

ABOUT

For over 40 years, the Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, Inc., has been providing a home-like alternative to jail for young men awaiting disposition of various criminal charges. Conceived by a Westchester judge and school teacher who recognized the need for early intervention in the lives of young offenders, the YSOW was formally incorporated as a not-for-profit in New York in 1975. Its initial mission was to formulate a plan and solicit funds for a temporary shelter or residential facility for youth prior to trial.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

Our residential program is a 12 bed facility located in lower Westchester County, NY that serves over 150 young men ages 18-24 annually. The length of stay is determined by an individual's willingness to participate and their sentence/charges. During their stay at the youth Shelter our young men participate in structured programming that uphold these core principles, discipline, self respect and respect for others while promoting unity and teamwork.

COMMUNITY AFTER CARE PROGRAM

Once a youth is discharged from our facility this is when our community aftercare team kicks in to ensure positive reintegration. Our community aftercare team provides ongoing case management and support for youth for a minimum of one year.

Our two program structures of residential and community aftercare are rooted in 5 major program elements: clinical, education, vocational, community services/volunteerism and family reunification. As these combined program elements allow us to holistically service our young men to restore, refine and reshape their future outlook.

“ **BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES, ONE SAVED YOUTH AT A TIME** ”

SINCE OUR INCEPTION IN 1978, THE YOUTH SHELTER

ANNUALLY SERVES

150 youth on average via both our residential and aftercare programs.

ENSURES THAT LESS THAN

20% of our youth are rearrested or reoffended through ongoing community programming

ENCOURAGES A 90%

Pass/improvement rate on all of our academic standardized testing to ensure all of our youth are on track to obtain their High school equivalency diploma



OUR YOUNG SCHOLARS

YSOW serves young men between the ages of 18-24 involved in the juvenile justice or adult justice system. Our young men deal with innumerable challenges, inclusive but not limited to lack of housing stability, trauma, family issues, medical issues, and mental health/substance abuse issues. Residents will fully participate in therapeutic programming to address any/all clinical aspects, educational challenges, along with social and emotional activities. These areas support appropriate reintegration of the residents back into the community and align with supportive services through our Aftercare program upon release.

Qualifications of a YSOW applicant:

1. 18-24 years old involved in the juvenile justice or adult justice system
2. Eligibility pre-screening for each applicant (a 3 step intake process)
3. Referral from DOCCS, Judges, Attorneys or Criminal Justice agents (Probation, Parole, etc.) -an alternate commitment of sentencing is required for our residential program.
4. Evaluation of Commitment and term to be served

Please note our aftercare community based program serves both young men and women between the ages of 18-24.

LEADERSHIP



JOANNE DUNN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Dunn is the first woman to lead this organization since its incorporation in 1975. She has over 15 years of proven experience managing and executing human services programming throughout Westchester County, NY and beyond. Joanne is a dual recipient of the Peekskill NAACP outstanding service to youth and families award. In addition, has received numerous awards and recognition for her outstanding community service to youth and families throughout her career. She is a 2017 recipient of the Business Council of Westchester 40 under 40 Rising Star Award and a 2019 graduate of Leadership Westchester .

She provides a nurturing environment that involves enthusiasm, flexibility, creativity and a willingness to change adapt and overcome. As for most people, challenges often become road blocks and the story ends there but not for Joanne she dives head first into adversity. Her motto in life is "Shoot for the moon and if you fall short you will still be amongst the stars... and with God all things are possible."

JORDAN CORMIER
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

Jordan Cormier, a youth development expert with a demonstrated history of working in non-profits, management and in criminal justice reform programming that directly impacting young people. As a 2020 Emerging Leaders graduate, Jordan has a strong vision of utilizing all of the tools necessary to align positive youth development and restorative approaches to justice to foster transformative opportunities for young people. She firmly believes that "young people are resilient and with positive opportunities, they become Phoenixes rising from the ashes."

