



GANGALTERNATIVE, INC.
BUILDING CHARACTER THAT LASTS

October 2026 NEWSLETTER



Community Partners Unite to Prevent Prescription Drug Misuse

On October 24, Gang Alternative, Inc. (GA) participated in the DEA Drug Take Back Day event at Walgreens in Hallandale Beach. The event focused on promoting safe medication disposal, preventing prescription drug misuse, and increasing community awareness about substance abuse prevention.

GA partnered with the Hallandale Beach Police Department to engage community members, share information about the safe disposal of unused and expired medications, and distribute educational materials and giveaways.

Several residents took advantage of the opportunity to safely dispose of medications, helping to reduce the risk of misuse, accidental poisoning, and environmental harm. The event was supported by several community partners who helped ensure its success.

Staff Sergeant Pierce of the Florida National Guard Counterdrug Program Drug Demand Reduction Outreach Program assisted by securing the location and maintaining a safe environment for participants.

Additional support was provided by Walgreens staff, who assisted with event coordination and community engagement throughout the day.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of all involved. Community participation and partner support helped make DEA Drug Take Back Day a meaningful opportunity to promote public safety and strengthen substance abuse prevention efforts in Hallandale Beach.



SMART Builds a Stronger Community of Support

Mental health challenges can be difficult to talk about, especially in communities where stigma or limited access to care prevents young people and families from seeking help.

Gang Alternative's Supporting Mental Health Awareness, Recognition, and Training program, known as **SMART**, is working to change that in Broward County. SMART Broward is a newly funded program that expands the previous program we had in Dade County.

SMART offers free mental health training for teens and adults who work closely with young people. Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches educators, first responders, service providers, and community and faith leaders how to recognize signs of emotional distress, respond to a mental health crisis, and connect youth with appropriate support.

Teen Mental Health First Aid prepares students in grades 10 through 12, or ages 15 through 18, to recognize possible mental health or substance use challenges among their friends. Teens learn how to begin a supportive conversation and involve a responsible, trusted adult when help is needed.

Training is available through flexible in person, virtual, and blended formats. Participants also learn about community resources that can support young people and their families.

Through SMART, Gang Alternative is helping create a community where young people feel seen, supported, and comfortable asking for help. When more people know what to look for and how to respond, youth do not have to face challenges alone.



Give Miami Day Is Almost Here!

Give Miami Day is one of South Florida's largest online fundraising events, bringing together more than 1,300 nonprofit organizations across Greater Miami. Early Giving begins November 14 and continues through Give Miami Day on Thursday, November 19, providing six days to support causes that make a difference in our community.

Gang Alternative is proud to participate again this year as we work toward our \$65,000 fundraising goal. Give Miami Day gives us an opportunity to support us strengthening communities through hope, healing, and empowerment.

Community support is especially important for programs such as Kids Splash and Youth Splash, which are not funded through grants. Donations help GA continue providing these valuable programs while addressing resource gaps across Miami Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties.

Every gift helps GA offer free programs that encourage youth leadership, strengthen families, promote community wellness, and create opportunities for lasting growth. The minimum donation is \$25, and contributions of every size can make a meaningful difference.

Look out for more information as we approach GA's largest public fundraising campaign of the year. Together, we can show South Florida the compassion, faith, and unity at the heart of our work. When we give together, we grow together.



Project STEER Begins Engaging Students and Recruiting Mentors

Project Support, Treatment, Engagement, Education, and Resilience (STEER) is in the early stages of implementation, with initial efforts focused on student engagement, participant enrollment, and mentor recruitment. On September 25, the program held its first student meeting at Arch Creek Elementary School, welcoming 48 students.

The session introduced students to the program and featured icebreaker activities designed to encourage participation and build positive relationships.

To expand the program's reach, Project STEER is inviting additional schools to explore opportunities for student participation. These partnerships will help extend prevention education and mentoring services to more youth throughout Miami-Dade County.

Gang Alternative, Inc. invites community members, professionals, and other interested individuals to become mentors, helping to promote resilience, responsible decision-making, and healthy choices among students in grades 4–8.

Interested in becoming a mentor? Be a positive role model for youth by applying here: **Project STEER mentor recruitment.**

Through mentoring, substance-use prevention education, and family engagement, Project STEER aims to empower youth and strengthen families and communities.



Join Us for Our 16th Annual Compassion Project!

Come to our community resource fair on Saturday, November 21, where we will partner with local vendors to provide helpful services and information to families this holiday season.

Free turkeys will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, with one turkey per family while supplies last. The event will also feature hot food, games, family activities, and community resources.

Vendors are encouraged to bring nonperishable food items, gift cards, or additional resources to help us support families during the holiday season.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the **four locations** that is most convenient for you.

HARVEST FESTIVAL



Calling all youth, families, and community members!

Get ready to celebrate the bountiful harvest season with us at our Harvest Festival! This exciting event is for everyone, offering an unforgettable day filled with **FREE** activities, delicious food, music, countless candies, amazing prizes, and so much more! We're excited to plant seeds of faith and fun together as a community.

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 31
2026**

**COME IN YOUR FUN,
NON-SCARY COSTUMES!**



12-5 PM



**LITTLE HAITI COMMUNITY CENTER
6620 NORTH MIAMI AVE.
MIAMI 33150**

**FREE
EVENT**

**Contact Charlene Alcide Simillien at 786-494-9835
or Junior Marseille at 954-816-0389 for more info.**





Oct
31

Harvest Festival

Nov
14-19

Give Miami Day (early giving
and main event)

Nov
21

Compassion Project

[Click here to find events as November 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!