

Osborne at a Glance

What We Do

The Osborne Association offers opportunities for individuals who have been in conflict with the law to transform their lives through innovative, effective, and replicable programs that serve the community by reducing crime and its human and economic costs.

History

Founded in 1931, by Thomas Mott Osborne, an industrialist and former mayor of Auburn, New York, who went on to become a progressive warden at Sing Sing in 1914 and was known as the "pioneer of prison reform."

Executive Director

Attorney Elizabeth Gaynes, Executive Director of the Osborne Association for the past 25 years, is a nationally recognized expert on criminal justice policy. In 2004, she along with her daughter Emani Davis, was the first American nominated for the World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child, for their work defending the rights of children with parents in prison.

Persons Served Annually **6,500**

- 90% of clients are African American and Latino.
- 90% of clients arrive unemployed.
- 60% of Employment and Training clients are placed in jobs.
- Osborne helps more than 2,000 families each year.

Budget FY 09-10 **\$14.6 million**



National Data

- Incarcerated people in the U.S. **2.3 million**
- Released annually **700,000**

**The 2005 Report of the Reentry Policy Council shows a significant decline in recidivism when formerly incarcerated people are offered employment, family support and/or drug treatment.*

Programs

Adopting Healthy Lifestyles

Osborne helps individuals overcome the health challenges that accompany incarceration through drug treatment; prevention; testing and counseling for HIV/AIDS and hepatitis; and assistance to quit smoking. We help people living with HIV/AIDS to obtain housing. We also provide health education and support services to women with incarcerated partners.

Achieving Economic Independence

Osborne helps individuals affected by the criminal justice system to find and keep that critical first job. We approach job candidates and employers as clients, and provide support services after job placement. We prepare and place candidates in jobs with a living wage, in targeted growth industries, while also leveraging tax incentives for employers.

Reconnecting Families

Osborne helps people to make, mend and maintain relationships with their families while incarcerated, increasing the likelihood of successful reentry into their families and communities after release. We support families in prison and in the community through parenting education, counseling, support groups, and an information hotline.

Reducing Reliance on Incarceration

Osborne works with court-appointed attorneys to advocate for alternatives to incarceration for felony defendants, including juveniles. We provide culinary arts and computer skills for people returning from jail to the community, along with discharge plans that help individuals access services upon release. We also help long-term prisoners take responsibility for their crimes through a restorative justice framework.

Strengthening Communities

Osborne increases public safety, while promoting a fair and just society through working with individuals and families that are disproportionately affected by crime, and leading various community-based initiatives to promote systemic reform of policies that present barriers to the successful reentry of our participants.

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