

Helping Kids Discover Their Potential for Over 45 Years



There is potential born into every child and even troubled ones have the potential



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Juvenile Court Judge in Fort Lauderdale, was frustrated at seeing the same young men come before his court time and again. His only option at the time was to send them to what was then called reform school where they would stay for a time then end up right back in front of him in court. He knew from his own experiences as a camp counselor and teacher that, for these boys to turn their lives around, they would need more than to be simply locked away.



His determination to make a difference for the children who came before his court led him to contact a friend from high school and college, Bob Rosof. At the time, Mr. Rosof was the director of a research program in Boca Raton, Florida for Florida Atlantic University, called the Florida Atlantic Ocean Science Institute (FAOSI).

Judge Orlando saw an opportunity to send some of the boys he was seeing in court to FAOSI where they would be given the opportunity to work hard and be rewarded for their efforts and appropriate behavior. He asked Mr. Rosof if he would take a couple of boys into the program and put them to work on the research vessel. The staff at FAOSI provided role models for the boys and built relationships with them that helped them to see a different future than the one they were previously headed for. Mr. Rosof asked for more boys and, as a result of his and Judge Orlando's initial experiment, today over 122,000 young men and women have been given an alternative to incarceration through the programs of AMIKids.

From their early beginnings in Boca Raton, additional programs were added in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Jacksonville, Florida. As the organization grew, Associated Marine Institutes (AMI) was formed as a non-profit organization and



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the core value of putting kids first and better representing the wide range of services offered, far beyond original marine instruction.

Over 45 years later, the experiment begun by two men to help kids has evolved into a national, non-profit leader in providing kids with a troubled past the guidance and support they need to discover their potential, strengthen their community, and make a lasting impact on generations to come. AMIKids' unique combination of education, behavior modification, and treatment in a family atmosphere with caring staff help children with a troubled past turn their lives around to become productive citizens. Each of AMIKids' programs has a local board of trustees made up of local community leaders who help to make their program make a difference in the lives of the youth they serve. AMIKids staff and board members work together to put kids first and make their communities safer by positively impacting as many youth as possible.

OUR MISSION — AMIKids is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping youth develop into responsible and productive citizens. AMIKids' mission is to protect public safety and positively impact as many youth as possible through the efforts of a diverse and innovative staff. AMIKids works in partnership with youth agencies, local communities and families.

OUR VISION — Separating a troubled past from a bright future.

OUR FINANCIALS — As part of our dedication to financial responsibility and putting kids first, the vast majority of our budget goes directly to program expenses. Our donors and supporters have comfort knowing that their investment goes to improving the lives of our kids and strengthening our communities.



AMikids Named Overall Winner of the 2015 Nonprofit of the Year Awards by the Tampa Bay Business Journal

Jun 11, 2015

AMikids also awarded Best Nonprofit of the Year in the Family Services category

AMikids Inc., a nationally-recognized, nonprofit



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young people

with a

troubled past

discover their potential, was named the overall winner of the *Tampa Bay Business Journal's* 2015 Nonprofit of the Year awards. AMIKids also received a \$10,000 donation from SunTrust as the overall award winner.

OVERALL WINNER

"The honor of winning this award is a testament to the dedication of our tireless staff and hundreds of board members throughout the country in providing the opportunity for kids to distance themselves from their troubled pasts and discover their full potential," said Mark Criser, National Chair of the AMIKids Board of Trustees. "With the ever-increasing issues of crime, mistrust, and negativity facing our Nation, it is important for all of us to change the conversation from blame for the issues we face to discovering positive solutions."

"With over 45 years of experience, AMIKids is a proven solution of changing the lives of kids here in the Bay Area and throughout the Country," added Criser.





the Museum of Science & Industry in Tampa, Florida. The awards had over 250 nominees and 60 finalists for eight categories, covering Arts, Culture & Humanities, Crisis Resources, Education, Environment and Animals, Family Services, Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services over \$10m, and Public and Societal Benefit.

AMikids also was awarded the 2015 Nonprofit of the Year award in the Family Services category.

AMikids, Inc., headquartered in Tampa, FL, has five programs in the Bay Area and over 40 nationwide, offering a wide variety of services to kids and their families. Since being founded in 1969, AMikids has helped over 125,000 kids and their families separate a troubled past from a bright future and develops kids into responsible members of their communities, breaking the cycle of crime and poverty.

8+1



BOAT DONATIONS

SUPPORT OUR KIDS

Separating a troubled past
from a bright future



Andrea L.

AMIKids Pinellas

"After moving from Brazil to Florida, I dealt with culture shock, struggled making new friends, and soon fell in with the wrong crowd. I began rebelling, which turned to anger, and felt the world was against me.

AMIKids prepared me for life, the good and the bad. It helped me understand where I want to be and how to achieve it. It

At age 11, I moved with my parents from Brazil to St. Pete, FL, and moved once again a few years later to Clearwater, FL. Dealing with a huge culture shock and the challenge of meeting new friends at such a vulnerable time in my development, I had a tough time making friends, and ended up being accepted the easiest by the "wrong crowd."

