A Message from our CEO

What is Miami Bridge? Where is Miami Bridge?

Just recently, I attended a "pay it forward" event with the youth from our shelters. Upon staff setting up a table for this event, people immediately came over to learn about who we are and partake of our marketing materials. Quietly, I thought, "After 30 years, many people in this community still have not heard of Miami Bridge." While we are growing in leaps and bounds, we still have plenty of work to do.

At this event, one lady in particular was intent on finding out if a particular youth was in our shelter.

Please understand a few things: Due to HIPPA and confidentiality, staff cannot confirm or deny to the general community that a youth is in our shelters, or the status of that youth. You will not actually see Miami Bridge in the community because we try to blend in with our youth like a traditional family. It is extremely important to our youth that they maintain that normalcy. They do not wish to be singled out by the community as a poor child without a family. Finally, Miami Bridge houses youth in all situations, including 'couch-surfers' and/or a child who is simply arguing with his
parent(s) and wants to spend time away from the home while he works things out with his loved ones.

Continual thanks to our community for your understanding and support. Have a great Thanksgiving! See you on November 17!!

God Bless,
Dorcas

Client Testimonial

"Let me start off by saying that before I was in The Bridge or even heard about The Bridge I was skipping school everyday and the days I would show up I would get there at 10:00 a.m. to skip class. I was also smoking weed everyday thinking that I was going to escape all my problems, but little that I know that it was going to get me sent to a program. In no way do I regret going to The Bridge because it helped me get my life back on track and to bring my addiction to an end. I wanna give my dad credit even though I didn't listen to him, he would tell me that if I won't change who I'm around, one day I will get caught up with the wrong people. Since I look at the bright side of every situation, I saw that this program was going to rehabilitate me, and it did that is why I'm writing this essay.

The night that I arrived at The Bridge I was feeling just one emotion that effects over 40 million adults and children across the country, that emotion is called anxiety. That night the anxiety was killing because I've never been separated from my family, it got progressively worse when my step mom and my dad had to leave me there. For a quarter of my time at The Bridge I spent it working on the separation anxiety I had from not being able to see my dad whenever I want or even go outside whenever I wanted to. It wasn't easy working on my anxiety at The Bridge, I had two very special people named Wendy Mitchell & Janet Alvarez, they work with me all the time to help as much as they could. The staff at The Bridge are great people, that were always motivating me to stay in school and to give it my all to get to college.

When the 9th of June was finally there I was proud of myself for getting through that program, but that didn't mean that I was going to sit around doing nothing for the summer. When I got out of that program I promised myself that I was going to get a summer job, I was lucky to have a father that owns his own company. I got a job paving roads and laying asphalt, it involved being in the sun for hours but it felt good to help my dad and still get paid for working. On my spare time I would do my Florida Virtual School classes on the computer, it felt great to be out and being proactive. I got to spend my birthday with my family, my family was proud of the changes that I did while I was at The Bridge. I greatly appreciate the way that Wendy and Janet made me believe in myself.

On September 12th I had to go court to provide evidence that I have continued working and that I am still attending school. It felt good to show up to court and show the judge that I'm still following my instructions provided by court. I don't have many issues with anxiety because I practice mindfulness therapy with Wendy. When my AGAPE case manager came to my house to drug test me I told her that marijuana was going to come out on my drug test, but not ecstasy and I had an anxiety attack because I knew that I haven't done ecstasy but I took some deep breathes to calm myself down. I told my case manager to take it to

Committee to Re-elect
Judge Michielle Gonzalez-Paulson
Juan Corcino
Lyzette Fuentes
Mary Montes
NASCAR Foundation
Phillip Alejo
Trias Flowers

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
the laboratory, when I got to court the laboratory showed that there was no ecstasy in my system. If I wasn't to speak up the judge would've thought that I had ecstasy in my system.

