



GANG ALTERNATIVE, INC.
BUILDING CHARACTER THAT LASTS

May 2026 NEWSLETTER





Neighborhood Superheroes' Day at Kids Splash

Gang Alternative Inc.'s (GA) **Kids Splash** program recently welcomed local firefighters to GA's Little Haiti Community Center for a special *Neighborhood Superheroes' Day*, creating an engaging and faith-centered learning experience for participating youth.

Kids Splash is GA's faith-based outreach program designed to provide elementary school students with a safe and enriching environment where they can build positive relationships, explore important life lessons, and grow in their understanding of faith and community.

During this special session, firefighters visited Kids Splash participants to lead a hands-on demonstration centered on fire safety, community service, and honorable acts of courage. Through interactive teaching and personal engagement, students learned practical ways to stay safe while gaining a deeper appreciation for the men and women who serve and protect their communities.

Beyond learning emergency preparedness, the experience encouraged participants to reflect on what it means to help others with bravery, compassion, and selflessness. Rooted in Hebrews 13:16 — *“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased”* — the day reinforced the value of serving others and living out faith through action.

Through meaningful experiences like these, GA’s Kids Splash program continues creating opportunities for youth to learn, connect, and be inspired by positive community role models.





Senior Night Shines a Light on BLOC Leaders

Our **Building Leaders of Character (BLOC)** program recently came together to celebrate our seniors with a truly special Senior Night. It was more than just an event. It was a moment to slow down and really see how far these young people have come in their confidence, resilience, and character.

During their time in BLOC, our seniors leaned into their sessions. They pushed past “I can’t” and began to say, “I will.” They took ownership of their choices and showed their peers what steady, compassionate leadership looks like day to day.

Every workshop, every project, and every service activity helped shape the young adults they are now.

As the Class of 2026 gets ready for what comes next, we are proud of what they have achieved and even more proud of who they are becoming. The curriculum may be done, but their mission is just beginning.

In the spirit of Gang Alternative’s commitment to building character that lasts, we believe these young leaders are ready to make a real difference in their schools, families, and communities.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day



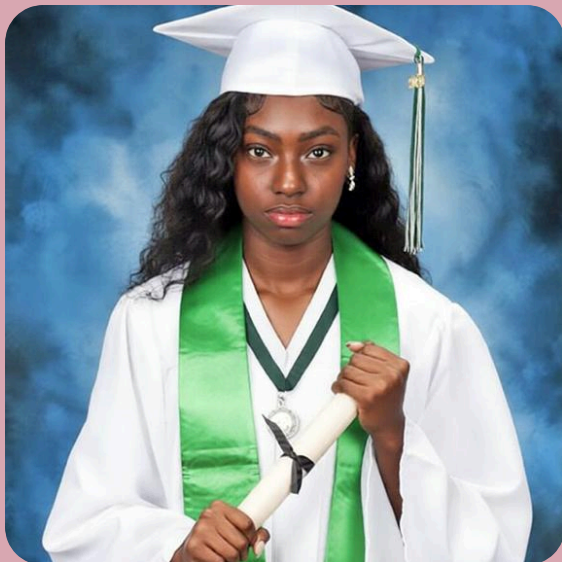
Partnering for Prescription Drug Safety

Gang Alternative proudly participated in the DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Day, supporting a national effort to reduce the risks posed by unused and expired medications. This initiative offers a safe, no-cost, and anonymous way for community members to dispose of prescription drugs, helping to prevent misuse, accidental overdoses, and environmental harm.

This April 25th event was made possible through our strong community partnerships. Special thanks to **SSG Christopher J. Pierce, Florida Army National Guard, Walgreens**, and their team for coordinating with us and walking alongside Gang Alternative to ensure the event's success.

Throughout the day, GA staff and partners warmly welcomed residents and shared easy-to-understand information about substance use and misuse. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions in a judgment-free space and left with practical guidance for keeping their homes safe.

Each participant also received a take-home disposal packet with clear instructions for safely discarding unwanted medications. By engaging in this event, Gang Alternative advanced its mission by supporting healthier choices, stronger families, and safer neighborhoods.



Celebrating BLOC Senior Beatrice Augustin

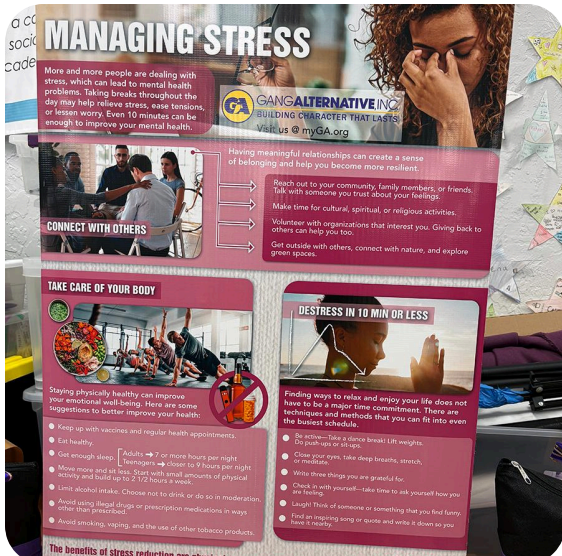
We are proud to celebrate Beatrice Augustin, a standout senior at North Miami Senior High School and the current BLOC Secretary. Throughout high school, Beatrice has focused on personal and athletic growth, mastering teamwork and discipline through a successful soccer career.

