

BRIDGING BORDERS



WITH INMATES

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BRIDGINGBORDERWITHINMATES.COM



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Letter from the Founder

Bridging Borders with Inmates is a project which symbolizes freedom, independence, and resiliency for all incarcerated individuals in their families.

It is a project which empowers individuals with complex barriers to gain the confidence and the tools of resiliency to persevere in their lives and future.

We at BBI believe that individuals who have been incarcerated have the skills and the abilities to be competent, successful, proactive members of society if given the opportunity and we want to be a part of their journey.

We want to help them along their journey and thank you for joining us as we support them in becoming the best versions of themselves.

As the founder of BBI, working with individuals who have been incarcerated has been my entire heart and I am so honored and privileged to work with all of you.

If you are a service provider, a lawyer, and an advocate, and you are pursuing supporting our clients with us and empowering them along their journey. I commend you and thank you for this courageous pursuit in advocating for a life of independence, freedom, and resiliency.

To my lovely teammates who have placed their heart, courage, and spirit into this project – it is a great honor to serve alongside you.

If you are someone who is incarcerated and you are reading this, I want to remind you that you are Valued, You are Important and You deserve to live a good life beyond your mistakes and the challenges you've faced that have brought you to this point. To all the young boys and girls who are reading this, I want you to believe that you have a chance to be whoever you want to be, with the right amount of help and curiosity, and that success belongs to those who can dream.

We are all interconnected, we are all each other's keeper and incarceration affect us all, as a society, as a community, and as a person.

Sincerely,

Allynn Georgina Louidor

HISTORY:

Bridging Borders with Inmates was launched in 2019. The founder Adlynn Loudor was invited to a federal institution to facilitate a workshop on African Canadian history for Black history month and a former inmate who is now deceased told her he did not believe he merited second chances because of the mistakes he had made.

She then made it her mission to advocate and support individuals who have been recently incarcerated and show them that there are second chances and launched Bridging Borders with Inmates.

MISSION:

Bridging Borders with Inmates is a non-profit organization that aims to support individuals who have been incarcerated, at-risk youths who have experience with criminal activity, and inmates and their families. We offer this through advocacy and resettlement services, trauma-informed support groups, and personal development workshops and programming. All our programs and services are free of charge.

VISION:

Bridging Borders with Inmates hopes to reduce reductivism and help individuals who have been incarcerated become the best versions of themselves while leading them to a positive life that consists of stability and wellness.

VALUES :

- ✓ Empathy
- ✓ Culturally Competent and Trauma-informed Solutions
- ✓ Resiliency and Trust
- ✓ Integrity and Transparency
- ✓ Being Intentional
- ✓ Strength Based Centered
- ✓ Active Listening
- ✓ Faith in People
- ✓ Resiliency



PRE-RELEASE PROGRAM:

Through the Bridging Borders with Inmates Offenders Pre-Release Program, we can support inmates back into their communities and assist with deportation cases.

- ✓ Advocacy
- ✓ Telephone Support and Counselling
- ✓ Family Navigation

We help with the following:

- ✓ Bail Plans and Program Support Letters
- ✓ Surety Support
- ✓ Advocacy Services for children experiencing risks of suspensions and expulsions: these young individuals and/or their families often come into contact with the police because of situations related to mental health issues or illnesses and family financial barriers



Resettlement Services:

This is advocacy for individuals who have been incarcerated and are about to be deported. We offer support to their families and offer case management and advocacy to support their case.

In-Person Advocacy and Mediation:

This service is for individuals who are currently incarcerated and require mediation support and advocacy with their institution

POST-RELEASE PROGRAM:

The Referrals to Community Affiliates is to increase community awareness about the strengths and challenges facing offenders and their families during incarceration and upon reintegration back into the community.

Advocacy Services:

We offer support wrap-around case management and resettlement support services for incarcerated persons and their families. We help individuals who are currently incarcerated get support with bail plans and surety support. We also help find housing, and employment programs and support with mental health resources, and help with registering IDs, OW and ODSP.

- ✓ Educational and Skill Development
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Financial
- ✓ Housing Services
- ✓ Legal Services
- ✓ Mental Health Services
- ✓ Follow-up Support

PROGRAMS:

Bounce Back

Bounce Back is a 7-week financial literacy program that teaches incarcerated individuals about the fundamentals of managing money and how to become successful entrepreneurs. During the program, inmates will learn skills in business management, how to market themselves as leaders, and get proper funding for their businesses. After completing the program, they will get an opportunity to have a 3-week placement opportunity with a BBI partner-affiliated business of their choice.

Our Common Thread- Women

We have biweekly support groups for individuals who have been previously incarcerated who struggle with PTSD, anxiety, and depression, and multifaceted mental health barriers. This support group aims at giving healthy coping tools and is a support system for individuals who have had experience being incarcerated and identify as female. This support group is peer focused and will be supervised by a BBI staff.

Writing Literacy Workshops:

We offer monthly writing workshops for individuals who have been incarcerated. This support group aims at giving tools and is a support system for families who are struggling emotionally due to their family members being imprisoned. We also have a support group centered that is for youths who have been incarcerated. This support group is peer focused and supervised by BBI staff.

SERVICES:

Case management and literacy workshops for individuals who have been incarcerated and who have an interest in writing.

Read to Me

We offer a monthly book club in which BBI staff and inmates will have an opportunity to meet as a group and discuss various topics.

Other Services Providing:

The Bridging Borders with Inmates can attend Institutional Fairs to support holistic approach to safer and restorative reintegration practices:

- ✓ Health Fair
- ✓ Pre-Release Fairs
- ✓ Events

Our Common Thread- Men

We have biweekly support groups for individuals who have been previously incarcerated and who struggle with PTSD, anxiety, depression, and multifaceted mental health barriers. This support group aims at giving tools and is a support system for individuals who have experienced being incarcerated and identify as male. This support group is peer focused and will be supervised by a BBI staff.

Coming Home to Home- co-ed

We have a biweekly support group for families of individuals who are either currently incarcerated or who have been incarcerated.

Workshops

We offer a variety of workshops centered around mental health, personal development, financial literacy, and employment preparation



PRE-RELEASE PROGRAM:

- ✓ Inmates are welcome to participate on a voluntary basic once they are following their correction plan, or best 1 to 3 months prior to release.
- ✓ As a group leader to understand the program for your group.
- ✓ One can repeat the session only if less than the institution require amount are registered in the upcoming session.
- ✓ One can register by their PO, SPO, Job Fair, Health Fair, Black History Celebration, Telephone call, or others.
- ✓ Program is design for inmates being released in the Greater Toronto Area but not limited to.



SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES



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