Greetings!

I am most grateful for the opportunity to serve Miami Bridge and this wonderful, diverse community. Thanks to you, we are able to provide a myriad of critical services in keeping with our mission – to promote positive youth development.

Data and statistics bear proof that we are making a difference in the lives of the abused, abandoned, and neglected youth we serve. With your continued support, we will be able to further expand our services to provide counseling and support in more schools and homes in this community. On behalf of the Board of Directors and management, thank you for trusting us with life’s most valuable and precious asset – children.

Warm Regards,

Dorcas

On behalf of the dedicated staff of youth activity workers, counselors, directors and administrators it is our unique privilege to serve youth and families of Miami-Dade County. Through our counseling and case management services we see the youth explore opportunities to learn, grow and meet the challenges through our social, educational, arts/cultural and recreational activities. We see the joy in the youths’ eyes as grades improve, parents smile with pride, and staff are hugged in gratitude for helping with a crisis.

I am proud of the work we do. Our staff work endlessly to meet the challenges of the youth and families, providing hope, encouraging dreams and providing solutions. This is the cornerstone to our success as Miami Bridge continues to be the beacon of light to families and youth in crisis.

Thank you.

Mary
About Us

Our Vision

Our organization is driven by the vision of a community in which every child is able to access the full range of social, educational and institutional opportunities necessary to succeed in life.

We adhere to the philosophic tenet that strong and healthy families are the building blocks of our society. A society is judged by the manner in which it cares for its most vulnerable members. We believe the barometer that measures the level of future community prosperity is the well-being of today’s children.

Our Mission

The mission of Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services Inc. is to promote positive youth development and strengthen and support families to enable children to reach their full potential to become productive community members.

Our Locations

Miami Bridge has two locations, strategically located in Central Miami and Homestead, to best serve the needs of our county.

Central Campus

2810 NW South River Drive
Miami, FL 33125

Homestead Campus

326 NW 3rd Avenue
Homestead, FL 33030
**Definitions of Services**

- Individual Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Case Management Services
- Health and Wellness
- Recreational/Leisure/Arts and Cultural
- Mentoring
- Clinical and Mental Health

**Outputs & Outcomes**

**Program Funding Sources**

**Miami-Dade County Public Schools Program (On-Site)**

- M-DCPS Certified Teachers
- FDOE/M-DCPS Curriculum
- Assessments, Testing, Monitoring
- Individual Instruction

**Emergency Shelter Program**

- Individual Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Case Management Services
- Health and Wellness
- Recreational/Leisure/Arts and Cultural
- Mentoring
- Clinical and Mental Health

**RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS**
COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS

First Stop for Families Program
- Individual and Family Counseling
- Case Management
- Outreach
- CINS/FINS Petition (Circuit 11)
- Community Referrals

Truancy Program
- Individual and Family Counseling
- Case Management/Care Coordination
- CINS/FINS Petition (Circuit 11)
- Aftercare Planning and Referrals

Nurturing Parent Program
- Intensive In-Home Services with a Family Coach
- Parenting Classes with a Trained Facilitator
- Case Management/Care Coordination Services
- Aftercare Planning and Referrals

LGBTQ Program
- Individual and Family Counseling
- Case Management/Care Coordination Services
- LGBTQ Family Specialist In-Home Counseling
Young children who are frequently absent and/or disconnected from school are likely to be living in circumstances where family issues are interfering with the child’s participation and opportunity to learn and achieve. Developing a trusting and productive relationship between the program staff and the family is the foundation for strengthening a vulnerable family. Consistent and reliable contacts are the most effective way of establishing a supportive and helpful relationship to bring about the desired improvements.

Our community-based programs offer services to families whose children are struggling with truancy, behavioral or academic issues at school – and struggling at home. It is organized to work with a variety of community resources including school principals, social workers, psychologists, resource officers, family resource aides, and teachers. Given the varied needs of families, and the goal of lessening those needs over time, it is expected that case managers will have a caseload that includes scheduled weekly, biweekly or monthly visits. The weekly home visiting programs can provide services to families for up to 180 days.
The First Stop for Families (FSFF) Program is designed to provide services to help families remain together and divert children from having to utilize emergency shelter services by providing short-term family crisis intervention services. Our professionally trained social work staff understands the frustrations that drive wedges between children and families. We assist families to quell the immediate crisis. Our mediation services are designed to open lines of communication in times of crisis and stress. We help families develop new solutions and approaches to overcome conflicts. Miami Bridge’s FSFF Program offers comprehensive assessments, case management, short-term counseling, and linkage to appropriate community services. The program is designed to assist families to open lines of communication, teach effective conflict-resolution skills, reduce high-risk antisocial behaviors, teach effective parenting skills, resolve truancy and academic performance issues, and link families with needed community resources.

