

Osborne Today

A report from the Osborne Association
Winter 2002

FamilyWorks Mends Ties Frayed or Broken by a Father's Incarceration

Keeping a family strong is never easy. So imagine the challenge when a father—or son, or brother—lives hundreds of miles away. When he hasn't been home for years—or for decades. When love for him mingles with shame and sorrow for something he's done, and rage over the consequences. And when, upon his eventual return, idealized fantasies about family reunion crash headlong into the reality of actual family life.

This is the challenge of being a prison family, and for 15 years the Osborne Association's FamilyWorks program has helped New York State families meet it. A pioneer in its approach to serving prison families, FamilyWorks was recently named a Semifinalist in the 2001 Innovations in American Government competition sponsored by the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

FamilyWorks was founded in 1986 on the then-revolution-



For 15 years, FamilyWorks has helped families like the Fergusons (Darren, Kathy, and their daughter) stay close.

ary conviction that incarcerated fathers can parent successfully from prison and play an important role in their families' lives. While other programs were already in place to serve imprisoned mothers and their loved ones, FamilyWorks was the first comprehensive parenting program in the United States for fathers incarcerated in a state prison, and remains one of just a handful to address the fact that the overwhelming majority of prisoners—94 per-

cent—are men, more than half of whom have at least one child and nearly one third of whom have two or more.

Contrary to stereotypes, many of these fathers lived with and supported their children before being imprisoned; in Osborne's own research, well over half of the incarcerated fathers surveyed lived with their children before their arrest. But no matter what the degree of these men's past parental

continued on page 2



Father Shares Love, Lessons, and Values Behind Bars

When Samuel Hamilton was incarcerated 19 years ago, his daughter, Nykia, was just six months old. Though his love for his "baby" never waned, he worried that they didn't really know one another, even though he visited with her fairly often.

Then, seven years ago—a few years after being transferred to Sing Sing—Sam enrolled in FamilyWorks' basic parenting class.

"I'd been hearing about the program, and I wanted to find out if I was parenting from prison the right way," he says.

According to Nykia, the man for whom she'd always felt great affection became even more lovable after graduating from the course.

"I felt a change," she recalls. "He turned into a better listener, responded in a more understanding way. I could tell him my problems without his getting upset, and that was a comfort to me."

continued on page 3

By the time this letter reaches you, the events of September 11 will have lost some of their raw immediacy, but none of their horror. For us here at Osborne, as for so



Letter from the Executive Director

many others in New York and across the nation, it was at first hard to return to the daily routine that includes work—even work to which we are deeply committed and in which we firmly believe. Inevitably, we paused to wonder how we could marshal the necessary spirit and focus in the face of such tragedy.

This, of course, is just what the terrorists wanted: a demoralization that can sap energy and call all into question. They wanted something else, something even worse, as well: not just to demoralize, but to dehumanize, by committing murder on so vast a scale that the singularity of each human being who perished risked being lost in the enormity of the toll.

But they failed. Their failure was manifest in every service celebrating memories of a loving husband, doting mother, devoted brother, cherished friend. It was evident in the flyers posted all over the city, each displaying the face of a friend or a loved one whose eyes conveyed an entire life's history. It was underscored in every profile in the newspapers and on TV and radio: the chef who concocted treats for his favorite niece; the temp worker who plucked the banjo; the accountant who was also a disco-dance champion and her sister's Lamaze coach.

These memorials, which moved me and my Osborne colleagues to tears,

also mobilized us back into action, for their poignant specificity reminded us, yet again, of the precious individuality of our clients' own lives. Some may dismiss, and thereby dehumanize, the people we serve by labeling them simply as "prisoners" or "prisoners' families,"

defining inmates by the worst act they have ever committed and caring little for the loved ones who have been left behind. But we insist, because we have come to know them well, that each of our clients be considered as a unique human being—a father, a husband, a wife, daughter, son, parent, sister, or brother—with a life as complex as any lived by a person who has never been involved with the criminal justice system. Our founder, Thomas Mott Osborne, committed himself to this principle when the twentieth century was still new, and we stand committed to it now.

