



**Back to School Family Day at Bridges of America Welcomes Hundreds
of Family Members for School Supplies and a Visit with Elmo
Featuring Sesame Street Curriculum – Little Children Big Challenges: Incarceration**

For Immediate Release

August 8, 2013

Contact: Beth Watson

Email: BWatson@sachsmedia.com

Phone: 407.219.3157 (o) 407.421.0469 (m)

Orlando, Fla. – The Orlando Bridge, which consists of a Transition Center, Work Release facility, and a non-secure facility for substance abuse diversion treatment, all part of the acclaimed Bridges of America network for adult male and female offenders in the State of Florida, will welcome family members on Saturday, August 10, 2013, for “Back to School Family Day. Games, lunch, school supplies, Sesame Street curriculum, and family photos with Elmo will be part of the festivities.

The purpose of the event is to support the reunification of families with an incarcerated loved one and to introduce children to the Sesame Street curriculum, Little Children Big Challenges: Incarceration. It is part of the existing, quarterly Family Day schedule.

WHAT: “Back to School Family Day” with Elmo from Sesame Street

WHO: Bridges of America inmates in transition and work release; clients in non-secure substance abuse diversion treatment, and family members
“Walkaround” Elmo from Sesame Street
Department of Corrections Senior Staff
Elected officials
Representative Randolph Bracy
Representative Karen Castor Dentel
Representative Victor Torres
Orange County Commissioner Tiffany Russell Moore
Bridges of America staff/volunteers

WHEN: Saturday, August 9, 2013

Family Registration: 8:30 am

Welcome: 9:30 am

All Activities: 10 am – 2 pm

Includes Elmo photos, backpack handouts, games, lunch, and entertainment.

Note: All visitors must be off-site by 3 pm.

WHERE: The Orlando Bridge
Bridges of America, Inc.
2041 Mercy Drive
Orlando, FL 32808

MEDIA: PLEASE CONTACT BETH WATSON FOR INFORMATION ON PARKING AND ENTRY

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

###