

Alicia Rodriguez Bower



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of former Breakthrough Miami Executive Director, Alicia Rodriguez Bower. Alicia passed away in Tampa last Friday after a long illness.

Alicia, 67, led Breakthrough Miami from 2009 to 2013. She was key to Breakthrough's program expansion at Carrollton and College Bound and successfully launched the program at Palmer Trinity. Alicia dedicated much of her life to education working as a Spanish teacher and elementary school principal at schools in Indiana. She later became the founder of the state's first Spanish

immersion program at Lindley Elementary School, and eventually went on to establish her own company developing and managing charter schools, and a preschool.

Senior Site Director Webber Charles and Managing Program Director Lauren Kellner Rudolph were mentees of Alicia's and worked with her for many years. "Alicia had a compassionate heart and spent her life caring for and educating students, Lauren said. Webber added how she took him under her wing and taught him how charter schools are run. "She was an awesome human being who believed all students deserve a quality education. We will truly miss her."

She was preceded in death by her beloved parents and is survived by three children, and six grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held in Miami on August 18, time and location to be determined. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Alicia's name can be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society at: <https://www.nationalmssociety.org/Donate>

Alicia's memory lives on at Breakthrough. Her niece just completed her third Teaching Fellowship at Ransom carrying on her educational legacy.