We had chosen Osborne's FamilyWorks program as the subject of this issue of **OsborneToday** well before the terrorist attack. Now, sadly, the program's goals—to mend family ties broken by a father's incarceration—seem more pressing than ever as September's tragedy reminds us of each family's power—and fragility. The imprisoned man who longs to reconnect with his children, the prisoner's child who grieves for her absent father, the prisoner's wife coping with loneliness—each of them seeks the salve of a strong family, and each of them *matters*. Honoring their potential to support and love one another is FamilyWorks' way of honoring all human life, and of building the kind of world we want to live in. ■

FamilyWorks continued from p. 1

involvement, FamilyWorks asserts that their family ties can be established, sustained, or improved from behind prison walls—and that these ties are essential to the children left behind.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, more than 1.5 million Americans under the age of 18 have at least one parent in prison or jail; across the nation, one child in 40 has an incarcerated father. And as hard as it is for any child to be without a father, having a father behind bars is even tougher. "Children with absent fathers are at greater risk than those whose fathers are present for teen pregnancy, drug use, poor grades, incarceration, and suicide—all of which appear to be magnified when the absence is due to imprisonment," reports the National Center on Fathers and Families.

FamilyWorks addresses these risks by helping the people best qualified—the child's mother *and* father—address the grief, confusion, and rage that a father's absence can cause, and offer the balm of reassurance, guidance and love.

Strong family ties are important for the incarcerated fathers' futures, as well. New

FamilyWorks was founded on the conviction that incarcerated fathers can parent successfully from prison and play an important role in their families' lives.

York State's Division of Parole estimates that 80 percent of parolees who end up being re-arrested and sent back to prison are released to unstable situations, not to welcoming family homes, and research consistently links positive family ties with significantly increased chances that a prisoner will succeed after his release from prison.

One way FamilyWorks strengthens family ties is its novel four-month parenting class, now taught at Sing Sing, Shawangunk, and

Woodbourne Correctional Facilities, prisons housing a total of nearly 3,800 men. Over the course of 16 weekly classes, the curriculum covers such topics as child development, the impact of substance use, communication skills, and ethics and moral reasoning.

The course is far from easy. It requires students to read works by such thinkers as Maslow and Erikson, write extensively, and role play intensively. Perhaps hardest of all, they must delve deep psychologically, plumbing the past to comprehend how their own boyhoods shaped the ways they have parented.

As insight grows, the students' perspectives can change dramatically. "It's understandable that these men, being human, want to focus on their own situation

and block out the impact their incarceration has had on their families. But they come to realize that being a parent is not about their own selfish needs," says Carl Mazza, Ph.D., who teaches the basic parenting class.

Tom Alexander, Downstate FamilyWorks Coordinator, says this shift of mindset lets the men direct their focus away from themselves and onto their children and other family members. "They're able to ask, 'What do *you* need from *me*?'" says Alexander. "They know that they can't provide for their families financially, but they can provide spiritually and emotionally."

Phone calls, letters, and visits all improve with this new perspective, helping to strengthen family relationships. And at Sing Sing and Woodbourne, Osborne's Children Centers provide an opportunity for specially trained graduates of the parenting program to share what they've learned with other inmates and

prison family members. Set off from the main visiting rooms and stocked with books, games, and computers, these quiet havens permit fathers and children to enjoy time learning and playing together in a cozy and home-like setting.

Beyond the classroom and the playroom, FamilyWorks staff reach out to support students and graduates of the basic parenting class and two others (an advanced parenting



Children's Centers provide quiet, cozy havens for incarcerated fathers and their children.

course and a course on preventing domestic violence) with one-on-one counseling to pursue issues that emerge in the classes.

Support is also available for prison family members, who can call or visit FamilyWorks' community-based Family Resource Center (FRC). Located at the program's Brooklyn office, the FRC is a hub for information on New York State prisons, a source of referrals for a wide range of services, and a gathering place where families can draw strength by uniting with others who share common experiences and a common cause. (See story, page 4.)

