

PROJECT GOLD

GIRLS OWNING THEIR LIVES AND DREAMS

HOW DOES Project GOLD WORK?

Project GOLD encourages girls to actively engage in services and participate in a wide array of group programs offered at the Drop-In Center. Project GOLD specialists help girls to identify, progress and meet their individualized goals, providing support and incentives for educational and employment achievements.

WHAT IS IT & WHO IS IT FOR?

Project GOLD began the first Drop-In Center in Florida and continues operating the only ones in South Florida offering safe space and individualized wrap-around services exclusively for youth who identify as female who have experienced or are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation.

Today, Project GOLD operates a home-like Drop-In Center in Miami-Dade County where members are empowered to develop their strengths in a non-judgmental, trauma-informed environment. They supported by staff who provide mentoring, advocacy, therapy, career coaching and academic support.

Project GOLD encourages referrals from public and private agencies, members of the Human Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team, caregivers and others. Referrals should include whether trafficking or at-risk behaviors are indicated and the services needed.

The Drop-in Center is open on weekdays with special after-hour accommodations provided as needed. The Drop-In Center is in an undisclosed location to protect the safety and privacy of members. For further information, please call Project GOLD at 305-547-6850.

Since its inception, Project GOLD was shaped and directed by survivor input, reflected in the program name created by founding clients: Project GOLD = Girls Owning their Lives and Dreams. Since its founding in 2007, Project GOLD has evolved to be survivor led and uses a multi-tiered mentorship approach for service delivery.

While Project GOLD works as a team for each member, we also recognize that one-to-one relationship-building is essential. Therefore, each girl who becomes a member of Project GOLD is assigned specific staff members such as a Mentor, Therapist, Youth Advocate, Academic Specialist, and Career Coach, based on their needs.

There is no charge for Project GOLD services.

Transportation is available.

**Drop-In Center Location:
Central Miami**



@KRISTIHOUSECAC

KRISTIHOUSE.ORG/PROJECTGOLD

PROJECT GOLD SERVICES

MENTORS Project GOLD has a team of trained Mentors with lived experience and expertise in commercial sexual exploitation who assist in engaging the members into services, helping them identify and engage in healthy prosocial activities and assisting to reduce high risk behaviors. Members are able to work toward facilitating groups and becoming peer mentors if they desire, once they have advanced in the final steps in the mentoring program.



YOUTH ADVOCATES provide comprehensive care management services to members through identification of their individual and family needs, linkage and referral to services, and support through the steps and activities needed to achieve their personalized goals.

THERAPISTS provide evidence-based treatments such as Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) adapted for trafficking, and Risk Reduction through Family Therapy (RRFT) for youth and their caregivers to address trauma, high risk behaviors, and family dynamics. Therapists work with members on development of coping, safety/prevention, parenting, and other necessary skills.

CAREER COACHING is also provided through Project GOLD's *Bridges to the Future* program offering individualized employment support to help members develop their knowledge, tools, and skills necessary to explore, obtain, and maintain job and career opportunities.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT & ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT services are provided by the *Bridges to the Future* Education Specialist and partners who identify, monitor, and address individualized needs, challenges, strengths, interests, goals and progress.

TUTORING is also available. Members can come in for individualized tutoring sessions while still being able to participate in some groups as needed or recommended.

GROUP PROGRAMS are offered Monday through Thursday between 4 and 7 p.m. during the regular school year and with alternate scheduling and activities during holiday breaks and in the summer.

TRANSPORTATION is key to the program and population served. Two vans transport members in both the north and the south parts of Miami-Dade County, bringing girls to a Drop-In Center for afternoon programs, individual appointments and other needs.

COMMUNITY & PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION, TRAINING & OUTREACH is available for school staff, law enforcement, community-based organizations and others. Trainings can focus on the basics or provide an in-depth examination of how to start a child trafficking response program. We focus on identification of victims, risk factors, impacts, psycho-social needs and engaging the youth. Outreach presentations are also conducted for at-risk youth including the national evidence-based *Not a Number*™ trafficking prevention program.

GROUP PROGRAMMING

SURVIVOR-LED GROUPS: Facilitated by Mentors, these groups are designed to provide a safe space for members to openly communicate with their peers in order to assist them in feeling accepted and understood. A broad range of topics are selected based on members' needs and present life circumstances. Members are able to work with Mentors toward co-facilitating groups as they advance in the program.