*Please see page 21 for a description of these services.*
- Improve the youth’s behaviors in the home, school and community.

- Improve the youth’s relationship between primary caregivers, peers and adults in their community.

- Increase the primary caregiver’s ability to use community resources, thereby decreasing economic stressors.

- Prevent youth from entering the child welfare or juvenile justice system.
The Truancy Program works in partnership with the parents of children who are frequently tardy, absent or disconnected from school to strengthen the parent-child relationship, home-school relationship and the parent’s role in their child’s schooling. This is a prevention-based, intensive home visiting program that helps to ensure children are provided an environment that nurtures positive growth and development potential.

The Truancy Program helps parents manage the myriad of challenges that come with raising a child. Many of the families in the program, raising a family, are also addressing issues related to poverty, social isolation, mental health, substance abuse and domestic violence.

The Truancy Program receives all referrals from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Attendance Services Department. Counselors build relationships with the social workers and school personnel in the southern and central regions of M-DCPS.
SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Individual & Family Counseling
- Community Outreach
- Case Management Services
- Community Referrals
- Academic Support / School Attendance Services
- Aftercare Planning
- Educational Advocacy
- CINS/FINS Adjudication Services (Circuit 11)

*Please see page 21 for a description of these services.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- Increase primary caregiver’s involvement in the child’s education and presence in the school.
- Increase youth’s involvement in education and improvement in attendance and grade performance.
- Increase communication between primary caregivers, youth and school personnel.
- Teach parent to become an advocate for their child.
- Decrease behavioral incidents in school that warrant disciplinary action by school personnel.
The Nurturing Parent Program is a prevention-based, intensive home visiting and parenting classes program that helps to ensure children are provided an environment that nurtures positive growth and development potential. The program is tasked with ensuring parent education and assistance in managing problems through services and relationships with appropriate agencies to facilitate referrals. It is a family-centered, trauma-informed initiative designed to facilitate referrals. The Nurturing Parent Program ensures that every child will be raised within a nurturing environment that will foster positive growth and development.
- Increase primary caregiver’s parenting skills, attitudes, and behaviors.

- Decrease the at-risk behaviors of the youth.

- Improve the parent-youth relationship.

- Decrease family recidivism in families receiving social services.
This program targets at-risk youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or questioning (LGBTQ). The LGBTQ Family Program works in serving these youth in the shelter and within the community-based programs of Miami Bridge and Miami-Dade County. The LGBTQ Program targets schools, community programs, churches, and other providers who identify at-risk LGBTQ youth. This program also utilizes outreach activities within the outreach plan to educate and serve the LGBTQ community while supporting and empowering this youth population in promoting dialogue, wellness and fostering social change.

**SERVICES PROVIDED:**

- CINS/FINS Adjudication Services (Circuit 11)
- Academic Support / School Attendance Services
- Aftercare Planning
- LGBTQ Family Specialist
- Case Management Services
- Community outreach
- Community Referrals
- Individual & Family Counseling
- *Please see page 21 for a description of these services.*
- Increase primary caregiver’s parenting skills, attitudes, and behaviors toward the LGBTQ community.

- Increase LGBTQ youth’s participation in group counseling, group activities, educational-based programming and in-care coordination services.

- Increase communication between primary caregivers and LGBTQ youth.

- Improve LGBTQ youth’s awareness of at-risk behaviors and susceptibility to victimization.
According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children’s Bureau, there are more than 400,000 children in foster care on any given day in our country. Over 25,000 of those children are in residential group care in the United States. In Florida, according to the Department of Children and Families, there are between 9,000 and 10,000 children who are removed from their homes every year due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. As of April 2017, Florida had more than 7,000 children living in foster homes, and over 2,000 children living in residential group care.

For the past 40 years, Miami Bridge has provided short-term emergency housing and other critical services for youth, ages 10 to 17, who are in crisis, homeless, involved in the juvenile justice system or in foster care due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. Currently, we operate a 28-bed facility in Miami and a 20-bed facility in Homestead, together serving approximately 500 families each year. On average, our youth, at no cost to either child or parent, remain within our care anywhere between 19 to 30 days. Miami Bridge is proud to have been named “2016 Best Charity of the Year” by Miami New Times.