Finally, when incarcerated fathers return home—as 90 percent of all inmates do—FamilyWorks is there to help ease the transition as the initial elation of release subsides into a far more complex scenario: stressful times as families struggle to define a

continued on page 8

Profile continued from p. 1

"The course gave me some direction," Hamilton agrees. "It helped me understand what my daughter was going through, and why."

Visits with other family members took on a new dimension, too. "I looked forward to visiting him more, because he seemed happier. He had lots of things to discuss, and got my daughter involved, so it felt like he was more a part of her life," says Denise Maynor, Nykia's mother and a bookkeeper at a major law firm. She says she particularly appreciated Hamilton's ability to answer Nykia's questions about his imprisonment and ease her fears about a situation that was, after all, "the only thing she'd known all her life."

Hamilton and Maynor were fortunate in that their basic values always meshed, and that they shared the same hopes—and expectations—for their daughter. Still, it helped Maynor immensely to know she could rely on Hamilton to play an active role in reinforcing their mutual parental stance.

For example? "He's always told me that I have to be my own person, think for myself, and choose my friends wisely," Nykia says, adding that "he made me understand where my mother was coming from when she told me to not to hang out with kids who did stuff I thought was wrong."

Another thing Hamilton and Maynor agree on is education. "My dad really pushed me about school and grades," Nykia says, recounting the many hours they spent going over homework, and, later, discussing career choices, the studies they necessitated, and the colleges best suited to their pursuit. It's no wonder Hamilton puts so much emphasis on Nykia's education: he himself received two degrees while in prison—a bachelor's degree from Nyack College and a certificate in ministry and human services from the New York Theological Seminary.

He's also pursued "higher studies" in fatherhood, taking FamilyWorks' advanced parenting and domestic violence courses after graduating from the basic parenting class, and training to

continued on page 5

Family Resource Center Opens

On January 24, 2001, the Osborne Association's Family Resource Center (FRC) officially opened its doors at FamilyWorks' Brooklyn headquarters to welcome more than 100 guests including activists, city and state corrections officials, social service providers, media representatives, former prisoners, and men, women, and children with loved



Actor Glenn Close and Frank Headley, Deputy Commissioner for Program Services for the New York State Department of Correctional Services, attended the FRC opening.

ones behind bars. All were on hand to celebrate the inauguration of a unique new community-based resource to help New York State prison families stay connected with incarcerated family members, prepare for and adjust to their return home, and build a community of mutual support that fosters individual growth and collective action.

Glenn Close was the keynote speaker at the event. Best known for her work as an actor, Close has also been an advocate for prisoners and their families since filming a documentary in the mid-1990s at the Bedford Hills Facility for Women. It was there that she met Precious Bedell, a former prisoner—and prize-winning poet—who played a major role in helping to launch the FRC. Close spoke movingly of the inmates she

had come to know, and of the struggles they and their families face daily.

The toll-free hotline at the heart of the FRC is designed to help families surmount those difficulties. The hotline (800-344-3314), which currently fields about 100 calls a month, offers prison families what FRC coordinator Alison Coleman calls "Prison 101." "We provide answers to all the questions a person might have about the New York State prison system," Coleman says. This information—specific to each of the 70 facilities in the state's far-flung system—includes detailed data about such subjects as visiting hours and protocols, transportation and lodging, mail delivery, and transfer policies. "Our 800 number is unique in the nation," Coleman reports.

"No other agency offers the whole picture for an entire state."

Necessary as such information is, it's rarely sufficient. "The questions that people first call with are not



Alison Coleman, FRC coordinator, is an advocate for prison families throughout New York State.

always what's most important to them," Coleman says. Asking for facts may feel safest to someone who has taken the first brave step to demolish the fortress of silence and shame erected around a loved one's incarceration, but a caller's deepest need may be for support, understanding, and caring. That's why it's common to hear an FRC

hotline volunteer ask a caller frantic about a loved one, "First, tell me, how are you doing?" In initial phone calls that often last 15 minutes or half an hour, and in follow-up calls that deepen the relationship, FRC staff

and volunteers provide support both emotional *and* practical—not just about navigating the prison system and strategizing about complex problems, but also about issues such as landing a job that will support a family, renegotiating a soon-to-expire lease when the original signator is in prison, coping with an existing or nascent substance

abuse problem, or obtaining counseling for oneself or one's children. The Center also welcomes walk-in visitors who need information or help when in crisis.

