



GANGALTERNATIVE, INC.
BUILDING CHARACTER THAT LASTS

June 2026 NEWSLETTER





A Celebration of Hope, Healing, and Community

On Saturday, June 13, 2026, Gang Alternative's **Project ENGAGE** transformed Chrysalis House into a vibrant space of hope, healing, and connection during its annual Mental Health & Wellness Day. Families, participants, community partners, and staff gathered for an afternoon dedicated to promoting mental wellness, recovery, and healthy living in a welcoming and supportive environment.

The event opened with introductions to our ENGAGE program, followed by representatives from FIU Neighborhood program, the TRIO program, the Early Learning Coalition, and Chrysalis House providing mental health awareness and community support. Thank you to our partners.

Throughout the afternoon, guests explored outreach tables featuring valuable resources on employment services, housing, healthcare, early childhood education, recovery support, and other community services.

Families enjoyed guided meditation, breathing techniques, mindfulness drumming, raffle giveaways, and healthy snacks. Activities for all ages, including a petting zoo, community garden, and supervised children's stations, created smiles across every generation.

The positive energy throughout the event reflected GA's commitment to treating the whole person, not just employment needs, but overall wellness. As conversations continued long after the scheduled activities ended, attendees expressed appreciation for the opportunity to connect with caring professionals, discover valuable community resources, and build meaningful relationships.

Mental Health & Wellness Day was a celebration of resilience, recovery, and the power of community coming together to support brighter futures.



Year Up Alumni Brighten Our Little Haiti Community Center Space!

A massive THANK YOU to the Year Up United Alumni South Florida Branch for bringing their passion and hard work to GA's Little Haiti Community Center space for an incredible beautification project!

The alumni rolled up their sleeves to completely transform our parking lot, realigning the parking lines and rebuilding our basketball area. They didn't just work on today's needs; they also laid out exciting plans for future beautification projects to keep our space thriving.

True to our community spirit, our current BLOC students showed up right alongside them, lending a helping hand and learning what true leadership looks like in action. The National Alumni Association (NAA) is made up of visionary leaders committed to "lifting while they climb" and changing the narrative of young adults in America.

Seeing Year Up United staff, alumni leaders, and our students work together reminds us of the power of community. Thank you, Year Up Alumni, for pouring into our home and helping us build a brighter space for the leaders of tomorrow!



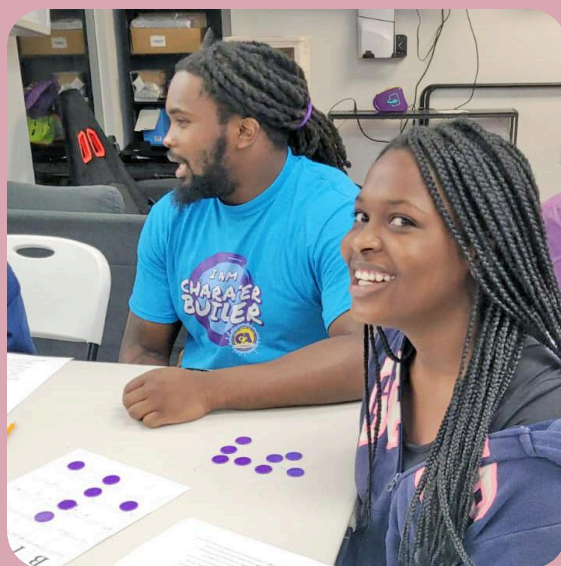
Families Connect During Mental Health Month

Last month's UPLIFT Parent Circle brought families together for a warm and engaging session focused on learning, sharing, and connection. Parents and caregivers were given the opportunity to pause, reflect, and talk openly about topics that often go unspoken, especially youth mental health and communication at home. The space encouraged honesty, questions, and practical learning that families can carry into their daily lives.

NAMI Miami-Dade led the "Ending the Silence" presentation, helping families better understand the early signs of mental health challenges in young people, the effects of stigma, and the importance of speaking openly and early when concerns arise. The message was clear and impactful: mental health conversations at home can make a real difference.

