BRAVE NEW FILMS
CREATING MEDIA THAT MAKES AN IMPACT
Annual Report 2013
Dear Friends and Supporters,

This is the time of year when we look back on the past year and plan for the year ahead. Our goal is to figure out what worked, what didn’t work, and how we can adjust, improve, and change.

One of the most challenging and fascinating aspects of media political work is staying ahead of the phenomenal pace of distribution changes. I still remember when we decided to take a risk and experiment with this new thing called YouTube — and when we committed some of our limited resources to a platform called Facebook.

Equally challenging are all of the adjustments as the political landscape continues to change. We have to continuously ask ourselves a few key questions. What can we do that is not being done? What can we do that will help the progressive movement in general? How can we help connect the dots between issues? And how can we provide support and media tools to our progressive allies?

So take a look at the specific reports and summaries from the War Costs, Cuéntame, and Beyond Bars teams. What do you think? Were we able to impact the way people talk, think, and engage on issues? Did we add value to the existing work of others? Were we able to continue to play a leading role in framing and initiating as we have done with Iraq for Sale, Walmart: The High Cost of Low Price, Rethink Afghanistan, and Koch Brothers Exposed?

Your support is invaluable to us and we welcome your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions.

Cheers to a productive and impactful year ahead,

Robert Greenwald
Founder & President
Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for another year of unbridled support for our work. Together, with your help and the partnerships of over 100 organizations, we have activated millions of people around important social issues.

This year, we produced two full-length original documentaries, something we have never attempted before. Our distribution methods for those films varied greatly. With War on Whistleblowers: Free Press and the National Security State, we had our world premiere at the Newseum in Washington, DC, before opening in theaters in New York and Los Angeles. Just a month after our premiere, Edward Snowden revealed what our government has been doing behind our backs and became the newest whistleblowing hero. We then created a discussion guide for the film and showed the film for free at colleges around the country.

For Unmanned: America’s Drone Wars, we took a different approach. We premiered the film in Pakistan and then flew Rafiq ur Rehman and his children to the United States to testify before Congress. It was the first time drone survivors appeared in person before the U.S. Congress to talk about their injuries and the murders of their family members by drones. It was an emotional day. At the same time, we released the film free of charge online. As a result, tens of thousands of people downloaded the film and many watched it with friends. The film was also shown on every Pakistan TV network, the DVD was offered for free online and we are creating an expanded college outreach program for the film in 2014.

Our Beyond Bars and Cuéntame projects continued to grow with focuses on private prisons, inequality in drug sentencing, immigration reform, and other issues you will read about in this annual report. The issues covered by these projects are essential to the well-being of our country. Everyone at BNF is grateful that you have given us the ability to bring these issues to the forefront. Educating people around these issues, promoting discussion, and shifting consciousness are key goals of our organization.

As you can see from the front cover, we have gone through a name change. After nine years we have dropped the word “Foundation.” Our 501(c)3 non-profit will now be known as Brave New Films. Our 501(c)4 will be known as Brave New Films Action Fund. We look forward to talking with you and hearing from you in 2014. As always, we could not do this work without your support!

Thank you,

Jim Miller
Executive Director
War Costs is an international effort to expose the financial and human costs of U.S. military and intelligence policy.

Through full-length films, short videos, and social media, we reveal the entrenched corruption and misguided nature of U.S. foreign policy and the expansion of the national security state. This corrosive influence of the military-industrial-congressional complex has left us with a fractured foreign policy and an oppressive domestic surveillance regime while making our weapons the most prominent face of the United States abroad. The two films we produced this year, War on Whistleblowers: Free Press and the National Security State and Unmanned: America’s Drone Wars, expose the deep personal costs to those who are on the front lines of misguided foreign pursuits, those who are on the receiving end, and those brave enough to resist our burgeoning military state.

Through personal stories, we reveal how our military policies have been warped by corporate influence and the ideological belief that we can kill our way to security, resulting in an opaque and hyper-aggressive national security state.

War on Whistleblowers was produced to expose the threat to press freedom that has been waged through a relentless crackdown on whistleblowers and journalists. Our goal was to show that the national security state preempts and dominates the White House on the issues of leaks and whistleblowing. We used stories of whistleblowers Thomas Drake (former NSA), Thomas Tamm (DOJ), and others in conjunction with journalists and experts on government oversight to highlight the Obama administration’s persecution of whistleblowers who threaten government secrecy.