Many times, the FRC can refer clients to Osborne's own programs, such as South Forty Employment and Training Services or its substance use treatment programs. But when requests fall outside the scope



Lee Johnson, now on the FRC staff, started out as a volunteer.

Staff and volunteers at the Family Resource Center provide practical and emotional support.

or geographic area of Osborne's services, the FRC can make referrals to colleagues in each

of New York's 57 counties. This extensive network exists thanks to contacts established by Coleman, an advocate and activist who founded and heads Prison Families of New York, an Albany-based organization. Coleman's understanding of issues affecting prison families runs deep: her husband has been imprisoned for many years.

In this, she is similar to some others on the FRC staff and to all of its volunteers, who are the relatives of prisoners or are themselves former prisoners. This shared experience gives the volunteers enormous credibility with the FRC's clients and fosters the feelings of solidarity and self-esteem that are so integral to the Center's mission. After all, says FRC associate Lee Johnson, a former prisoner who started as a volunteer and later moved into a staff position, "There are

continued on page 8

Osborne and Elizabeth Gaynes Honored by Jessie Ball duPont Fund



Osborne's Executive Director Elizabeth Gaynes (left) shares a celebratory moment with duPont Fund President Sherry Magill (center) and Trustee Jean Ludlow (right).

As a testament both to the Osborne Association's distinguished past and to its continuing promise, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund honored the agency and its executive director, Elizabeth Gaynes, with the 2000 Jessie Ball duPont Fund Award, which included a \$40,000 grant to Osborne and a \$10,000 grant to Gaynes. An event celebrating the award was held at Saint Peter's Church in Manhattan.

The ceremony was the latest milestone in a longstanding partnership between Osborne and the Fund, a national foundation established in 1970 by the will of the late Jessie Ball duPont, a philanthropist whose wide-ranging concerns were unified by a commitment to address major problems facing the United States and a willingness to invest in non-traditional approaches to address those problems. Over the years, the Fund's support has furthered a number of Osborne programs, primarily the Legit Youth Entrepreneurship Program. The Fund also played a key role in facilitating Osborne's merger with the South Forty Corporation, New York's oldest provider of employment services exclusive for ex-prisoners. In fact, the award

specifically celebrated the merger.

Lauded for her "vision and energy" in designing and launching Osborne's pioneering programs over the last sixteen years, Gaynes claimed that "vision—what you see—is determined by where you stand. A visionary stands on the shoulders of those who have come before, but a *visionary* visionary stands in the future.

"For most people, the future is an extension of what the past has given us," she continued. But 'vision' creates a possibility of the future that is not tethered to the past. For myself, and for my colleagues at Osborne, that means transforming the way society views prisoners, and enabling prisoners to envision and achieve better lives for themselves.

"At the Attica uprising, where I was introduced to this work as a law student, the inmates cried out, 'we are men, we are not beasts,' Gaynes said. "Everything I have done since that life-altering event has bound me to those prisoners and their brethren, to my colleagues in our shared efforts, and to all those who have so generously supported our work in recognition of that fundamental truth." ■

Profile continued from p. 3

assist other inmates and their families in FamilyWorks' Sing Sing Children's Center.

"When I go up to visit him now, it's often when he's working at the Center," Nykia says. "The other kids don't always realize I'm his daughter, so I get to watch how they relate to him. I can tell he's close with a lot of them, and it seems like they rely on him, which makes me proud."

It's a pride shared by his whole family. Sam's father, James Hamilton, says, "We know he's not just sitting there wasting time. He's taking his time for what he did, turning a bad thing into something positive." Adds Maynor, "It's given me a lot more respect for him. He has changed not only from a young man into an older one, but to a man who I see in a totally different way—calmer, and more goal-minded."

