



GANGALTERNATIVE, INC.
BUILDING CHARACTER THAT LASTS

August 2026 NEWSLETTER



GA's Broward AHEAD Aims to Guide Students Toward

Their Future

Gang Alternative is launching Broward AHEAD (Advancing High Schoolers toward Education, Achievement, and Direction), a new program that helps 9th- and 10th-grade students in Broward County begin planning for what comes after high school.

Over 16 to 18 weeks, students will identify their interests and strengths, learn about education and career pathways, and gain exposure to options available to them after graduation.

Through hands-on activities, Broward AHEAD combines personal development, career and STEAM exploration, workforce exposure, and academic and career planning. Students will learn about different professions, connect their interests to potential career paths, and begin developing a plan for life after high school.

The goal is to help students move from simply wondering what comes next to having a clearer sense of where they want to go and what it may take to get there.

To find out how we can bring Broward AHEAD to your Broward County high school, visit **Broward AHEAD (Advancing High Schoolers toward Education, Achievement, and Direction)**.





Fab Lab Builds on a Successful Summer

GA's Fab Lab Miami is giving young people across South Miami-Dade hands-on experience with technology, design, and innovation in a space where they can turn their ideas into real projects.

This summer, youth gained hands-on experience with 3D printing, laser cutting, coding, robotics, and other technologies while developing their problem-solving, collaboration, and creative thinking skills.

Community events also brought Fab Lab experiences to youth throughout South Miami-Dade, introducing them to technology in ways that encouraged them to experiment, create, and learn by doing.

This fall, we're building on that momentum with new technology and new possibilities. Fab Lab has added advanced Prusa 3D printers, magnetic soccer robots, a vinyl cutter, and an automatic heat press.

Students can use the new equipment to design custom apparel and decals, produce larger 3D prints and prototypes, tackle robotics challenges, and take their projects in directions that were not possible before.

We had a big summer, and with more tools in the Lab, we're excited to see what our young creators come up with next.

For more information, visit **Fab Lab Miami**.



Healthy Adolescence Conference Brings Youth Together Across South Florida

Last month, GA hosted its third Healthy Adolescence Conference in Homestead, bringing together middle and high school students from Broward and Miami-Dade counties for a full day centered on youth voice, leadership, learning, and connection.

The conference was intentionally youth-led and adult-guided, giving young people meaningful opportunities to lead their peers, share their perspectives, and engage in honest conversations about issues affecting their lives.

Throughout the day, participants rotated through interactive, small-group workshops addressing healthy relationships, substance misuse and violence prevention, risk

avoidance, wellness, STEM, and career pathways. Youth were encouraged to ask questions, share their experiences, discuss real-life situations, and build practical skills that support healthy decision-making.

Youth leaders played a central role in facilitating workshops and creating a peer-driven environment where participants could speak openly and learn from one another. The Youth Panel further elevated youth voice, creating space for candid conversations about school, neighborhood challenges, the pressures young people face, and the changes they want to see.

Between sessions, participants visited interactive booths showcasing GA programs and services, giving them an opportunity to learn more about the resources and support available through the organization. Hands-on experiences in the FabLab STEM Lab and virtual reality career exploration activities also allowed youth to explore new interests and discover future educational and career possibilities.

Now in its third year, the Healthy Adolescence Conference continues to create a space where young people from South Florida can connect, learn, lead, and have their voices heard.

Take a look at our **photo gallery!**





Project STEER: Building Skills and Resilience Early

Project STEER (Support, Treatment, Engagement, Education, and Resilience) is one of GA's newest youth programs, created to address prescription drug misuse and other substance use risks among young people in some of Miami-Dade County's highest-need communities.

Serving students in grades 4 through 8, Project STEER focuses on reaching youth early and equipping them with knowledge and practical skills before risky behaviors have an opportunity to take hold.

Through weekly small-group sessions in schools and community-based settings, youth strengthen communication, decision-making, refusal, and emotional regulation skills. An evidence-based curriculum, including focused prescription drug misuse prevention education, helps participants understand risks and practice strategies they can use in real-life situations.

Project STEER also recognizes that young people do not experience these challenges in isolation. Youth affected by substance use in their homes or communities can receive monthly one-on-one virtual mentoring and connections to additional clinical services when needed.

We are currently looking for mentors to be part of Project STEER. Mentors can make a meaningful difference by being a consistent, positive presence in a young person's life, offering encouragement, guidance, and a listening ear as youth navigate school, relationships, and the challenges of growing up.

Caregivers are engaged through Parent Circles and family dinners and can also be connected to additional resources and support through GA's UPLIFT Service Partnership.

The goal is simple: reach young people early, strengthen the skills they need now, and help prevent substance misuse before it starts.

For more information about Project STEER or becoming a mentor, visit **Support, Treatment, Engagement, Education, and Resilience (Project STEER)**.



Surf's Up for School: BLOC & GPS Summer Send Offs

GA wrapped up the summer with two Surf's Up-themed back-to-school celebrations, giving youth a chance to have some fun before heading back to the classroom and making sure they had school supplies in hand for the new year.

