Honesty is (still) the best policy...

Greetings:

Here is an honest, but true story. Recently, a local judge recommended that parents in his court not place their child at Miami Bridge, with the belief that the child would be worse off after leaving than if he never came (ouch!). The parents chose to reach out to us anyway. They were so pleased with our services and the help their son received that they made a substantial financial gift to our shelters.

I am proud to be a part of the Miami Bridge family. Having recently celebrated 30 years of service to this community, Miami's only 24-hour emergency shelter for children carries on and continues to strive for excellence. In the past, we have not always met the community's expectations of taking care of such a challenging population (angry, abandoned, homeless teenagers), but we believe we are headed in the right direction. We invited the community to see for yourselves, and you certainly responded. On August 22, State Senators, Commissioners, CEOs, Judges, Attorneys, and other community members joined Florida DJJ Secretary Christy Daly, Florida Network of Youth and Family Services President Stacy Gromaski, and our Board to tour Miami Bridge and ask questions. It was certainly a well attended event as we stood together in solidarity for our youth.

Thanks and God bless,
Dorcas

Miami Bridge Youth Testimonial

"Miami Bridge has changed my life since I been here by taking responsibility for situations, doing chores, getting along with others. Since I was raised up being the only child, I enjoy the family vibes and the fun outings. Miami Bridge has taught me how to be kind to others and how to distract myself from my problems at home. I also learned how to respect staff members and also the proper way to act in public. I have a lot of fun here with the other kids here."
- Stacey, 16

Community Reception

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Thank you!
Volunteer Opportunities
Volunteer Opportunities

We encourage our community to volunteer and participate with our youth. Any assistance can make a difference in a child's life.

Here are ways you can help:

- Data entry (up to 10 hours per week)
- Become a mentor through our Mentoring Program
- Tutor our youth
- Give a youth job training
- Plan an activity for our children and teens

Volunteer Event:

Dinner is an opportunity to dine and fellowship with the Bridge Family. We are looking for individuals, families, or groups to come in, prepare dinner and eat with our wonderful staff and kids. We can provide the food or you may bring your own food as well!

Please note: Uncooked food must be prepared on our premises. We WILL welcome you with a huge smile and a loving environment.

The volunteer hours for cooking dinner for the youth are 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM, (daily)

If you would like to volunteer, serve as a mentor or plan an activity for our youth, please call 305.636-3529 or email info@miamibrIDGE.ORG.

Shelter Needs

Many of our children arrive with little to no personal belongings. We can always use NEW pajamas and undergarments. New sneakers are always helpful too. Your donations are very much appreciated!
Miami Bridge kicked off the school year unifying our staff, community leaders, city officials, school officers and other stakeholders to make school safety stronger than ever.

Thank you to the dozens of community leaders and elected and appointed officials who joined Miami Bridge and special guests DJJ Secretary Christine Daly and FL Network President Stacy Gromatski on Monday, August 22nd for this very special event.

FL Network Dollars Pave the Way!

Many thanks to The Florida Network for gifting us the funds to re-pave our walkways at the Central shelter. It was quite a project, with a fantastic result! Our youth and staff are taking advantage of our new sidewalks to form walking groups after school.

Thank you for making our shelter a better place to live and
**Karaoke Night**

Our karaoke program continues, thanks to our Galleria Grant and Evolusion Karaoke.

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**Summer Fun at Bird Bowl**

Our summer program allowed us to take youth to Bird Bowl several times over the course of the summer. As usual, our youth had a blast sharpening their bowling skills with some friendly competition.

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**Farm Share Event**

Staff attended Farm Share’s monthly event and assisted with packing and distributing fresh food and produce to the
community. We were able to share valuable information about our services to the community as well. This event takes place every 3rd Thursday of the month at Gwen Cherry Park in Miami. For more information, visit www.farmshare.org.

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