Although Hamilton and Maynor were always connected through love of their daughter, their personal bond weakened after his first five years of imprisonment. As she says, "I was young when he went to prison, and I couldn't do the time with him. Sam told me, 'you have to live your own life.'"

She did, but reports that "even when I had other relationships, his and mine stayed honest, and we kept in touch. He let me come back to him in my own time, and I loved him for that."

As the love deepened, so did their commitment to one another; they will marry this winter, probably around Christmas time. A few months later, their daughter will enter college. Right now, she's set her sights on computer science or law—"the two things I really love," Nykia reports.

Maynor has heard Hamilton talk about FamilyWorks' new Family Resource Center, and plans to contact the site in Brooklyn to learn how she can share lessons she's learned over the years, particularly about how to cope with being the young mother of a child whose father is incarcerated.

Hamilton, serving a sentence of 18 years to life, isn't sure when he'll get out of prison. But one thing he *is* sure of: when he does, he wants to work with children. ■

Inside Rikers Spotlights Fresh Start Program

Warmth, humor, and inspiration abounded at a gathering in early October to celebrate the publication of *Inside Rikers: Stories from the World's Largest Penal Colony*. The book's author, Jennifer Wynn, is a teacher in Osborne's Rikers-based Fresh Start program and formerly served as its director. Her book describes the program, which provides journalism, culinary arts, and life-skills training to men jailed "on the Island" and offers continued support post-release. *Inside Rikers* paints vivid portraits of some of Fresh Start's participants, as well.

Frederick J. Patrick, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Juvenile Justice, former Deputy Commissioner for Planning and Programs with the New York City Department of Correction, and a long-time friend and supporter of Fresh Start, set the tone of the evening when introducing Wynn. "She's persuasive in her belief that all people deserve an opportunity, and that adversity can be turned into a source of pride and strength," he said.

That pride and strength shone through in the words of program graduates who warmly thanked Wynn and Fresh Start for the new lives they'd started. "Jennifer never failed to motivate, cajole,



Jennifer Wynn read excerpts from her new book at an event that celebrated its publication.

encourage, or do whatever was necessary to bring out whatever was best in me," said William (Bilal) Thomson, who has just landed a job as a drug-law-reform advocate at the Correctional Association, where Wynn serves as director of the Prison Visiting Project. While in Fresh Start, Thomson published several essays in *Rikers Review*, the magazine that Fresh Start students publish and that Wynn edits.

Fresh Start was founded in 1989 by Barbara Margolis, currently an Osborne board member. Ms. Margolis' years of commitment as a volunteer in city jails, and her membership on the city's Board of Correction, provided the passion, expertise, and high-level access that sparked Fresh Start's creation and have nurtured its continued growth. Tirelessly committed to the personal well-being of the men of Fresh Start, Margolis has also provided invaluable support for the program's well-being. Last spring, for example, she hosted an event at her Manhattan apartment that raised over \$33,000 to help Fresh Start continue its transforming work. ■

To order copies of *Rikers Review*, call Jennafer Tryck at 718-707-2653. Copies of *Inside Rikers* can be purchased at all major book stores or from the publisher, St. Martin's Press.

To order copies of *Rikers Review*, call Jennafer Tryck at 718-707-2653. Copies of *Inside Rikers* can be purchased at all major book stores or from the publisher, St. Martin's Press.

Legit Leaves Osborne for a New Home

Legit, the youth entrepreneurship program established by Osborne in 1993 as an alternative to placement for court-involved young people, ceased operating as an Osborne program on September 30, 2001. Stewardship of the program was transferred to the Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services (CASES), a large and thriving alternative-to-incarceration program that focuses its services on young people from all over New York City.

Osborne made this difficult decision for a number of reasons. New York State's "bare-bones" budget, passed in August 2001, resulted in the elimination of Legit's core funding. But even before this complication, the core funding, supplemented by the generous support of numerous private donors, had been proving insufficient to support the increasingly rich array of serv-

ices Osborne had developed for a group of young people whose needs became more diverse but whose size remained small. Ultimately, the costs and complexities of offering such a panoply of services became prohibitive within a program of modest size.

