



**Candidates for Florida's Legislature to Address Tough Questions
on Mental Health, Substance Abuse & Work Release Programs**
Moderated Event Free and Open to the Public

For Immediate Release
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Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. - Bridges of America, The Center for Drug Free Living, and the Transition House will co-host a **Candidate Forum** on **Monday, October 1st at 5 pm** in the **Sheraton Suites at Cypress Creek** in **Ft. Lauderdale**. It will focus on the value and importance of programs that address **substance abuse** and **mental illness** from an economic as well as humanitarian perspective.

Did you know ... that one out of every eight people and fully 75 percent of those incarcerated in state prisons are battling a substance abuse disorder?

Moderator **Lisa Aronson** will lead the discussion and take questions from the audience central to understanding the problems Florida faces. Formerly the Administrative Aide to the **Broward County Legislative Delegation**, Ms. Aronson has also served in a marketing and admissions capacity for a substance abuse treatment center.

Voters are invited to attend this open-to-the-public event.

WHAT: Moderated Candidate Forum

WHEN: Monday, October 1, 2012
Doors Open: 4 pm
Candidate Mingle: 5 – 5:30 pm
Moderated Forum: 5:30 – 7 pm

WHERE: Sheraton Suites Cypress Creek
55 NW 62nd Street
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

(954) 772-5400

WHO: ALL Candidates for Legislative Seats from Broward County

Invited to Attend: Jeremy Ring, State Senator, Dist. 29
Soren Swenson, State Senator, Dist. 29

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Christopher "Chris" Smith, State Senator, Dist. 31
Smithmyer, Christopher "Chris" State Senator, Dist. 31

Rita Gambardella, State Senator, Dist. 33
Juan Selaya, State Senator, Dist. 33
Eleanor Sobel, State Senator, Dist. 33

Ellyn Bogdanoff, State Senator, Dist. 34
Maria Sachs, State Senator, Dist. 34

Oscar Braynon II, State Senator, Dist. 36

Gwendolyn "Gwyn" Clarke-Reed, State Representative, Dist. 92

Gerri Ann Capotosto, State Representative, Dist. 93
George Moraitis, State Representative, Dist. 93

Scott Herman, State Representative, Dist. 94
Perry E. Thurston Jr., State Representative, Dist. 94

Hazelle P. Rogers, State Representative, Dist. 95

Jim Waldman, State Representative, Dist. 96

James Gleason, State Representative, Dist. 97
Jared E. Moskowitz, State Representative, Dist. 97

Katie Edwards, State Representative, Dist. 98
Cara Christine Pavalock, State Representative, Dist. 98

Elizabeth Anne "Libby" Eddy, State Representative, Dist. 99
Elaine J. Schwartz, State Representative, Dist. 99

Joseph "Joe" Gibbons, State Representative, Dist. 100

Shevrin D. Jones, State Representative, Dist. 101

Sharon Pritchett, State Representative, Dist. 102
Alejandro Manuel Walters, State Representative, Dist. 102
Jessica Fortich, State Representative, Dist. 102

Manny Diaz Jr., State Representative, Dist. 103
Josue Vazquez, State Representative, Dist. 103

Douglas "Doug" Andrew Gordon Harrison, State Representative, Dist. 104
Richard "Rick" Stark, State Representative, Dist. 104

Raul Rene Robayna, State Representative, Dist. 105
Carlos Trujillo, State Representative, Dist. 105

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About Bridges of America

Bridges of America has a 32-year successful history as the oldest criminal justice substance abuse treatment provider for adult male and female offenders in the State of Florida. The program was established on the holistic approach to recovery, and predicated on the 12-Step Model. Its unwavering purpose has been a commitment to providing thousands of felony offenders the opportunity for rehabilitation and reintegration into their communities as law-abiding and tax-paying citizens.

Bridges of America was founded by Frank Costantino, an ex-felon who served a 22 ½ year prison term for burglary and other related crimes. Upon his release, Frank founded "Christian Prison Ministries" to share the Gospel with other prisoners. In 1980, Frank opened up the first "after-care" resident program in Orlando to provide that bridge. What started as a local ministry has now parlayed into a worldwide vision that serves over 1000 men and women daily. Lori Costantino-Brown, Frank's daughter, now continues to provide the vision and leadership of Bridges of America. In Florida, multiple Bridges facilities are located in Orlando, Bradenton, Broward, Auburndale, and Jacksonville. **We believe people can change.**

For more information, visit www.bridgesofamerica.org

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