Brave New Films aimed Whistleblowers at policy elites, officials, and politicians to examine the explosion of individuals being persecuted by the Obama administration under the guise of the Espionage Act. We started our distribution and promotion early relative to the Edward Snowden leaks, but feel strongly that Whistleblowers provided a framework for elites to view and digest Snowden’s revelations.

The national success of Whistleblowers is evidenced by its circulation. It premiered in Los Angeles, New York, and Washington DC in front of elites, policymakers, and journalists. Since its premiere, it has been screened at scores of colleges across the nation and garnered thousands of requests for DVD copies.

As 2013 comes to a close, the Snowden revelations have forced the Obama administration to review the overreaching collection of data by the National Security Agency (NSA). Recently, the presidential panel reviewing the NSA has called for broad changes in both foreign and domestic spy practices that will potentially curtail the NSA’s activities. Snowden’s revelations would likely not have been as successful if it were not for whistleblowers like Thomas Drake and Thomas Tamm who originally uncovered intrusive domestic spying by the national security state.

Unmanned: America’s Drone Wars is our full-length piece that focuses on the latest iteration of America’s “War on Terror.” With the political environment unfavorable for drawn-out wars, the Obama administration committed itself to a “smarter,” more “targeted” “War against Al Qaeda.” The face of this warfare is the class of unmanned aerial vehicles, most commonly referred to by their model names: predator and reaper. Unmanned revealed that this latest form of warfare is indiscriminate (killing upwards of dozens of civilians in a single strike) and counterproductive (it is the leading recruiting tool for Al Qaeda). It amounts to little more than a policy of extrajudicial killing in mass.

In the 2012 presidential election, drones entered into the debate only once — serving as a point of agreement between Mitt Romney and Barack Obama. Many gave the Obama administration a free pass and endorsed targeted killings as an effective way to combat terrorism. We wanted to force people to confront an issue that was being all but ignored in the public debate. Our strategy was to put a face on the policy and bring to light the stories of those most affected by our so-called “targeted” policy. We effectively emphasized that drones are merely an extension of the failed belief that we can kill our way to security.

In order to build a piece that would have a distinguishable impact on the policy, we constructed a multi-layered campaign that equally emphasized production, press, distribution, and outreach.
HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR

War Costs’ biggest highlight of the year was the congressional briefing. War Costs worked with distinguished House member, Alan Grayson, to hold a formal congressional briefing for members of the press to showcase the true human cost of the CIA’s drone campaign in Pakistan. Here, members of the Rehman family were given a venue to share their story about a drone strike that targeted their home and killed their matriarch. It was the first time survivors of a drone strike were given a direct voice to congress and the American media was able to expose the realities of drone warfare.

MEDIA

The key to our successful promotion and distribution was our strategy to stimulate media interest through traditional and alternative means. Through these efforts, War Costs generated over 4,000 press hits with TV, broadcast news, and print.

UNITED NATIONS

In the months leading up to the release of Unmanned, our production and outreach teams worked closely with the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Killings, Ben Emmerson, as he was working to release the initial findings of his investigation into drones strikes. This relationship was symbiotic as his office used our interview material to supplement its findings and screened Unmanned to an audience at the United Nations.

INTERNATIONAL SCREENINGS

During the production phases of Unmanned, it became overwhelmingly apparent that there was international demand for work examining militarized drones. Protests against drones and extrajudicial killings were carried out from Pakistan to Yemen to Australia to the United Kingdom. We determined that it was necessary to hold screenings not only in the policy centers of the United States but also in London and Islamabad to garner the attention of elites and policymakers at an international level.

New York City

10/30/13
100+ attendees
Panel moderated by Amy Goodman of Democracy Now

Washington, DC

10/28/13
100+ attendees
Including press, members of partner organizations, and Congressional staffers

London

11/16/13
Private screening organized by Jemima Khan, attendees include Russell Brand, Tom Watson, Christiane Amanpour, John Frieda, Mick Jagger, Mendi Hasan, among others

Islamabad

10/26/13
Attended by 250, premiere shown on college campuses and broadcast on Pakistani National Networks GEO TV, ARY, Dunya
War on Whistleblowers: Free Press and the National Security State

War on Whistleblowers highlights four cases where whistleblowers noticed government wrongdoing and took to the media to expose the fraud and abuse. It exposes the surprisingly worsening and threatening reality for whistleblowers and the press. The film included interviews with whistleblowers Michael DeKort, Thomas Drake, Franz Gayl and Thomas Tamm and award-winning journalists like David Carr, Lucy Dalgish, Glenn Greenwald, Seymour Hersh, Michael Isikoff, Bill Keller, Eric Lipton, Jane Mayer, Dana Preist, Tom Vanden Brook and Sharon Weinberger.

