



## *2014 Christmas for Kids*

Dear Friends and Family:

As we begin preparing for the holiday season I cannot help but think back to the first Christmas my father was behind bars. I was six years old and my siblings were four, two, and a newborn baby. My mother was unemployed and we often did not know where our next meal was coming from. I knew better than to expect anything for Christmas. The kids at school were talking about family holiday plans and lists for Santa, and I was wondering when our lights would be turned on again. We went through the same routine for the next five years.

I would never wish that sadness upon anyone, let alone a child.

This December thousands of children will visit a parent at one of our [13 programs](#) throughout the state. The families will enjoy a nice meal, take photos with Santa, and spend the day playing games and enjoying each other's company. At the conclusion of the day, each child will leave with a brand new wrapped Christmas gift. For many of the children, this is the only gift they will receive, and the only holiday celebration they will experience.

We need your help to ensure Christmas Family Day is special for every family who walks through our doors. Every dime of your donation will be used to provide gifts and holiday parties for the children.

You can [donate online](#) or mail a check payable to Bridges of America to the address below. Please note Christmas for Kids in the memo line.

In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "It is in giving that we receive."

Thank you for helping those who need it most.

God Bless,

*Lori Costantino-Brown*

Lori Costantino-Brown  
President

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If you have any questions about this project, contact [Kat Kuehn](#) or the [Chaplain](#) at the facility nearest you.

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