Open 24/7/365 days, we are a diverse team of professionals with vast experience and a deep commitment to ensuring that the youth placed in our care are provided with the highest quality of services to keep them safe, help them successfully transition into permanent families and enable them to realize their greatest potential. Today, Miami Bridge employs approximately 51 full-time and 10 part-time employees, along with an invaluable pool of interns and volunteers.
EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAM

Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services provides a temporary safe haven for youth ages 10-17 who need a place to stay until they can find a permanent home and/or resolve family conflict in order to return home. The youth live in a safe, nurturing and structured environment that provides 24-hour supervision with a minimum youth-to-staff ratio of 6:1, maintaining a level of safety and creating an environment of trust. Video cameras are strategically placed throughout the building to support safety of our youth. At the same time, the family-like setting with large open spaces and natural light alleviate the institutional feel, offering a sense of welcome and warmth. Life at the Bridge provides opportunities for basic life-skill development through structure and daily living routines, educational services, counseling services, service planning and recreational/cultural activities on and off campus. The residential staff provide a consistent, nurturing and therapeutic milieu to help youth build healthy relationships with peers and adults.

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Individual Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Case Management Services
- Health & Wellness
- Recreational/Leisure/Arts & Cultural Activities
- Mentoring
- Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings
- Clinical/Mental Health Services
- Clinical/Mental Health Services
- *Please see page 22 for a description of these services.
Youth attend and participate in school on a regular basis.

Youth demonstrate a decrease in at-risk behaviors.

Youth demonstrate an improvement in their behaviors as reported by the family.

Youth demonstrate a willingness to learn or try new things.
Miami Bridge operates an accredited on-site school through Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Youth attend school on campus from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Credentialed teachers staff the on-site schools providing academic assessments, individual instruction, administration of required testing, attendance and academic reports. Based on the McKinney Vento Act, Miami Bridge has close contact with Project Upstart and ensures that youth who want to attend school in the community can do so. For youth who are 16 and older, Miami Bridge makes arrangements for them to attend Lindsey Hopkins, an accredited program that prepares the youth for a GED and/or receiving a high school diploma and future employment.
1. Children In Need of Services/Families In Need of Services - Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Contract services through Florida Network that funds youth and families in crisis for both programs.

2. Funds beds for those youth who are in the dependency system, placed in foster care and are under the supervision of the dependency court. Our Kids of Miami-Dade County is the lead agency for the funding.

3. Funds youth who are homeless or runaway. (Shelter)

4. City of Miami, Miami Dade County and City of Homestead, all provide both Public Service and Public Facilities & Capital Improvement (Community Development Block Grant - CDBG) funding to Miami Bridge. These funds continue to allow Miami Bridge to complete significant capital improvement projects i.e. installation of fire new system, new hurricane impact windows, replacement of shelter and FSFF roof, etc.

   The City of Homestead Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) have provided the ability for capital improvements as well as funded summer programs for the youth served by Miami Bridge.

5. United Way of Miami-Dade, The Children’s Trust, and various foundations such as The Primerica Foundation, Target, Roblee Foundation, The Miami Foundation, Peacock Foundation, and The Batchelor Foundation.

6. Our signature event is our Annual Gala in the Winter/Spring. We also have an Annual Luncheon in the Fall.

7. We are so grateful for local community members who contribute to our cause via our Ambassador Monthly Giving Program; and from the kindness in their hearts.
100% of the youth enrolled receive shelter, meals, clothing, hygiene and wrap-around support services as needed.

100% of the youth admitted are assessed for trauma in the areas of sexual exploitation/trafficking, domestic violence, suicidal/homicidal ideologies, mental health and behavioral issues, substance abuse, medical needs and additional health care needs.

100% of youth are referred to services to address their needs.

100% of the youth have access to individual counseling, group counseling, and/or case management services.

85% of the youth participate in the development of their service plans, provide input into programming and suggestions for improvement.
HELPING YOUTH IN CRISIS SITUATIONS... IT’S WHAT WE DO BEST!

90% of the youth enrolled in the residential program attend school on-site or off campus and are offered opportunities to attend fairs, community events, music and art therapies.

97% of youth have no arrests during services.

90% of youth receiving services are reunited with their families or another permanent connection.

90% of the youth completing the program report living at home or in an appropriate placement during a 30-day and 60-day follow up.

75% of youth completing services report attending school regularly at follow up.
## DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

