

The Osborne Association

In 1913, Thomas Mott Osborne, an industrialist and former mayor of Auburn, NY, spent a week in Auburn prison as prisoner Tom Brown, #33,333x. He lived just as other prisoners did and left that harrowing experience committed to the goal of turning America's prisons from "human scrap heaps into human repair shops." First as warden of Sing Sing and later as founder of the Mutual Welfare League and the National Society of Penal Information, Mr. Osborne became known as the "pioneer and prophet of prison reform." The Osborne Association was established in 1931 to continue his work.

Today, the Osborne Association furthers its founder's goal of a criminal justice system that "restores to society the largest number of intelligent, forceful, honest citizens" by providing a broad range of treatment, education, and vocational services to more than 5,500 people each year, including people who are currently or formerly incarcerated, their children, and other family members. Programs are offered in community sites in New York (Bronx, Brooklyn, and Beacon), as well as in courts, jails and state prisons.

The Osborne Association



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BRONX SITE & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

809 Westchester Avenue
Bronx, NY 10455
718-707-2600 Fax: 718-707-3102
Prevention and Treatment Services
Employment and Training Services
Janitorial Maintenance and Food Services
Reentry and Reintegration Services

BROOKLYN SITE

175 Remsen Street, 8th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-637-6560 Fax: 718-237-0686
Court Advocacy Services
Services for Children, Youth and Families
Employment and Training Services
Jail-Based Services (Fresh Start/RIDE)
Reentry and Reintegration Services

BEACON SITE

380 Main Street, Suite 200
Beacon, NY 12508
845-440-7924 Fax: 845-440-7435
Family and Fatherhood Services
Prison-Based Services (HIV/AIDS prevention,
transitional planning and support services)
Reentry and Reintegration Services

HELPLINES

Family Resource Center
A toll-free hotline for families and friends of people
incarcerated in New York State
Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm
(800) 344-3314

Tobacco Quitline
A DOCS-approved collect call helpline for people
incarcerated in New York prisons who want to quit
smoking.
Mon - Thurs 3pm - 8pm
(718) 624-8423

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*Transforming
Lives,
Communities,
and the Criminal
Justice System*

OSBORNE IS COMMITTED TO...

Adopting Healthy Lifestyles

Osborne's **Prevention and Treatment Services** provide a holistic approach to managing health-related challenges, including drug/alcohol/tobacco use, chronic health conditions, and mental illness. Based on a comprehensive assessment, individuals are offered services that provide an appropriate level of care and support. Osborne's prevention and treatment services are evidence-based, utilizing cognitive behavioral interventions and approaches specific to criminal justice involvement.

El Rio (The River), a highly structured, medically supervised, certified intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment program, offers an alternative to incarceration or re-incarceration for those mandated to treatment by the court, probation or parole. El Rio also has a specialized treatment track focused on supporting younger participants and addressing marijuana dependence.

For those who would benefit from a lower threshold approach to treatment and reentry support, Osborne provides education and counseling, support groups, HIV and general health education, case management, on-site medical testing including TB screening, and assistance in accessing benefits and health care. Housing placement assistance is available to those living with HIV/AIDS.

Osborne connects community and prison with **Get On The Bus**, enabling women in intimate relationships with incarcerated men to access HIV prevention and health education services as part of visiting support and transportation to and from prison.

Prison-based strategies include educational and transformative health services, such as HIV/AIDS counseling, discharge planning, HIV rapid testing, prevention education, and tobacco education, including a collect call Help Line for people in prison seeking help to quit smoking.

Achieving Economic Independence

Osborne offers comprehensive **Employment and Training Services** to people with criminal records. These include vocational and educational assessments, career counseling, job readiness workshops, resume preparation, skills enhancement, job search and placement assistance, referrals for social services, hard skills training, and academic advancement, and support adjusting to workplace demands.

Osborne can place program participants in a wide array of employment opportunities, but places special focus on "green jobs" and positions in the food service industry.

Workers are encouraged to return for referrals for additional services or better jobs after their first successful placement. Osborne secures employment for hundreds of men and women each year, offering employers a no-cost recruitment service.

Osborne also offers direct placement and employment into its **Janitorial Maintenance Services** and **Food Services**. These businesses provide custodial services to public facilities and businesses throughout New York City, and food preparation and delivery for other nonprofit organizations. Osborne's enterprises in food services and janitorial maintenance offer formerly incarcerated men and women the opportunity for training, experience, and living wage employment with benefits.

Reconnecting Families

Osborne's **Family Services** help people make, mend, and maintain the meaningful relationships in their lives.

FamilyWorks repairs and strengthens the ties that may be broken when a father is incarcerated through a comprehensive fatherhood program including parenting education and family counseling in city and state correctional facilities, child-oriented visiting centers at several men's prisons, and community-based services for families. FamilyWorks utilizes proven approaches known to reduce trauma for children and families and improve outcomes for incarcerated parents, including courses on Healthy Relationships (for men) and Healthy Marriage (for couples in committed relationships).

Family Ties facilitates visits for children and their mothers at Albion Correctional Facility, New York's largest women's prison, offering parenting skills courses to incarcerated mothers, visiting support for their children, and family cohesion support upon release.

The **Family Resource Center** offers family and friends of people in prison a toll-free hotline staffed by formerly incarcerated individuals and family members, as well as support groups, information, and referrals to services during incarceration and following release. Osborne operates a pilot project at Queensboro Correctional Facility, a state prison in New York City for men who are close to release, providing a family-focused reentry program to reconnect and prepare families for the challenges of returning home.

Children affected by the incarceration of a family member receive support designed to help them overcome stigma and isolation and reach their potential. Services include individual and family counseling, support groups, mentoring, tutoring, supervised visiting, assistance in accessing higher education, and peer-led development activities. Children benefit from activities and support from volunteers, including parishioners at St. James' Episcopal Church, the New York Presbytery, and other faith and community-based organizations.

Reducing Reliance on Incarceration

Court Advocacy Services (CAS) assists felony defendants, including juveniles being tried in adult courts, represented by assigned and institutional defenders in New York City. CAS staff conducts pre-plea and pre-sentence investigations of defendants' backgrounds to ascertain mitigating circumstances, and then advocates client-specific sentencing alternatives including treatment or community-based sanctions. For those sentenced to prison, CAS may continue to advocate for needed services during and after incarceration.

Longtermers Responsibility Project is a pilot project offering an opportunity for men and women serving long sentences to gain insight, take responsibility for their crimes, and prepare for their eventual release. The program utilizes a restorative justice framework in individual and group settings in selected prisons.

To reduce rearrest and re-incarceration of men serving short sentences on Rikers Island, Osborne provides transitional planning and aftercare services, enabling participants to access services immediately upon release as part of the **Rikers Island Discharge Enhancement (RIDE)** initiative of the NYC Department of Correction.

For highly motivated RIDE participants, Osborne's **Fresh Start** program provides cognitive skills, job readiness, parenting education and vocational training, including computer literacy and culinary arts education. The culinary arts program covers all aspects of food preparation and leads to a food handler's certificate.

Strengthening Communities

The Osborne Association advocates for system reforms that divert people from incarceration to treatment, provide effective programs during incarceration, and remove barriers to community reintegration upon release.

Osborne provides leadership to the **New York Initiative for Children with Incarcerated Parents (ICIP)**, a collaborative system reform and advocacy effort that brings together public and private agencies and individuals concerned about how the arrest and incarceration of parents affects children. The Initiative examines criminal justice and child welfare policies and recommends changes that will improve outcomes for children at each stage of the process from their parents' arrest through incarceration and reentry.