

## **Gang Alternative Receives Full Accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)**

*Accreditation of Gang Alternative will bring the highest quality services to our most vulnerable communities in Miami-Dade County*

**(Miami, FL – October 31, 2016)** The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) has granted Gang Alternative full accreditation after an intense two year process of self-assessment, quality improvement, policy formulation, trainings and a continual commitment to bring the very best services to the most vulnerable communities of Little Haiti, Liberty City, North Miami, North Miami Beach, Miami Gardens, and Homestead. CARF is an international, independent non-profit accreditor of health and human services that assists providers in improving the quality of their services, demonstrating value, and meeting internationally recognized organizational and program standards.

Through funding provided by the **Health Foundation of South Florida**, Gang Alternative was given the opportunity to undergo the CARF accreditation process. During an on-site survey, Gang Alternative's programs and staff were evaluated through applied sets of standards for service areas and business practices. With Gang Alternative already utilizing evidence-based curriculum in its programs such as Botvin's Life Skills Training, Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Love Notes, Making Proud Choices, Reducing the Risk, and evidence-base practices for Care Coordination and Case Management, staff and team members were able to fine tune each sector to better the work they do on a daily basis. Gang Alternative is dedicated to continuously improving services, encouraging feedback, and working for the community.

"By attaining the CARF Accreditation, we are raising the bar in every Gang Alternative program and enhancing our organization's profile with current funders including The Children's Trust, South Florida Behavioral Health Network (SFBHN), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and new potential backers," said Michael Nozile, CEO and Executive Director of Gang Alternative. "Having this new accreditation will allow us to enhance the impact on our currently enrolled families as

well recruiting more parents and children within our communities who need our services.”

Gang Alternative’s programs include Guiding the Path to Success after-school and summer camp program, Building Leaders of Character youth enrichment program, Youth Splash Kids Splash mentoring program, Youth Excellence Program, UPLIFT Little Haiti Service Partnership, Health Insurance Enrollment Initiative, and the Urban Partnership Drug Free Communities Coalition. For more information on how to enroll in these programs visit [myga.org](http://myga.org) or call [\(786\) 391-2375](tel:7863912375).

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**About Gang Alternative:** Incorporated in 2005 and expanding on a 20-year volunteer and faith-based ministry, Gang Alternative serves youth and families by building character that lasts through faith-based initiatives, innovative academia, physical, social, and family support.

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