

What do you see when you think about Miami? Do you see and think about the beaches, malls, restaurants, hotels and clubs? Do you see South Miami, Downtown, and Bayside? Of course you do. If you're not born and raised in Miami, you'll only see what the television, magazines, and blogs show you. You see the glamour and luxury. Miami is a city with walking tourist and celebrities. The Miami you see that is. The Miami I know and see every day is not by the beaches, malls, restaurants, hotels and clubs. I see the neighborhoods, rural areas, parks, laundry mats, corner stores and little businesses. I was born and raised in the not so pretty parts of Miami. I saw the good, the bad, the beautiful and the ugly of Miami. The side of Miami you see, you'll call it the good and beautiful side. The side I've been raised you'll call it the bad and ugly. The area I am from and the areas I've been too are not as clean and full of bright lights. The areas has trash, stray animals, abandoned houses and cars, homeless people, and even other things you probably never saw at the other side of Miami. The television, magazines, and blogs don't show that side of Miami. Those areas of Miami are only exposed if something tragic has happened, someone like Barack Obama is in town or sports related. My side of Miami is never recognized. They do not recognize or acknowledge the real part of Miami. My side of Miami makes up most of Miami not South Miami, Downtown and/ or Bayside. They only value the attractions not the city itself. If you would ask someone at South Miami, Downtown, and/or Bayside to describe Miami in one word, their answer would be vacation. But if you ask someone from the other side of Miami like West Little River, Little Haiti, Hialeah, North Miami to describe Miami in one word, their answer would be home.

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