IMPACT

60 screenings were held on college campuses across the country

390 people donated over $17,000 to help produce the film

4,500 DVDs requested

Premiered in 3 cities
Unmanned: America’s Drone Wars

Unmanned: America’s Drone Wars is a feature documentary by director Robert Greenwald and Brave New Films that examines the impact of U.S. drone strikes on the ground. Based on over 100 interviews with victims, witnesses, and community leaders in Pakistan, the film investigates the impact of drone strikes including a recent attack in October 2012 in North Waziristan, Pakistan, which killed and injured several civilians.

Over 600 people donated to help finish the film and bring the drone victims to the US

Over 28,000 people streamed the film

Received over 800 press hits

Over 6,000 people tuned in to live stream the Congressional Briefing

IMPACT
Cuéntame, which translates to “count me in” or “tell me your story,” is an online media platform and documentary project aimed at empowering the Latino community around its most pressing issues. From tackling worker abuse to immigrant rights and social inequality, Cuéntame tells these powerful, poignant, and personal stories in order to mobilize toward a more just society. Cuéntame’s goals have been designed to fearlessly lead the space in the creation of social and campaign media and video material, and through an array of diverse partnerships to engage our community. Ultimately, it is precisely through these personal stories that we are able to make a long-lasting impact.

Over the past year, the Cuéntame team worked tirelessly to inform, engage, and mobilize Latino audiences and communities at large to fight for the protection of worker rights through its successful Latino Voces series. When we first started Latino Voces, we wanted to try an innovative yet challenging approach: to combine traditional on-the-ground organizing and the establishment of new partnerships with our media and documentary approach to maximize the effect on both policy and the advancement of our working community. We witnessed an increase in employer abuse and exploitation in the hotel, farm, and toxic management industries. Latino Voces provided critical support toward advancing the rights of these communities.

We knew that these issues were related to what was happening on the immigration front. We saw a window of opportunity for the advancement in the immigrant rights arena as well. Building upon the 2012 momentum, we developed a strategy that would focus on putting immigrant human rights in the forefront of the national debate — correlated to the dialogue around immigration reform. Through our Deport Hate and Border Inc. short documentary series, Cuéntame was able to strongly push back against immigrant rights abuses and expose how the increases in security measures, military presence, and corporate contracting were leading us to even more potential for abuse and persecution.

Yet, we understood that these forces were interrelated with a corrosive public discourse. After witnessing a strong anti-immigrant and anti-Latino agenda infiltrating the national narrative over the past few years, Cuéntame fought back. We created the series If You Don’t, They Will — an exposé of the continuous drumbeat of anti-Latino sentiment and the rejection of multiculturalism under the guise of protecting national unity and security. This series featured the players behind these attacks, their despicable comments, and the truth behind a nativist agenda.

In fact, this language was having a detrimental impact on our youth and student community. We knew that in order to empower our community we needed to provide security and information to our next generation. This is why Cuéntame created a series of short videos that would educate students and Latino youth on effective ways they could access regularization/legalization tools and effectively support their path toward higher education.

Our work could not be possible without the use of some of our strongest assets — our half a million supporters. It is through their dedication, power, voice, and activity that we were able to deliver campaign efforts that resulted in concrete successes. Whether it was an exposé of nativist groups that effectively caused the resignation of board members (CAPS), or the prevention of case-by-case deportation and separation of families cases, or a successfully negotiated agreement of hotel workers and their employers in Arizona; our supporters fought the important fights as we were leading the way through many battles.

This didn’t come easy. One of our biggest lessons learned — one that we identified early on — was the danger of spreading our message too thin, which in turn would dilute our impact potential. In the first half of the year we rearranged our priorities to create an intersection of issue efforts to build a larger integrated narrative. In turn this effectively created more concrete opportunity areas and a unified approach. Furthermore, it opened up possibilities to developed local approaches were the impact is more targeted — such as the case of hotel workers in Arizona.