Osborne owes a debt of gratitude to the staff of Legit, led by LeeRoy Jordan, for the tremendous success the program enjoyed over the years. We are deeply grateful, as well, to Legit's staunch supporters, including the judges of the Kings County Family Court and Youth Part; the Kings County District Attorney; the New York City Department of Law, Family Court Branch; the New York City Department of Juvenile Justice; the New York City Department of Probation; and the New York State Legislature, including Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Assembly Speaker Sheldon

Silver, and Assembly member Roger Green. We also sincerely thank our major funders over the years: the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the Booth Ferris Foundation, the Drug Policy Foundation, the William T. Grant Foundation, the New York State Assembly, the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, and the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

We are confident that the quality and scope of youth development services at CASES will ensure that Legit participants continue to receive first-rate services in an environment that provides them the opportunity to grow and avoid further involvement with the criminal justice system. In the future, Osborne's youth services will focus on the children of prisoners, through the array of services we offer to support prison families. ■

Meet Osborne's Senior Staff

The merger of the Osborne Association with the South Forty Corporation was finalized on December 31, 2000, giving South Forty a new name (South Forty Employment and Training Services) and a new role as the largest of Osborne's programs. The merger made Osborne a more comprehensive agency capable of providing prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families with a wide range of services to strengthen their families, find and keep jobs, confront substance use, and navigate the criminal justice system. Reflecting this new organizational vigor is a new senior management structure, with **Elizabeth Gaynes** continuing as Executive Director and other senior administrators assuming responsibilities as follows:

John Rakis, formerly South Forty's President and Executive Director, is now serving as an Associate Executive Director for the Osborne Association, bringing his experience in program development, management, and fundraising. Veteran staff member **Patricia Ritchings** continues to serve in her capacity as Associate Executive Director, where she has long demonstrated her talents in program planning, evaluation, and management, as well as organizational development. **Carolina**



John Rakis



Patricia Ritchings

Cordero Dyer is Osborne's Director of Development. As Osborne's Chief Financial Officer for six years, Carolina gained extensive insight into the organization's fundraising needs and priorities. She can be reached at 718-707-2648 or at cdyer@osborneny.org to discuss the many opportunities available for supporting Osborne programs. **George**

Drakopoulos, Osborne's Chief Financial Officer, is responsible for managing and protecting the organization's financial assets and its facilities. He was formerly Assistant Director of Finance at The Bridge, a Manhattan agency serving adults with mental health problems.

Lisa Burch, Director of Program Operations, oversees program implementation and operations, serves as a liaison with city, state, and federal agencies, and negotiates new contracts, contract renewals and contract modifications. She was previously Osborne's Director of Government Relations. **Yvette**

Bairan, Director of Program Planning and Analysis, coordinates activities for all agency



Carolina Cordero Dyer



George Drakopoulos

program planning, development, and evaluation initiatives. She was previously Osborne's Assistant Director of Government Relations. **Virginia Lowery**, Osborne's Director of Human Resources, oversees staff development, training, recruitment, and retention. Before joining Osborne she was Director of Human Resources for EngenderHealth, a social services organization focusing on reproductive health issues in developing countries. **Kenneth**

Bloomfield, Director of Health, Mental Health, and Chemical Dependency Services, oversees Osborne's largest site, in the Bronx, where programs provide substance use treatment and risk reduction, HIV/AIDS, health, and mental health services. Before joining Osborne, Ken was Senior Director at The Fortune Society. **Randolph Peers**, Director of South Forty Employment and Training Services, directs Osborne's jail-based and post-release vocational and employment services. Randy was formerly Assistant Deputy Director for Adult Employment Services at the Church Avenue Merchants Block Association. **Yvette Taylor**, Director of Youth and Family Services, oversees Osborne's comprehensive range of services for families of prisoners and former prisoners. Previously, she served as Osborne's Clinical Director. ■

Wanted: Suits for Success

Like all other job applicants, the clients of Osborne's South Forty Employment and Training Services must "dress for success" for that all-important interview. Female participants in South Forty receive clothing from a number of non-profit agencies, but South Forty's male clients are currently in great need of suits and other accessories. If you can donate business clothing, please contact South Forty's director, Randy Peers, at (212) 707-2600. Thanks! ■