Soon, I was not only rebelling against my parents, like many kids do, but external influences were encouraging me to rebel against society as well.

Rebelling led to anger, and anger led to fighting. As a result, I was enrolled in AMIKids Pinellas by the juvenile justice system. At first, I was angry, not understanding why I was pulled away from school and my friends, and felt that the world was against me.

After a short time at AMIKids, I got over the anger and started opening up to the staff. I began to realize that this is my life, and the things that I do and decisions I make are my future and will shape who I am as an individual. The Executive Director used to always say, "What happens in the dark will

was the best thing that could have happened to me and has drastically changed my life."

eventually come to light." His words influence me every day of my life and I live each day by that.

AMIkids prepared me for life, the good and the bad. It helped me understand where I want to be and how to achieve it. It was the best thing that could have happened to me and has drastically changed my life. Looking back to where those high school friends are now, I couldn't be more thankful.

After completing the program in just three months, I graduated high school and am working towards my Master's in Business Finance. I am closer than ever with my family and have an amazing man in my life who supports me in all that I do. To all of my accomplishments, achievements, happiness, and way of life I thank AMIkids for all that they do, day in and day out.

BACK TO ALUMNI



Brenton P.

AMIkids Baton Rouge

"Growing up in a single-parent home, my family struggled and I soon lost interest in school, falling in with the wrong crowd and skipping school.

At AMIkids, I learned the right way to do things and how to be a man. AMIkids taught me that there was more to the world than the small town I grew up in and that college was a realistic

"I was the oldest of five kids growing up in a single-parent family. Without a father figure and watching my mom barely able to pay the bills, I lacked direction and didn't know what to do and how to grow up. At age 15, I began to lose interest in school and fell in with the wrong crowd.

I got a job working at McDonalds to try and help my mom make ends meet, but as we continued to struggle, I felt that there were other things to do besides school. I preferred to just sleep in a bed rather than get an education.

Thanks to skipping school, I ended up at AMIkids Baton Rouge and really didn't want to be there, but the staff put their arms around me and gave me the quality time I needed to understand there was better out there for me. The men at AMIkids provided me with the structure I needed and weren't just guys off the street, they had college degrees and were fathers with thriving families. They didn't know this, but I found myself idolizing them, finally understanding the right way to do things and be a man. It wasn't just them helping out with a math problem I had, but it was the conversation that grew




successful
today.
career in
process
technology and
am a proud
husband and
father. My
proudest
moment so far
has been when
my little brother
said, 'Before you
went to college,
I had no reason
to.'"

The leadership qualities I learned weren't just something written on a board to be learned, they were a result of actually seeing and experiencing. The biggest part of their constant support was keeping me on the straight and narrow. AMIKids told me, 'don't be a statistic, beat the statistics.' I wasn't doing things just for myself, I was doing them because I didn't want to let down those that cared for me.

AMIKids changed my life, and that isn't just a saying. Every experience, everything that I have accomplished is thanks to the values and mentoring I received at AMIKids. By going to college, getting a degree and bettering my life, my baby brother told me one day, "I look up to you, you're the reason I'm going to college. Before you went to college, I never had a reason to."

AMIKids took a boy with no foundation and created one, built from a group of individuals that aren't just doing a job, but are committing their lives to benefit others like me."

BACK TO ALUMNI



Our research-driven approach helps kids find their natural born potential.

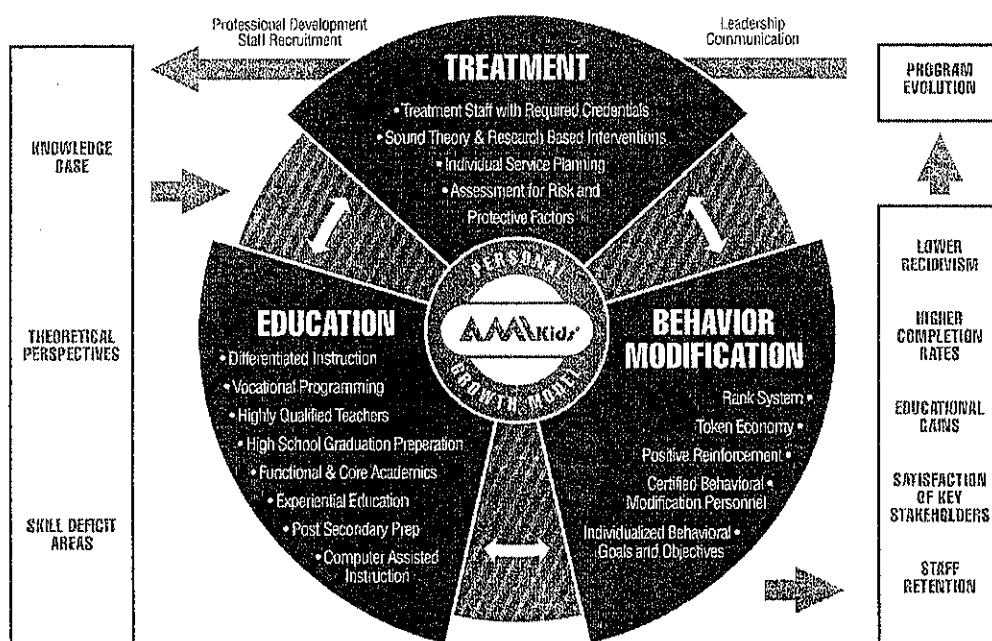
No kid is born bad. As life progresses, each one is faced with pressures and environments that can influence decisions. Fortunately for many, foundations of support through families, mentors, role models, and positive environments can guide us, providing opportunities and helping us make the right decisions.