The realization of this potential and an example of our capacity through our years of work came as an early surprise: the response to a Super Bowl ad that challenged the perceived societal and media images of farmworkers in the United States. It truly was a wake-up moment. Latino immigrant working youth who were exploited in the fields and misrepresented, ignored, or vilified in the media provided the perfect symbolism to everything we were fighting for. We were able to produce a swift and incisive video response that had a nationwide impact. Not only did it promote a real discussion about our current community and perceptions in society-at-large but in some ways it reinforced our core mission and strategy to “tell creative stories” and get Latinos “counted.”
ALERTA: In 2012, the Latino community was negatively used as a political and social wedge. The overall goal of Alerta was achieved by creating a national narrative that denounced these hate attacks. We placed emphasis on highlighting how shameful it is to use Latinos as subjects of political hate.

LATINO VOCES: This year, we specifically focused on migrant workers’ rights. We highlighted different industries that are dominated by Latinos. We began by developing content on the hotel & hospitality, restaurant, and retail industries. The result was a series of effective videos that advanced the narratives of family well-being, worker rights, security, and social justice.

ON CAMPUS: At the intersection of identities, On Campus focuses on Latino students and the very specific struggles they undergo in pursuing higher education for a better life. Many first- and second-generation immigrants desire educational success and achievement at the university and community college levels but face very real and very particular obstacles in financing their education amidst budget cuts, course reductions, and limited resources.

IMMIGRATION: This year, we focused our campaign on looking into Latino identity as it relates to immigration. Through this lens, we explored the rising nativism across the U.S. We aimed to reverse the trend of strong anti-immigrant and anti-Latino political agendas, by focusing on the positive contributions by Latinos to American communities and economies.

“God Made a Farmer” Ad – K, We Fixed It
During the Super Bowl, Dodge Ram ran an ad on farmers that did not present a realistic portrayal of the contemporary U.S. farming industry. According to the USDA Census of Agriculture, 96% of the nation’s farm managers are white, but the workforce is 70% from Mexico. We fixed the ad to represent this demographic.

Reach: 800,000+ Views: 85,000+ Engagement: 60,000+

“The Most Outrageous (racist) Excuse to Deport this Mother of Three”
ICE tried to deport a mother of three all because the neighbors complained about barking dogs. With no criminal record, is it right that she was so arbitrarily deported and separated from her children?

Reach: 200,000+ Engagement: 40,000+

“The ‘Border Surge’ Means an Extra 48 Billion Dollars Devoted to Making this Worst”
The constant call for stringent border militarization, drones, and additional security is inflicting a high human cost. With more than 2,000 deaths at the Arizona border a humanitarian crisis was afoot. We partnered with the ACLU in response to the crisis.

Reach: 300,000 Views: 50,000 Engagement: 60,000+
At Brave New Films, we believe the United States thrives when it has strong communities. Yet our nation is now weakening communities by locking people up at a higher rate than any country on earth. Solutions involving rehabilitation, crime prevention, and job opportunity have proved to be more cost-effective for taxpayers.

Our answer to this state of affairs is Beyond Bars, our award-winning media campaign to inform and engage Americans on mass incarceration. Beyond Bars exists to enhance the movement for reform through storytelling, particularly visual storytelling. Our team has created videos, shareable graphics, blog posts, and social media posts to transform perceptions and inspire action.

Of course, to be effective requires more than strong storytelling. It also requires strong strategy. Our approach has been to partner whenever possible with reform organizations to ensure maximum impact. Groups have distributed our work online and offline in ways that advance their own goals as well as ours. Knowing that the reform movement crosses ideological boundaries, we’ve tailored our work for a variety of audiences, from progressives to churches to fiscal conservatives. Although our specific goals change from initiative to initiative, Beyond Bars is always working to create a sense of urgency around curbing mass incarceration — fostering policies that are less about building prisons and more about building strong communities. That’s the North Star.

In 2013 we had a number of achievements, including concrete policy victories. For instance, we stopped an effort by the GEO Group, a notoriously abusive private prison company, to put its name on Florida Atlantic University’s football stadium. That move would have helped to normalize for-profit incarceration. Our rapid response campaign combined blogging, video, petitions, phone calls, national partnerships, coordination with student activists, and event turnout. The deal got cancelled.

More victories happened through out state-level advocacy work. One video promoting Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) programs in New York State was shown to Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s policy staff while the 2013 budget was being written. The governor’s office responded with $7 million more in ATI funding and a dedicated funding stream. Something similar happened in Texas, where we educated Tea Party legislators through a video on putting less money into reforms. A prime example is our Prison Profiteers video series, which spotlighted six institutions making money off of mass incarceration and working behind the scenes to keep the system intact. These profiteers include private prison companies, a phone company, a medical provider, the bail industry, and even law enforcement officials abusing their ability to seize assets. Our goal here was to raise the salience of mass incarceration for the progressive base, and to meet it, we partnered with the ACLU and The Nation magazine on distribution. In all, we’ve had about 170,000 views, 40,000 petition signatures (mostly to the FCC on prison phone rates), four shares from the virality site Upworthy, and coverage from numerous outlets including The Nation, Alternet, Truthout, Colorlines, Andrew Sullivan’s blog, Common Dreams, Real News Network, Policy Mic, several radio shows, and Business Insider.

