



**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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Orlando, Fla. - Bridges of America, The Center for Drug Free Living, and the Transition House will co-host a **Candidate Forum** on **Thursday, September 27th at 7 pm** in the **Auditorium** of **Edgewater High School**. 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 **Fred Leonhardt** of the **GrayRobinson** law firm will lead the discussion and take questions from the audience central to understanding the problems Florida faces.

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

WHO: Candidates for Legislative Seats from Orange County
Invited to Attend: Ashby, Sean, State Representative, Dist. 50
Bracy, Randolph, State Representative, Dist. 45
Brooks, Bob, State Representative, Dist. 47
Dentel, Karen Castor, State Representative, Dist. 30
Gardiner, Andy, State Senator, Dist. 13
Goodson, Tom, State Representative, Dist. 50
Hays, Alan, State Senator, Dist. 11
Heinzelman, Heinie, State Representative, Dist. 45
McBride, William, State Senator, Dist. 14
Oliveira, Ronney Roger, State Representative, Dist. 45
Pena, Marco, State Representative, Dist. 49
Pennington, Christopher Charles, State Senator, Dist. 13
Plakon, Scott, State Representative, Dist. 30
Saunders, Joe, State Representative, Dist. 49
Seide, Fritz Jackson, State Senator, Dist. 12
Soto, Darren, State Senator, Dist. 14
Stewart, Linda, State Representative, Dist. 47
Thompson, Geraldine F., State Senator, Dist. 12

WHAT: Moderated Candidate Forum

WHEN: Thursday, September 27, 2012
Doors Open: 6 pm
Candidate Mingle: 7 – 7:30 pm
Moderated Forum: 7:30 – 9 pm

WHERE: Edgewater High School
3100 Edgewater Drive
Orlando, FL 32804

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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