Osborne Web Site Launched

The Osborne Association's new web site is up and running at www.osborneny.org. The site describes our programs and provides a wealth of additional information such as job openings, available publications, and ways to support Osborne programs and people as a contributor, volunteer, or South Forty employer. We are also pleased to announce a new e-mail address, information@osborneny.org, which serves as a portal for requests, inquiries, and other kinds of communication with Osborne. ■

Family Resource Center continued from p. 4

not too many situations you can find where your prison experience is actually needed!"

Soon, two additional staffers with counseling and social work experience will come on board, offering comprehensive family-centered case management as the heart of a holistic approach to family support. Serving ex-prisoners and prison families, the case managers will integrate individual and family counseling, referrals to job placement and other services, educational forums, and community building.

Already, the Center offers two weekly groups—one for prisoners recently released from prison and confronting the challenges of re-entry, and the other for prison families, ex-prisoners, friends, and interested community members. Through these groups, and through other activities and events to be held at the Center that will draw an even wider circle of participants, the FRC aims to create a community in which prison families and ex-prisoners can define common concerns and discover common strengths. Membership in such a community will release energies otherwise spent hiding important truths, validate the knowledge gained (and pain endured) in keeping prison families functioning, generate opportunities for fellowship and for leadership, and offer prospects for collective action to bring about positive change on a wide variety of issues affecting prisoners and prison families. ■

FamilyWorks continued from p. 3

father's new role, the necessity to find work, and a myriad other adjustments as unexpected as they are essential.

Carl Mazza explains, "No matter how much you've anticipated it, no matter how ready you think you are, it's impossible to be fully prepared for re-entry." But by providing assistance with issues ranging from job hunting to substance use to family readjustment, FamilyWorks helps smooth the rocky road home, cushioning family ties to keep them strong and sustaining. ■

FamilyWorks has received generous support from The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, The Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation, The Open Society Institute, The Child Welfare Fund, and The Shelly and Donald Rubin Foundation.

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.

Since 1931, we have offered opportunities for reform and rehabilitation through public education, advocacy, and alternatives to incarceration that respect the dignity of people and honor their capacity to change as they achieve self-sufficiency, adopt healthy lifestyles, enter the workforce, form and rebuild families, and rejoin their communities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair

Barbara H. Stanton

President

Frederik R.-L. Osborne

Secretary

Leroy Frazer, Jr.

Elizabeth B. Hubbard, *pro tempore*

Treasurer

Charles Toder

Directors

Ralph S. Brown, Jr.

Amanda M. Burden

Constance P. Carden

Gregory L. Curtner

Victor F. Germack

Richard H. Girgenti

Zelma Weston Henriques

Clay Hiles

Seymour W. James, Jr.

Ricky Jones

Delores D. Jones-Brown

Barbara A. Margolis

J. Edward Meyer, III

Herbert L. Miller, Jr.

Leigh M. Miller

Elizabeth E. Osborne

Lithgow Osborne

Anthony M. Schulte

Anthony R. Smith

Jeffrey G. Smith

Pearl F. Staller

Katrina vanden Heuvel

William J. vanden Heuvel

Alfonso Wyatt

Antonio M. Young

The Osborne Association

Lighting the Way from Prison to the Community

www.osborneny.org
information@osborneny.org

Administrative Office

36-31 38th Street
Long Island City, NY 11101
718-707-2600
Fax: 718-707-3103

South Forty Site

36-31 38th Street
Long Island City, NY 11101
718-707-2600
Fax: 718-707-3105

Bronx Site

809 Westchester Avenue
Bronx, NY 10455
718-842-0500
Fax: 718-842-0971

Brooklyn Site

175 Remsen Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-637-6560
Fax: 718-237-0686

Osborne Today

Executive Director

Elizabeth Gaynes

Director of Development

Carolina Cordero Dyer

Editor

Susan Blum

Design

Ira Robbins

Photography

Beverly Grant