Another example on the educational front is “Redemption of the Prosecutor.” This 22-minute film, paired with a discussion guide, was designed to engage Christians on a deep level. It highlighted a prosecutor who quit his job after going to teach in prisons and coming to believe that his work was contradicting the Gospel. We partnered with the United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ to generate screenings. We’ve now had about 300 screenings nationwide, and there are more to come. The short film got media coverage in religious outlets including Sojourners, Patheos, and Justice Unbound, along with coverage in progressive outlets like Alternet and Current TV.

Beyond Bars undertook many additional projects in 2013. There’s the video honoring the 50th anniversary of the “I Have a Dream” speech with a call to action on mass incarceration. There’s the video being used to organize a progressive victims’ network in California. There are the pieces on youth justice, on county justice policies, on the drug war implications of the TV series Breaking Bad — and far too many more to list here.

Crucially, our video campaigns have been supplemented with social media. In the current media landscape, producing videos isn’t enough, and Beyond Bars has made ample use of new media opportunities. Our various social media posts — which include original blogging, links to news stories, and shareable graphics — sometimes give direct support to the video initiatives and sometimes provide additional stories to keep our audience informed and engaged.
Our primary platform for social engagement has been Facebook, on which we have more than 21,000 followers. In 2013, users saw our content more than 25 million times. And they engaged our content by sharing, commenting, or liking it about 620,000 times. The original graphic of ours that performed best was on Rep. Trey Radel, the congressmen caught with cocaine. He got treatment instead of incarceration — a courtesy that should be extended to the 500,000 non-congressmen currently behind bars for nonviolent drug offenses. That graphic got nearly 18,000 Facebook shares.

We’ve also used Twitter and other platforms to expand our reach. But whichever platforms we use, the aim is never to use technology for its own sake. Rather, it’s to leverage technology to achieve impact on a crucial issue. If the United States is to adopt a more humane and cost-effective approach to public safety, Americans will have to permit it. Indeed, they’ll have to demand it. That’s happening more and more on mass incarceration, Brave New Films’ Beyond Bars campaign has become an important piece of the movement to inspire such a change.

**IMPACT**

*“Stop the GEO Group from Naming a Stadium”*
We were able to defeat an effort by the GEO group, a notoriously abusive private prison company, from having its name on Florida Atlantic University’s football stadium. In coordinating with national partners and student activist to we successfully pressured the school to cancel the deal.

*“These New Yorkers went to prison over and over. Then this thing happened”*
Our video on Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) programs in New York was shown to Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s policy staff while the 2013 budget was being written. The governor’s office responded with $7 million more in ATI funding and a dedicated funding stream.

*“Smart on Crime: The Texas Way”*
We educated Tea Party legislators in Texas on the need to renew and expand state reforms that were putting less money into prison and more into prevention and rehabilitation. This video was part of a policy briefing and vigorous advocacy effort by local groups. The needed bills got passed.
## IMPACT

### WAR COSTS
- Total Press Hits: **4,203**
- Press Reach: **1,808,148,895**

### CUÉNTAME
- Total Press Hits: **77**
- Press Reach: **43,226,932**

### BEYOND BARS
- Total Press Hits: **149**
- Press Reach: **59,743,123**

### FACEBOOK REACH
- Total Press Hits: **4,429**
- Total Press Reach: **1,911,118,950**
- Total Facebook Likes: **300,000+**
FINANCIALS

**Income**
- Foundations – 1,415,000
- Major gifts – 1,083,968
- Email list – 166,250
- Content – 58,057
- Total – 2,723,275

**Expenses**
- Program Services – 2,426,453
- Administration – 159,143
- Fundraising – 216,698
- Total – 2,802,294
Partners

Mission and Vision

The vision of Brave New Films is an open democratic society that encourages rigorous debate, opportunity, and justice for all.

Our mission is to champion social justice issues by using a model of media, education, and grassroots volunteer involvement that inspires, empowers, motivates and teaches civic participation and makes a difference.