BLOC hosted its Surf's Up for School send-off for middle and high school students in Little Haiti, North Miami, and Homestead. Youth enjoyed games, food, and time with their peers, and each participant received a backpack filled with essential school supplies. For families preparing for a new school year, those supplies also help offset some of the added back-to-school expenses.

GPS closed out its eight-week PreK-5th grade summer camp with a beach-themed Back-to-School Celebration. Bounce houses, a rock-climbing wall, a game truck, a foam pit, and plenty of treats made for a fun final celebration after a busy summer. Each participant also headed home with a backpack stocked with school supplies.

With summer programming complete, GA is now kicking off its school-year BLOC and GPS programs, continuing to engage and support youth throughout the academic year.

For more information about our school-year youth programs, visit **Building Leaders of Character (BLOC)** and **Guiding the Path to Success (GPS)**.



A Celebration of Motherhood with COS and COSP

Earlier this month, Gang Alternative's **COS** and **COSP** teams hosted a baby shower-themed Parent Circle to celebrate four mothers on their journeys into motherhood.

Two moms had recently welcomed their babies, one for the first time and one with her second child, while two more second time mothers are preparing to welcome their little ones in the coming weeks.

The celebration included laughter, music, food, and baby shower games, creating a warm space for families to relax and connect. Families also took part in a

conversation about safe sleep practices and how to set up a safe environment for newborns.

Participants shared words of encouragement, practical parenting tips, and personal well wishes with each mom. Each mother received a mom and baby basket with items to support her and her growing family, and every family took home a GA backpack to help their children get ready for the new school year.

One teen, a first time mother whose baby was born in July, shared that this was her first and only baby shower.

Her words underscored how important simple moments of celebration, connection, and community can be for the families we serve. Gang Alternative is grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside parents as they nurture the next generation.



New GA Mentoring Program for Ages 10–17

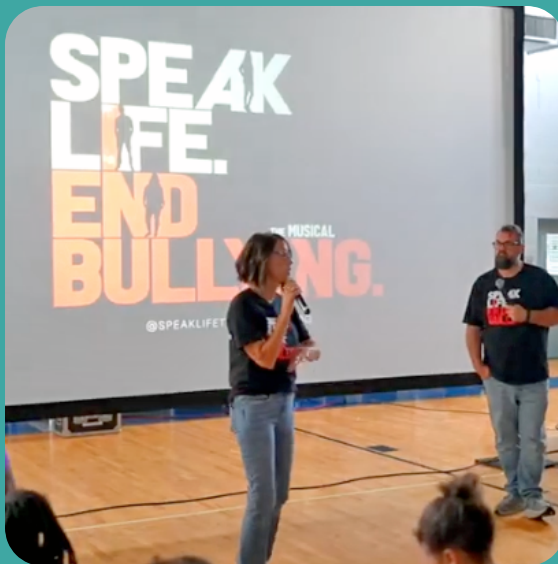
GA is excited to offer **M-PACT (Mentoring Through Positive Action, Character & Transformation)**, a free after-school mentoring program designed to support youth ages 10–17 attending Title I schools throughout Broward County.

M-PACT provides young people with a safe, welcoming environment where they can build meaningful relationships, develop positive decision-making skills, and discover their strengths with the support of caring mentors.

Through weekly small-group mentoring sessions, youth participate in trauma-informed activities focused on communication, personal development, healthy peer relationships, decision-making, and building confidence.

The program also includes an annual bullying and cyberbullying module, giving youth opportunities to explore empathy, understand the impact of bullying, and practice safe and healthy approaches to conflict resolution. In addition, participants receive monthly one-on-one mentoring focused on academic success, personal goals, and individualized support.

M-PACT is an opportunity for youth to connect with positive role models, strengthen their character, build essential life skills, and develop the confidence to make positive choices.



GA Youth Take a Stand Against Bullying

Gang Alternative's **Project BRAVE** and **Project CAATS** partnered with Speak Life End Bullying the Musical to bring a youth-centered anti-bullying message to South Florida. Through five events with Boys and Girls Clubs in Broward, Palm Beach, and

Homestead, the team reached more than 600 youth with a filmed version of the live musical, emphasizing kindness, accountability, and the power of using your voice.

Each screening showed bullying and its consequences in a way youth could relate to, sparking conversations about their own experiences, the impact of words and actions, and the importance of standing up for themselves and others.

BRAVE and CAATS worked alongside Speak Life to create an experience beyond watching a film, including interactive discussions, swag bags, and incentives such as hoodies and an AirPods raffle.

By bringing the Speak Life message directly to youth, Gang Alternative and its partners helped young people reflect, connect, and recognize their role in creating safer, more supportive communities. Take a look at the **five videos now available on GA's YouTube channel**.



3 UPLIFT Family Circle

11 BLOC Open House @ 6620

14 BLOC Open House @ Phichol Williams

Click here to find events as September unfolds.



Gang Alternative, Inc. | 12000 Biscayne Blvd Suite 402 | Miami, FL 33181 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!