Beatrice credits GA's **BLOC program** with helping her stay on track for graduation, with a focus on dedicated mentorship and hands-on support for her and her family during the financial aid process.

Her hard work and persistence led to multiple college acceptances, including St. Thomas University and Miami Dade College. Her hard work and persistence led to multiple college acceptances, and she ultimately chose the University of Arkansas–Cossatot Community College.

While experiencing a healthy mix of nerves and excitement, Beatrice is eager to begin this new chapter and looks forward to sharpening her skills as a collegiate soccer player.

Congratulations, Beatrice! We are so proud of your leadership, resilience, and the way you embody Gang Alternative's mission of building character that lasts.



BRAVE Promotes Emotional Wellness and Safety

In observance of Mental Health Awareness Month, Gang Alternative brought its **Project BRAVE (Building Resiliency through Anti-Violence Education)** initiative to Millennium 6-12 Collegiate Academy's Peer Counseling class, creating an interactive discussion centered on mental health awareness, recognizing signs and symptoms, and encouraging open conversations among students.

Project BRAVE is GA's school-based prevention program serving middle and high school students throughout Broward County through trauma-informed education and skill-building activities focused on emotional wellness and violence prevention.

During the session, students participated in an interactive "Agree, Disagree, or Maybe" activity where they responded to thought-provoking statements related to mental health and peer relationships. The activity encouraged students to reflect on their perspectives, engage in respectful discussions, and explain the reasoning behind their responses.

Student engagement remained high throughout the activity, with many participants continuing conversations even after the session concluded. Students openly shared personal experiences and demonstrated growth in perspective as discussions progressed, creating a supportive environment centered on awareness, empathy, and understanding.

At the conclusion of the session, the BRAVE team recognized the winners of the Youth Violence Prevention Week poster competition held in April. First place winner Denicia Milord (picture 1) received a pair of Beats headphones for her outstanding submission promoting violence prevention awareness. Mia Vallejo received honorable mention and a GA wellness swag bag.

Through Project BRAVE, Gang Alternative continues providing Broward County students with meaningful opportunities to engage in conversations that support emotional wellness, healthy communication, and safer school communities.



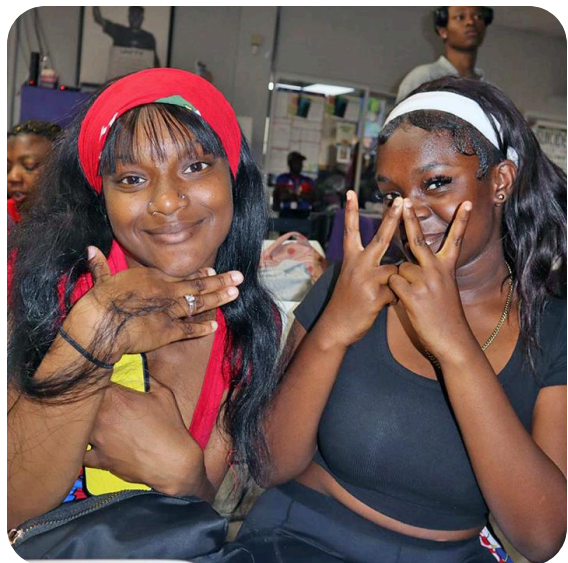
Stronger Families Through Mental Health Training

On May 19, Gang Alternative's **Project SMART** (Supporting Mental Health Awareness, Recognition, and Training) facilitated a Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training for parents and caregivers involved in the organization's **Circle of Strength Parenting** (COSP) program in Miami-Dade County.

The training focused on teaching participants how to identify warning signs of mental health challenges in youth, respond appropriately during a mental health crisis, and connect young people to professional support and community resources.

The training complemented the goals of the COSP program, which works directly with families to help create healthier and more stable home environments for children. COSP helps parents and caregivers strengthen communication, manage stress, and build stronger relationships with their children. The YMHFA training expanded on these efforts by providing practical mental health education and intervention strategies that families can apply in everyday situations.

By combining parenting support with mental health awareness, the training reinforced the importance of early intervention, emotional support, and healthy family connections. Participants who completed the course received a three-year certification through the **National Council for Mental Wellbeing**, equipping them with valuable skills to better support the youth in their lives.



Celebrating Haitian Heritage with Pride and Purpose

Our after school program for middle and high school students celebrated Haitian Heritage Month with pride, creativity, and powerful cultural expression. Throughout the month, youth engaged in activities that highlighted Haiti's rich history, traditions, and resilience. This culminated in a vibrant Haitian Flag Day showcase on May 18.

From cultural discovery sessions to performances and presentations, students explored themes of identity, unity, and respect for diverse backgrounds. The experience went beyond celebration; it became a living lesson in seeing, valuing, and honoring the stories that shape each of us.

By diving into Haitian culture, the students strengthened their own sense of pride while learning to recognize and celebrate the beauty in every culture they encounter. This aligns with the work we do at Gang Alternative – developing young leaders who stand for inclusion, mutual respect, and community pride.

Together, they showed that when we celebrate one culture, we strengthen the whole community.



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

8 Free GPS Summer Camp (8/8-7/31)

8 Free BLOC Summer Camp starts (8/8-7/31)

30 Dental Screening Event



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