The CINS/FINS petition that I have isn't only there to drug test me but to help me keep my life on track, if I need to learn how to write a resume they are there to help me in any obstacle that is stopping me for moving on in life. Honesty is the first thing you need to overcome any type of addiction. Judge Kallman and Judge Prescott were proud of the trust and the loyalty I have with Wendy. When I relapsed the first person I told was Wendy because I know that Wendy will talk to me and try her best to help me. I want to be the kid that encourages other children to speak up because no matter what situation your in the best thing to do is always have a voice, never stay quiet in the wrong situations."

- Ricardo, 16

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Save the Date!

Thanksgiving Luncheon
Talent Show
Karaoke Night
Fort Lauderdale
Boat Show
Carnival Arts Parade
K-Faith Cancer Walk
Trampoline High
Sky Zone
New Year Goals -
Arts & Crafts

Contact Us
Miami Bridge Youth & Family Services, Inc.
2810 NW South River Dr.
Miami, FL 33125
Ph. 305-635-8953
info@miamibridge.org

Save the Date!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Let's Give Thanks Together!

Join us at our Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon
Thursday, November 17th, 2016
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Miami Bridge Youth & Family Services
2810 NW South River Drive
Miami, FL 33125

RSVP to Marlys at:
305-636-3520 / mjohnson@miamibridge.org
Save the Date!

Give Miami Day gives everyone in the community an opportunity to make a philanthropic impact on Greater Miami. In 2015, Miamians made history during the 24-hour online giving event, with more than 17,000 donors raising $7.1 million for 600+ local nonprofits. Save the date for **November 17, 2016**, when one of the biggest annual giving events in the U.S. returns. We hope you will include Miami Bridge in your Give Miami Day plans this year.

October Recap
'Tis the Season

Halloween season that is! Miami Bridge youth kicked off the month of October with a visit to International Mall for the House of Horrors.

Park Visit

Miami Bridge youth joined 93rd Street Baptist Church for a day of fun at the park.

Marriott Day of Service

The Homestead Marriott put on a day of service for our Homestead youth. The youth enjoyed the pool as well as arts and crafts provided by the hotel. Many thanks to the Marriott for their continued partnership with us.

Planting with Nova

Social work interns from Nova Southeastern University visited Miami Bridge Central and helped our youth make some window planters to surround and beautify our First Stop for Families Counseling Center. Many thanks to these students.
Fun in the Sun

Miami Bridge youth from both shelters attended Rapids Water Park on a Sunday afternoon for a chance to unwind in the water.

Yoga with LLF

The Little Lighthouse Foundation does a great job of helping our youth stay fit. The youth enjoyed a yoga workshop this month.

Can you feel the Heat?

Many thanks to James Johnson, Dion Waiters, Wayne Ellington, & Goran Dragic who purchased tickets for our youth to watch the Miami Heat play against the Charlotte Hornets.

FIU Football Game

Miami Bridge youth enjoyed a football game at FIU. We are grateful for the partnership we have with FIU and the support they give us in many areas.
MDC Job Fair

Shelter Coordinator, Antoinette Graham, and HR Director, Lina Aguirre, attended the job fair at Miami Dade College in search of Youth Activity Workers to join our team.

Fundraising Event

Miami Bridge staff attended a fundraising event for Commissioner Francis Suarez at the law offices of Gray|Robinson. We are so grateful for his support of Miami Bridge and extend our support to him.

Special Thank You

We Asked, You Answered!

Many thanks to Mary Montes of Ipocu Art for answering the call on our Instagram. She sent us 8 sets of this book collection, which is above and beyond what we were asking for and expecting. Thank you so much for your support, Mary.

Happy Halloween!

The youth at both shelters were delighted to receive Halloween goodie bags made by the Girl Scout troupe 385. These bags were each individually decorated with ribbons, stickers, jokes and very apparent love and filled with Halloween trinkets and candy.

Follow Us on Instagram!
For #MotivationalMonday & more...

View on Instagram

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