce these lessons by engaging caregivers alongside their children — creating shared language and tools that extend beyond the classroom.

This session stood out for its strong youth participation. Many students currently learning the HAPPINESS curriculum attended with their parents, contributing real-life examples of skills like active listening, speaker-listener roles, and the “Time Out” technique to de-escalate conflict. The result was a dynamic exchange that deepened understanding for both parents and youth.

A highlight of the evening came when a third-grade student confidently described a strategy for expressing dissatisfaction, prompting enthusiastic applause and underscoring the power of early learning.

Beyond skill-building, Parent Circles provide a safe, trusted space for caregivers to share concerns and support one another. These gatherings reinforce the vital role GA staff play in guiding families, strengthening communication, and building resilient, connected communities.



## Growing Together: COSP Success

On Tuesday, March 24th, we proudly celebrated the graduation of 18 participants from our **Circle of Strength Parenting (COSP) Program**. Throughout the program, each family showed up consistently, fully engaged and eager to learn and practice new parenting strategies. Their commitment was evident in every session, as they actively participated, supported one another, and applied new skills at home—strengthening their family bonds along the way.

The Nurturing Parenting Program, an evidence-based model, serves as the foundation of GA's Circle of Strength Parenting (COSP) program. Through this framework, families build essential skills centered on nurturing, effective communication, and resilience. This cohort truly embodied these values, demonstrating meaningful growth, openness to change, and a strong dedication to creating positive family environments.

To honor their achievements, a graduation ceremony was held at GA's Little Haiti Community Center. Families marked the occasion with pride—dressing up, inviting loved ones, and celebrating together as they received their certificates. The event was filled with joy, laughter, music, and shared meals, creating a warm and festive atmosphere.

This special celebration reflects not only the completion of a program but also the beginning of continued growth and stronger family connections.



# BLOC Spring Break Camp

At **BLOC**, our students' futures are our top priority. We believe that seeing is believing, which is why during Spring Camp, we took our middle and high schoolers on an inspiring mini-college tour.

The students didn't just walk the grounds—they experienced campus life firsthand. From exploring high-tech lecture halls to speaking with current students about their daily routines, our youth began visualizing their own paths to higher education. These immersive visits are vital in transforming "one day" into "day one."

We are looking for motivated middle and high school students in Little Haiti and North Miami. We provide the mentorship, resources, and exposure your child needs to succeed. If you have a client with a student in these areas, please refer them to the BLOC program or speak to **Ms. Charlene A. Simillien** for more information.



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

8 Project CAATS Nurturing  
Parenting Workshop

9 Project CAATS Nurturing  
Parenting Workshop - Belle  
Glade



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