EMPLOYMENT CURRICULUM: As part of its *Bridges to the Future* program, Project GOLD offers a multi-module group curriculum designed to develop members' employment readiness and job maintenance skills. The employment group merges traditional work-related areas and skills with hands-on learning experiences and activities while using a trauma-informed approach.

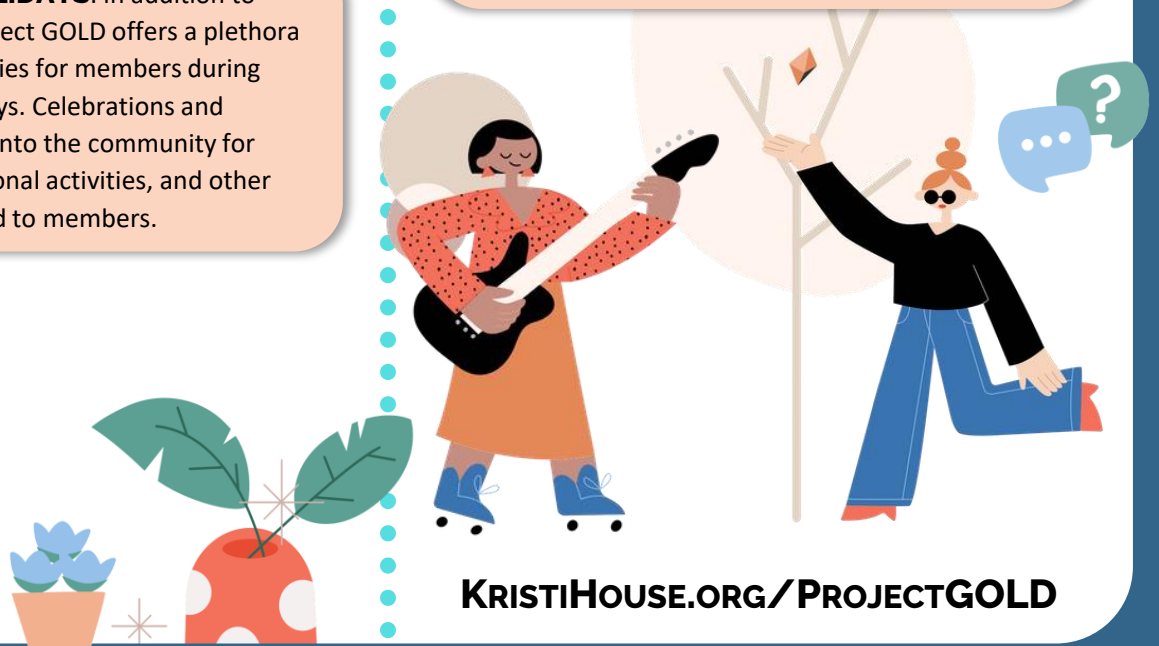
NOT A NUMBER™: This evidence-based program features an interactive, five-module prevention curriculum designed to teach youth how to protect themselves from human trafficking and exploitation through information, critical thinking, peer support and skills development.

FIELD TRIPS AND HOLIDAYS: In addition to group programming, Project GOLD offers a plethora of other pro-social activities for members during school breaks and holidays. Celebrations and holiday dinners, outings into the community for educational and recreational activities, and other special events are offered to members.

LIFE SKILLS: These groups are designed to help develop knowledge and skills pertaining to activities of daily living so that members are better equipped to meet demands and challenges of everyday life. Examples of life skills groups include Cooking & Baking, Financial Literacy & Money Management, Cultural Awareness, Interpersonal & Social Skills, Health & Sexual Education as well as Yoga, Fitness and Dance classes.

THERAPEUTIC & SUPPORT GROUPS: Psycho-education and skill development help members learn about trauma, mental health, and how to identify and manage their emotions, behaviors, relationships and conflicts in a supportive, trauma-informed environment. Grounded in evidence-based treatment interventions, groups enable members to realize and develop strengths and skills from one another as well as from the trained clinical staff co-facilitators.

PARTNERSHIPS: Project GOLD collaborates with community groups to offer specialized programs for members. A long-standing favorite is led by The Motivational Edge which focuses on lyrical expression, teaching members about composing, performing and recording music while enabling them to express themselves in a safe space.





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