### Community-Based Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Area</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INDIVIDUAL &amp; FAMILY COUNSELING</strong></td>
<td>Individual and group counseling sessions are offered weekly utilizing evidenced-based approaches such as Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Solution-Focused Counseling Techniques and Positive Action Curriculum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES</strong></td>
<td>The counselor conducts five case management activities: assessment, planning, linking of resources, monitoring of progress, and advocacy. Home visitation and engagement with the family is a fundamental component of success in ensuring the family meets their identified goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNITY OUTREACH</strong></td>
<td>Counselors spend a percentage of their time reaching out to students, teachers, and community providers to inform them of services available through Miami Bridge. Presentations are conducted at churches, schools, community centers, fairs, and upon request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNITY REFERRALS</strong></td>
<td>Miami Bridge has developed close ties with community providers. There are times when families may need specialized services in the areas of domestic violence, sexual abuse, substance abuse or require services for severe mental health disorders. Counselors contact the appropriate provider to link these services to the family and monitor or follow-up with the provider and the family to encourage participation and support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CINS/FINS ADJUDICATION SERVICES</strong></td>
<td>At the request of a parent or Miami Bridge counselor, a multi-disciplinary staff comprised of community partners, reviews the service plan. They make recommendations for additional services and assist in problem-solving and court involvement to ensure that the parent or youth is compliance. Recommendation for court involvement are utilized in extreme circumstances, when parents and/or youth refuse services, do not comply with the case plan, and all solutions have been exhausted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACADEMIC SUPPORT/SCHOOL ATTENDANCE</strong></td>
<td>The counselor works closely with the school and advocates for appropriate educational services such as tutoring, implementation of the IEP, and scheduling of meetings with parents and youth to review attendance or academic performance issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AFTERCARE PLANNING</strong></td>
<td>A key component of case planning is to ensure that, prior to case closure, the family and youth have a defined aftercare plan for the continuation of services by providers in their community. The plan includes referrals to appropriate services based on the needs of the family or youth upon discharge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY</strong></td>
<td>We provide advocacy, troubleshooting, and scheduling of meetings between the counselor and the school personnel to bridge the gap between the youth, the parent and the school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PARENTING SKILLS &amp; SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td>Classes are provided to families by a parent facilitator, utilizing the evidenced-based Nurturing Parent Curriculum. Parents are provided with workbooks and assignments. We provide in-home visits to work with the family on their individual parenting skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LGBTQ FAMILY SPECIALIST</strong></td>
<td>This Specialist provides support to the youth and works with the primary caregiver in the acceptance of the youth, promoting enrollment in educational support groups, and providing the youth the experience of socializing and feeling acceptance within the LGBTQ community and the community at-large.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RECREATIONAL/LEISURE/ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The Recreational Specialist develops a program that incorporates recreation, arts, music and theater, educational and cultural field trips, and relaxation and mindfulness experiences. Youth participate in daily activities such as yoga, volleyball, trips to museums, YMCA classes, community-service experiences, and much more.

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The counselor conducts five case management activities: assessment, planning, linking of resources, monitoring of progress, and advocacy. The coordination with a parent, caregiver or community case manager of weekend visits, medical, court, and mental health evaluation appointments is a key function.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Registered nurses provide oversight of administration of medications for youth, ensure that all youth receive dental and medical attention based on needs and ensure that off-site physician orders are followed. The nurses work with the Recreational Specialist and the staff regarding exercising, relaxation techniques, and nutritional needs.

RECREATIONAL/LEISURE/ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The Recreational Specialist develops a program that incorporates recreation, arts, music and theater, educational and cultural field trips, and relaxation and mindfulness experiences. Youth participate in daily activities such as yoga, volleyball, trips to museums, YMCA classes, community-service experiences, and much more.

MENTORING

Youth meet weekly with a consistent group of adults who conduct discussions on various topics decided by the youth, have guest speakers and show videos based on the topics. The youth experience opportunities to learn from adults with many life experiences. Additionally, upon admission, youth are assigned a mentor from the administrative team who coaches them during their stay at the shelter.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM MEETINGS

MDT consists of Counselors, RN/Health Specialists, Teachers, Shelter Director, Youth Activity Workers and other staff. Together, the team discusses each youth’s strengths and needs in order to develop strategies to address problems within the shelter environment. The team reviews the progress of targeted behaviors, service plan goals, and family interactions - making recommendations for additional services, service plan changes and behavioral interventions for youth and family.

CLINICAL/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Counselors have either a Master’s or Bachelor’s level degree in the areas of Clinical Social Work or Mental Health Counseling with some specializing in substance abuse and domestic violence areas. They are trained in Motivational Interviewing and Solution Focused and Cognitive Behavioral Therapies. Due to the short stay at the shelter, the youth receive counseling targeting the specific behaviors identified in the needs assessment. However, some youth require more frequent and intensive therapy which is provided by mental health providers in the community. Therapists come to the shelter and conduct individual sessions, and if warranted, family therapy. The purpose is to start the healing process while the youth is in the shelter with the support of MBYFS counselors. Therapy then continues upon discharge as indicated in the aftercare plan. Community mental-health services include psychiatric evaluations, medication assessments and management, crisis intervention, and in-patient psychiatric care.
2810 NW South River Drive
Miami, FL 33125

326 NW 3rd Avenue
Homestead, FL 33030

Ph. 305-635-8953
Email: info@miamibridge.org