GANG ALTERNATIVE, INC.
BUILDING CHARACTER THAT LASTS

September 2026 NEWSLETTER





UPLIFT's Parent Circle Tackles Housing Stability

Housing stability shapes a family's sense of security, and access to the right information can make all the difference. Through GA's UPLIFT Parent Circle, parents and caregivers come together to learn, ask questions, and connect with organizations that support their housing goals.

On September 3, UPLIFT welcomed our partner **Miami Homes for All** for a *Rent Ready and Security Deposit Assistance Workshop*. Families learned about the rental process, housing requirements, budgeting, and assistance programs designed to ease the financial barriers to securing a home.

Miami Homes for All is currently offering financial assistance to eligible families, a resource that can be truly life changing for those working to secure stable housing. Parents attended with their children and left with a clearer picture of what it takes to prepare a strong rental application, in addition to lots of answers to questions.

Through the Parent Circle, **UPLIFT** continues to bring families and partners together around the issues that matter most to family stability. Collaborations like this one help widen that circle of support, and in doing so, can help change the course of a family's future.





Mentoring: Building Skills Before Challenges Become Barriers

Prevention begins long before a young person faces a major challenge. It starts with relationships, trusted adults, and opportunities to develop the skills needed to make healthy decisions.

Through **Project M-PACT (Mentoring through Positive Action, Character, and Transformation)** in Broward County and **Project STEER (Support, Treatment,**

Engagement, Education, and Resilience) in Miami-Dade County, Gang Alternative provides youth with supportive mentoring relationships designed to help them navigate challenges and build a stronger foundation for their future.

Youth participating in these programs develop practical skills such as communication, decision-making, emotional regulation, refusal skills, goal-setting, and positive relationship-building.

Mentors help turn these lessons into real-life skills by providing encouragement, consistency, and a safe space for youth to talk through challenges.

M-PACT supports youth ages **10–17** as they build confidence and stay connected to their academic and personal goals. STEER works with youth ages **8–14**, helping them recognize substance-use risks and develop the confidence and skills to make healthier choices.

Both **Project STEER** and **Project M-PACT** are currently looking for mentors. Click on either program to apply now!





A Community Conversation That Puts Child Safety First

In September, **UPLIFT** hosted another Parent Circle, this time focusing on a topic that matters to every family: keeping children safe from harm. UPLIFT welcomed **Kristi House** to lead the discussion, bringing years of specialized experience to a room full of parents ready to listen and learn.

The session offered clear, useful guidance parents can apply at home right away. Families learned how to notice early warning signs and how to build trust through honest conversation with their children. Kids were included too, turning a serious

topic into a shared moment for the whole family rather than something only adults discussed.

The evening reflected what UPLIFT works toward with every Parent Circle. Bringing people together means giving families a chance to support one another. A meal shared around the table, a few thoughtful surprises, and open conversation gave the night warmth alongside its purpose.

No family must face these concerns alone. Abuse prevention starts with small, everyday steps, like staying attentive, keeping communication open, and knowing where to turn when something feels wrong.

Support and resources are always within reach, and UPLIFT remains committed to walking alongside families every step of the way.





BLOC: Building Leaders of Character All Year Long

This school year, Gang Alternative's **BLOC (Building Leaders of Character)** program is once again providing middle and high school students with a safe, structured space to learn, grow, and feel supported after school and during the summer.

Through BLOC, youth receive homework assistance along with practical life skills that carry them far beyond the classroom. Students participate in sessions on anger management, healthy communication, entrepreneurship, college planning, and job coaching, as well as engaging field trips that broaden their horizons and build positive peer connections.

Recently, BLOC hosted an Open House to welcome families into the space and introduce them to the team walking alongside their children. Parents had the

opportunity to meet staff, learn more about the curriculum, and preview some of the activities planned for this year.

To better support the whole family, BLOC partners closely with **UPLIFT** and **Circle of Strength (COS).** Together, these Gang Alternative programs take a holistic approach — supporting students' academic and emotional growth while connecting caregivers with resources that strengthen the home environment.

Enrollment for this cycle is now closed, but we invite community members and partners to stay connected with Gang Alternative for future enrollment periods and additional opportunities to support youth and families throughout the year.



When Healing Becomes a Community Event

Trauma rarely announces itself. It shows up quietly, shaping how people think, feel, and connect with those around them. Earlier this month, **CAATS** led a powerful collaboration with **COS-P** and **UPLIFT** to host four Family Resource Nights built around one mission to help families understand trauma and find real paths toward healing.

Each evening carried the same intention, creating a space that felt gentle, safe, and easy to open up in. A short docuseries played throughout the resource series, giving families a closer look at how trauma touches everyday life and how recovery unfolds step by step. Parents, caregivers, and children sat together, asked questions, and left with simple tools they could use.

A lineup of community organizations added even more depth, each offering support families could tap into right there in the room. A shared meal and thoughtful gifts

rounded out the gatherings and turned serious conversations into evenings families looked forward to.

These nights remind us that healing grows faster in community. A huge thanks to all the families and every partner that participated!





Give Miami Day Supports GA's Mission!

Give Miami Day is one of South Florida's most inspiring celebrations of generosity — a time when individuals and organizations come together to strengthen our communities. This year, GA is proud to participate once again, inviting our partners, supporters, and friends to stand with us as we work toward this year's fundraising goal.

In 2025, GA served 16,380 participants and 1,895 households in 109 zip codes throughout Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. Our services span after school programs and summer programs, substance abuse prevention services, parent engagement programs, trauma-focused intervention, coalition-building, reentry

services, career development, HIV education, care coordination, wrap-around services, mentoring, life skills development, and mental health support services.

Give Miami Day actually goes from November 14-19th this year. If you believe in the work we do and would like to contribute to our biggest fundraiser of the year, it would go a long way towards helping us provide tools to enrich the lives of South Florida families. More details to come!



3 UPLIFT Family Circle

11 BLOC Open House @ 6620

14 BLOC Open House @ Phichol Williams

Click here to find events as October unfolds.

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