The session also included Ms. Aleyska from SMART, who met with former GA clients to revisit previous mental health training and reflect on how those lessons continue to show up in real-life decisions and growth. Mr. Eloddy from YEP also supported parents with simple, practical strategies to improve communication with their children, focusing on listening, patience, and building stronger family relationships.

UPLIFT Parent Circle continues to be a meaningful engagement tool that strengthens trust, supports case plan goals, and connects families to resources in a way that feels natural and supportive. It helps turn information into action and reinforces the everyday work of building stronger, more stable families.



Vibrant world of Brazil's Arts at BLOC's Summer Camp

This month at summer camp, our **BLOC (Building Leaders of Character)** students stepped into the vibrant world of Brazil's Arts, immersing themselves in a rich cultural mix of music, dance, and Capoeira Solarte. Rooted in the historic traditions of Solar do Unhão, this unique experience introduced our youth to Afro-Brazilian music and powerful dance styles rooted in the movements of orixás, percussion, samba, and more.

The students had the incredible opportunity to explore rhythm by learning to play the berimbau and other traditional percussion instruments. At BLOC, we pride ourselves

on constantly introducing our students to new, eye-opening experiences, especially within the arts.

Watching our youth embrace these diverse cultural rhythms with open minds and high energy perfectly reflects our mission, as they continue to build confidence, explore the world, and grow into well-rounded leaders of character.

The week before the students enjoyed creative activities and learned hands-on life skills. We have several weeks of camp left, and look forward to many more unique experiences to peak their curiosity.



Mentoring in Motion: M3 Beach Day

GA's **Molding Men's Minds (M3)** hosted a Beach Day at Historic Virginia Key Beach Park, offering youth and mentors time together in a setting that is both scenic and historically significant. Participants spent the day by the water, sharing meals, playing games, and taking part in guided conversations that encouraged openness and trust.

Mentors used the change of environment to help youth reflect on their personal goals, relationships, and the choices they face in everyday life. The parks history as an important gathering place for Black families in South Florida added meaningful context to discussions about identity, community, and respect.

By the end of the day, youth and mentors reported feeling more connected, with stronger relationships and positive memories that will support ongoing mentoring throughout the year.





Strengthening Youth and Family Support

Last month, our Gang Alternative team had the privilege of sponsoring and attending the 11th Annual South Florida Behavioral Health Conference at the Diplomat Beach Resort Convention Center. We were honored to host a booth and share the many programs and services that make up the GA family.

At our table, staff highlighted trauma focused therapy, CAATS community trauma and stress work, Positive Youth Development programs such as BLOC, and family strengthening and workforce initiatives that help youth and caregivers across Miami Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties access coordinated support and referrals. Conference participants asked thoughtful questions about collaboration, training, and how to connect clients to GA services.

From our Spin the Wheel game and GA merchandise giveaways to raffle drawings for GA gift baskets, the real highlight was connecting with community partners, professionals, and advocates who care deeply about youth and families. Our staff also joined powerful sessions on mental health, youth engagement, and family engagement. We came away encouraged, informed, and even more committed to GA's mission.

Thank you to everyone who visited our booth, participated in our activities, and took time to connect. We look forward to continuing these important conversations and partnerships.





From Zoo Miami to Juneteenth: Highlights from GPS Summer Camp

GPS Summer Camp is in full swing, serving 280 elementary students across eight sites from North Miami to Florida City. Campers are enjoying a summer filled with engaging activities focused on STEM, literacy, creative arts, and physical fitness.

One of the highlights of the summer so far was a field trip to Zoo Miami , where participants had the exciting opportunity to feed giraffes and explore animals from around the world. Over the past two weeks, students have immersed themselves in hands-on STEM projects, including making their own ice cream and creating homemade bubbles.

Creative arts activities have also kept campers busy with puffy painting, decorating personalized baseball hats, and tie-dyeing shirts.

Week two concluded with a vibrant Juneteenth celebration at Phichol Williams Community Center, where participants proudly showcased their talents through songs, dances, and poetry performances. We look forward to seeing all the exciting experiences and accomplishments the rest of the summer will bring.



Check out our upcoming events. Click for more info.

30 Dental Screening Event (June)

1 BLOC Summer Camp (through 7/31)

1 GPS Summer Camp (through 7/31)



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