Greetings:

Back in the day, it was the "old folks" who used to say, "any day above ground is a good day"!

Today, children's lives are lost to violence at an alarming rate. For many children, in OUR city, this quote is not something they will someday say - it's the story of their everyday lives!

Miami Bridge is not immune to this reality; but, as an 'emergency' shelter, we only have a limited time to effect change for our youth. We've witnessed too many of our youth leave our shelters only to be raped, murdered, or arrested for violent crimes.

I, along with Superintendent Alberto Carvalho and State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, have grown weary of the press conferences explaining the taking of innocent lives in the community and Miami Bridge seeks to implement change. We have the power to transform lives and know we could do more if our children were to remain with us for a longer period of time. So we are looking at our model and encourage our community members and partners to do the same. Our kids are depending on us all...

God Bless,

Dorcas
Miami Bridge Youth Testimonial

“There isn’t too much I can say about my life because I’m still young. However, despite my age, I have stumbled on many problems. With family, I can say that my mother and I never got along. We eventually decided I should live with my grandmother. At first, my grandmother and I got along... then, we got into altercations and some of them resulted in fights. We both agreed it was better for me to go to Miami Bridge. Honestly, I am glad we made that decision. I know, coming out of the Bridge, I will be a better person.”

- Jasmine, 14 years old

In This Issue

- Black History Luncheon
- Bathroom Makeovers
- Karaoke Night
- Rock the Bike Event
- Cooking with Eduardo
- Take Your Child to Work Day
- PAMM Arts Group
- Park Outing
- Motown the Musical
- Superbowl Sunday

Thank you!

February Donors

- Nike
- Jacqueline Rodriguez
- Chris Delapena
- Eat Time, Inc.
- Ultimate Software

Thank you! Many thanks to Medtronic Medical Group (via Little Lighthouse Organization) for the book bag giveaway to our youth!
Miami Bridge Youth performed to the delight of their peers and staff from both shelters as well as community leaders who were invited to attend. Learning about our history strengthens our kids’ awareness of themselves and our community’s roots. It was a lot of fun!!

Bathroom Makeovers

Our Central shelter dorm room bathrooms got a creative and beautiful paint makeover by Mary Montes. The kids love the new look!

Karaoke Night

The Business School of France (via Little Lighthouse Organization) came over to sing karaoke with our youth. We love having members of the community come over and entertain our kids. It is a great opportunity for team building and exposing our kids to positive role models. If you are interested, please call 305.636.3529.

Rock the Bike Nutrition Event

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 pajamas and undergarments. New or gently used sneakers are always helpful too. Your donations are very much appreciated!

Upcoming Events!

- PAMM Art Program
- Carnival Arts
- FIU Basketball Games
- Sky Zone Outing
- Cirque du Soleil
Molina Healthcare put on a fun event for our youth and taught the value and importance of exercise and proper nutrition. Molina, thanks for thinking of our kids and giving them the tools to take control of their general well being.

**Cooking with Eduardo**

Eduardo Prada, one of our very own Youth Activity Workers, continued his tradition of cooking with our kids. They prepared angel rice, plantains maduros and chicken with vegetables. Do you have a hobby you would like to share with our youth? Give us a call at 305.636.3529.
Miami Bridge was delighted to participate in Miami-Dade County Public School's "Take Your Child to Work Day." The date coincided with our quarterly "All-Staff Meeting" so we made sure to make it a family affair. Many thanks to our cook, Jack, for breaking out the BBQ Grill and making hot dogs and hamburgers for all! Lunchtime was the highlight of the day for our guest kids who joined Miami Bridge youth in playing video games, pool, and even jumping around in a bounce house.

Miami Bridge = Family.

PAMM Arts Group

The kids had a wonderful time at the Pérez Art Museum Miami. Here at Miami Bridge we like to expose the youth to the arts so they can explore their creative side. Do you have an idea where we can take our kids next? Let us know. You can write us at info@miamibridge.org.

Park Outing
Miami Bridge regularly provides youth with a chance to be kids - a luxury they are not always afforded outside of the Bridge. Thanks to our Program Coordinator, Chastity Hart, for making sure our youth can enjoy a safe and fun day at the park.

Motown the Musical

Miami Bridge Youth attended the Adrienne Arsht Center for Motown the Musical. To most of our kids, this was the first time they go to experience one of Miami-Dade’s most important cultural assets. Our goal is to help our youth see a world of options and career paths.

Superbowl Sunday

Superbowl ’50’ was party time for our youth.

Miami Bridge Board of Directors

We are accepting candidates for the Board of Directors. For more information please email mjohanson@miamibridge.org or call (305) 636-3520.
Adrian Delancy - President
Attorney, Markowitz, Ringel, Trusty & Hartog

Jahan Islami - Vice President
Attorney, Cozen O'Connor

Beatriz Martin - Treasurer
Partner, Vizcaino Zomerfeld, LLP

Alexander Lian - Secretary
Attorney, Lian & Associates

Michael Alvarez
Partner, BenTrust Financial

Joseph Cantrell
Staff Supervisor, SMGQ Law

Maria Carvalho
Owner, Miami Chic, LLC

Mayling Exposito
Senior Vice President, Florida Community Bank

Dee Dee Fischer
Partner, Akerman LLP

Peggy Fucci
President & CEO, One World Properties

Alfred Karram, Jr.
Owner & Chief Designer, AKJ Design Concepts LLC

Monique Mosley
Co-Founder, Always Believing Foundation

Dr. Todd Giardina
Licensed Psychologist - Coral Gables Counseling Center

Patrick Erin Murphy
U.S. Congressman, FL 18th District

Marlene Quintana
Shareholder, GrayRobinson P.A.

George White
Pastor, Mission Church

Province "Boo" Zamek
President, JustAskBoo, LLC

Judy Reinach - Director Emeritus