



Just a few short weeks ago, the 2013 Florida Legislature adjourned after addressing a hefty list of priorities, including education, healthcare, environment, and workforce issues. We were most concerned, of course, with issues that are related to incarceration and public safety.



For the most part, Bridges of America had a successful legislative session. Working in conjunction with our partner the Florida Smart Justice Alliance, we saw the passage of funding for electronic monitoring of inmates in privately operated work release programs, and a significantly enhanced level of awareness on important Smart Justice concerns.

The budget approved by lawmakers includes \$3.78 million for electronic monitoring, which will enhance public safety while helping keep inmates on the "straight and narrow." Electronic monitoring was a strong recommendation of both Governor Scott and the Smart Justice Alliance, and we endorsed it enthusiastically.

Another priority issue was a Smart Justice bill that would have provided most Florida-born inmates with ID cards upon release to help them establish law-abiding lives. The measure also would have encouraged greater use of faith-based prisons for inmates who wish to turn their lives around. The proposal won near-unanimous approval from the Florida House and unanimous support from two Senate

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bradenton Bridge Graduation

Thursday, May 23
11AM - 2PM

Orlando Bridge Non-Secure Graduation

Thursday, May 23
7PM - 9PM

Orlando Bridge TC Graduation

Thursday, May 30
10AM - 1PM

Broward County & Turning Point Bridge Graduation

Thursday, June 6
10AM - 1PM

National Partnership for Community Leadership 15th Annual International Fatherhood Conference

June 11 - 14

Like us on Facebook 

committees, but time ran out on the legislative session before it could reach a vote in the full Senate.

We work all year to prepare for the legislative session by building relationships, inviting lawmakers to tour our facilities, and by helping to educate our leaders on the important work we do every day. Hopefully, the 2014 legislative session will allow for the ID cards initiative and the measure encouraging faith-based programming to pass and become law.

As we all know, nearly everyone in Florida's prisons will be released someday. What's best for Florida - from both cost-saving and public safety perspectives - is that when inmates are released, that they have the training and tools in place to successfully rejoin the workforce and their families.

Sincerely,

Lu Costantino Brown

President and CEO

Follow us on [twitter](#)

EMPLOYMENT SPOTLIGHT

The Jacksonville Bridge



Jacksonville Bridge program participants Robert (L) and Keith (R) are both employed by Floor Trader. Check out what their supervisor had to say about them. We are very

proud of you gentlemen!

My name is Paul Burton and I am the manager at The Floor Trader of Jacksonville, Florida. We hired two of your inmates from Bridges of America. I have to say that this decision has got to be one of the best decisions we have ever made for our business. Not only are they always on time, and always have a positive attitude, they carry themselves in a professional manner at all times. Robert is the first one we hired, as a salesman. (WOW) I have never seen another new salesman jump off to a more amazing start. As of today he is the top salesman in the corporation and in the running for the best in the nation, out of 140+ stores. His attitude is always professional. Customers love Robert, and he has a stellar work ethic. I and all of his co-workers enjoy working with him.

Keith is the second we hired. Robert told us he would make a great asset to the team, and he was he right. Keith is the hardest and most organized warehouse person we have had in two years. As he learns more and more about our operations work I can see him as a future Warehouse Manager. He came in brand new, and in the short time he has been here, he has achieved many corporation certificates for outstanding work ethic and safety procedures. My team here at the Floor Trader is so very happy and proud to have these young men working for our business. We hope that the Jacksonville Bridge is as happy with them as we are.

The Bradenton Bridge



Heidi opened store 219 and will soon be training new servers! Heidi is outstanding in her approach to guest service! She practices Passionate Hospitality and takes

great care of our guests!



Kelly is always there to run food or help a Teammate! She is superb at her job but most importantly has such a great attitude and is a pleasure to work with!

www.bridgesofamerica.com

Bridges of America is a nonprofit organization founded in 1972 with the mission of changing criminal behavior through a practical, comprehensive approach that includes intensive substance-abuse counseling, parenting classes and work-release programs. Bridges' core value is a belief that people can change.

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to kkuehn@bridgesofamerica.org by change@bridgesofamerica.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Bridges of America | 2001 Mercy Drive | Orlando | FL | 32808



Try it FREE today.