But some kids don't have that support. There are a multitude of situations that can affect a child negatively, and dim that potential. Family issues, negative influences, and dangerous environments are just a few of many situations that can negatively affect a child's development and can lead to behavioral issues, learning disabilities, and in some cases offenses. If left untreated and punished,



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Personal Growth Model



The AMIKids Personal Growth Model © is a comprehensive approach to treatment for youth who have experienced family issues, are struggling in school and are at risk of dropping out, have demonstrated behavior that could lead to offenses, or have been adjudicated and in lieu of incarceration, have been sent to a day treatment or residential program.

The AMIKids Personal Growth Model © is designed to target and reduce the risk factors that sustain negative behavior and academic failure, improve successful program completion rates, and promote academic achievement.

The needs of each kid are different, so before services are provided through the



EDUCATION

The education component uses three primary methods to enhance learning: experiential education, project-based learning, and service learning. Participants attend classes in an academic setting, and teachers use a rigorous curriculum designed to address the participants' individualized needs and diverse learning styles. Teachers implementing this component must be certified and highly qualified on the basis of state, local, and AMIKids requirements. What helps separate AMIKids apart are four "challenge" events put on each year, providing rewards for top performers with once-in-a-lifetime experiences like scuba diving and rappelling/white-water rafting. The other two events focus on Olympic-style events, challenging our kids both academically and athletically, and allowing them to express their talents and support one another through sportsmanship and teamwork.

BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION

The behavior modification component is designed to develop or strengthen desired prosocial behaviors and eliminate or weaken antisocial behaviors through three techniques using positive reinforcement: a point card system, a token economy, and a rank system. Staff implementing this component must be designated AMIKids Behavior Modification professionals (i.e., those who have completed the AMIKids Behavior Modification System training).

TREATMENT

The treatment component is individualized on the basis of each participant's assessments, and research-based mental health and/or substance abuse interventions (e.g., cognitive behavioral therapy, motivational enhancement therapy, functional family therapy, motivational interviewing) are provided to participants, as well as their families. Participants receive group services on a daily basis, and individual and family sessions are provided on a schedule determined by the individualized treatment plan. Staff members implementing



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Providing our kids the tools and guidance to be successful is critical for their development, but finding employment is integral to sustain that positivity and achieve success. At AMIKids programs, our kids are not only encouraged to pursue their GED or catch up on their grades to get back in school, many are provided with various training and industry-recognized certifications to be job-ready when they return to their families and neighborhoods, improving the talented workforce, strengthening their community, and further inspiring them to stay on the road to success. Our programs offer a wide variety of certifications including construction, food service, welding, healthcare, information technology, and more.

In 2014, AMIKids secured funding from a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor to support the implementation of vocational education and job placement to better serve our kids and set them on a path for success. In 2015, eight AMIKids programs in Florida and South Carolina began offering training and industry-recognized certifications to bolster our communities' workforce talent and gain and sustain employment to open up a world of opportunity in their lives.



Through this grant, AMIKids students are training for and earning the following industry-recognized certifications:

Construction

Students will receive OSHA safety training and certifications to become craft professionals from the National Center for





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Food Service

Students will receive Food Handler certifications from National Restaurant Association and local restaurant associations. This certification will help participants prepare for careers in the food service industry.



Healthcare

Students will have the opportunity to be certified in EKG Technician, Phlebotomy Technicians and Medical Administration Assistants from the National Healthcareer Association. They will also be First Aid/CPR and Bloodborne Pathogen Training certified, preparing them for careers in the healthcare industry.

Information Technology

Students will receive A+ certifications from the CompTIA IT Trade Industry Association. This certification will help prepare participants for careers in the information technology industry.

How It Works

When students start with AMIKids, they will choose an industry path and create ideal career goals and outcomes. Throughout the process, local programs' students will be provided with employability skills training, mock interviews, job shadow opportunities, work readiness skills, job clubs, and industry specific mentors to help them become motivated, work-ready young adults.

AMIKids is seeking industry leading employers to provide graduates with