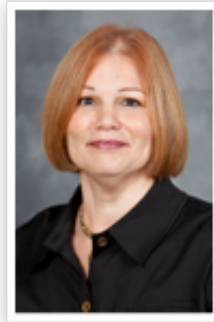


Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



**Welcome 2014!**

Everyone comes out of the winter holidays with big plans for the new year. Maybe you are planning on a job change, to spend more time with your family, or - the most popular - making healthier choices. Even if you don't plan to make big changes in your life, January is a good time to pause ... reflect ... and renew the commitment to goals.



For [Bridges of America](#), 2013 was a year of growth, change, and new beginnings. I want to take just a moment to touch on some of the highlights of an outstanding year.

**We've gone global.** In mid-2013, we expanded our work to include [Bridges of Canada](#). Bridges of Canada was founded by the late Monty Lewis, who was an acquaintance of my father, the late Bishop Costantino. In 2012, when Monty's health began to fail, he reached out to me to assume the presidency and continue to reach out to "the least, the lonely, and the lost" in and around Fredericton, New Brunswick. Since that time, we've purchased a new property and made plans to expand programs. We're very proud of the work being done above the border, and look forward to great things to come.

**We welcomed Elmo.** We were thrilled to be asked



to participate in a pilot program developed by Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind [Sesame Street](#), when they unveiled their bilingual (English/Spanish) initiative, [Little Children, Big Challenges: Incarceration](#), for families with young children (ages 3-8) who have an incarcerated parent to develop skills for resilience. We've distributed the materials to families in all our facilities, and plan to do some follow up this year to gauge effectiveness. We are hopeful for additional partnering opportunities with this worldwide brand.

**We opened a new facility in Jacksonville.** With the anticipated awarding of new contracts in Jacksonville, we knew years ago that the old facility would be too small. So in 2011, we broke ground on a new facility that features state of the art educational and vocational facilities. Though we've been open since December 2012, we are looking forward to welcoming [Department of Corrections Secretary Mike Crews](#) to the [Jacksonville Bridge](#) very soon for an official ribbon cutting and grand opening. Stay tuned for further details!

**We are growing in Florida.** In 2013, we were awarded the oversight of existing work release facilities located in Lake City, Santa Fe, and Cocoa. We will officially assume responsibility for each of these locations later this spring/early summer. These acquisitions will make Bridges of America the largest private provider of transition and work release services in the state.

**We continue to see successes with our inmates and clients.** 2013 was also a record year for graduations and certifications. Across Florida, hundreds of men and women in our care received some level of achievement - either a high school diploma, culinary certification, or completion of a number of types of curriculum aimed at preparing them to return to freedom. I'm so grateful to our staff for their continued dedication to turning lives around.

Next week, we will also be participating in the [3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Justice Summit](#) presented by the [Smart Justice Alliance](#). I'm proud of the leadership shown by Bridges of America and all the [partner organizations](#) in bringing together all the various factions of the criminal justice system in Florida to discuss and make recommendations for improvement.

I wish you all the best in 2014 and am deeply grateful for your continued support of Bridges of America. May God bless you all abundantly.

Sincerely,

*Liz Costantino Brown*

President and CEO

[www.bridgesofamerica.com](http://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](#)



Try it FREE today.

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

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