

WHO WE ARE

Good Shepherd Services is a leading youth development, education, and family service agency that serves over 20,000 program participants a year. We give vulnerable youth in New York City the opportunity to take ownership of their future, making a difference today and for the next generation. Focusing on high-need communities in Brooklyn and the Bronx, we provide a broad array of individual, family and school-based services to prevent youth from becoming disconnected from family, school and society. We also help those who come to us already disengaged to find hope and motivation to reconnect with their community. When young people cannot stay in their families, we continue to provide a safety net of superior quality foster care and residential programs, as we have since 1857.

Good Shepherd's programs succeed because of the unique way in which we work:

- We have a profound belief in the strengths inherent in youth and the ability of individuals and families to transform themselves.
- We surround youth and families with the services and supports they need.
- We employ a rigorous business approach that stresses partnerships and makes the very most of both public and private resources.

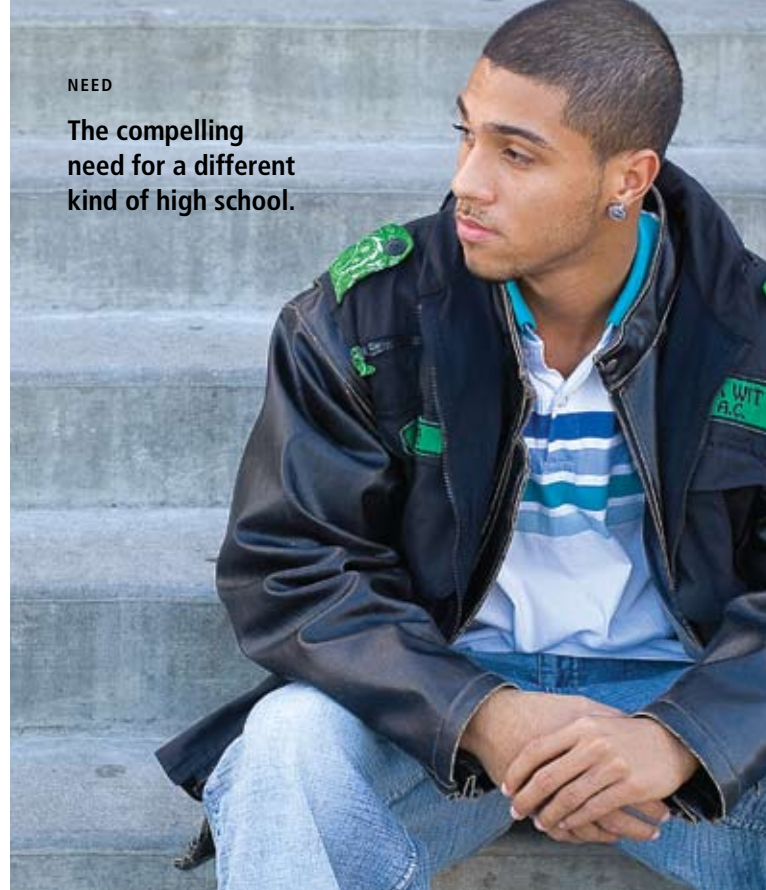
"This school is one of the only reasons why I truly finished. From the teachers to the counselors, they stood by my side and told me that I could do it."

Melanie,
SBCHS graduate



NEED

The compelling need for a different kind of high school.



Overcrowded classrooms Impersonal environments Problems at home

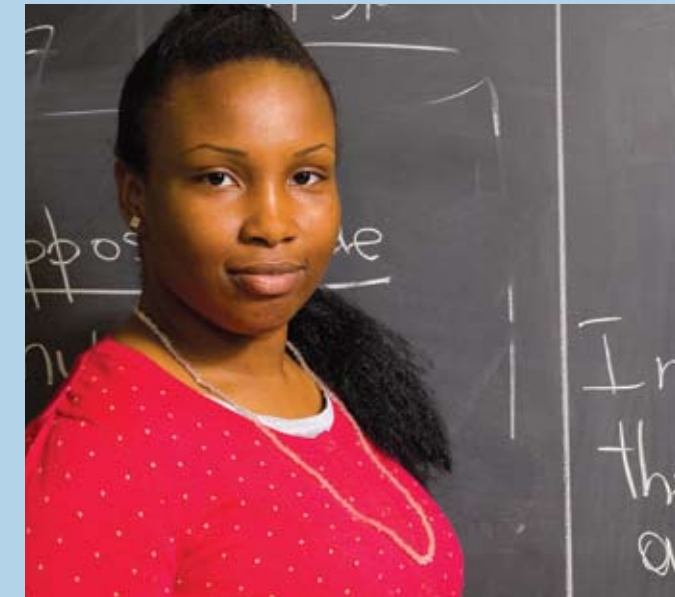
Every day in New York City, there are nearly 120,000 young people who are either chronically truant or have dropped out of school completely. The above are just a few of the reasons why so many New York City students are failing in traditional high school settings. Rising drop-out rates are a growing phenomenon – both here in the city and throughout the nation – and the need to do more is paramount. Without a diploma, these vulnerable young people are reaching adulthood without hope, and with little capacity for success or self-sufficiency.

our vision

A KALEIDOSCOPE
reframing relationships, embracing change,
creating opportunities

our mission

The mission of Good Shepherd Services is to surround at-risk New York City youth and their families with a web of supports that promote a safe passage to self-sufficiency. To achieve our mission, we lead in the development of innovative youth development programs; provide quality, effective services that strengthen participants' connections with family, school and community; and advocate on their behalf for broader change.



Expect More Achieve More

**GOOD SHEPHERD SERVICES
TRANSFER HIGH SCHOOLS**



305 Seventh Avenue | New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212-243-7070 | Fax: 212-929-3412 | www.goodshepherds.org



APPROACH

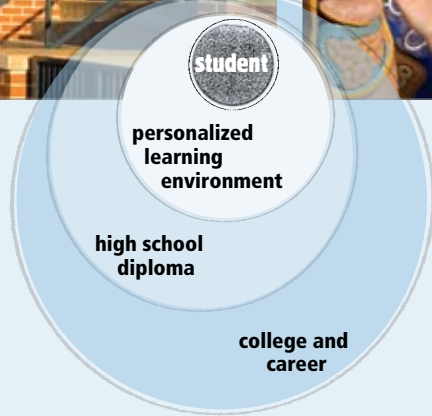
The [Good Shepherd Services \(GSS\)](#) Transfer High School Model fosters success among overage, under-credited students who have previously dropped out of school or been chronically truant. Based on more than 25 years of work with this population, our nationally recognized model integrates the youth development practices and expertise of Good Shepherd within a rigorous, standards-based instructional setting. Operated in seamless collaboration with the NYC Department of Education (DOE), we offer a full-day, year-round academic program in a small school setting of between 150 and 200 students. The result is a highly personalized school environment where each student is known, respected and supported.

A model that works

We know that all young people can achieve at high levels if given the right supports. Because we believe in the strengths inherent in youth, we have very high expectations for each and every student who passes through our doors. The DOE teaching staff uses hands-on instructional practices that connect lessons to students' lives and require them to be active participants in the learning process. Good Shepherd provides each young person with an Advocate Counselor – who serves as a student's primary support person throughout his/her time at the school – to help him/her meet our high expectations and overcome the issues that were previously roadblocks to graduation. We also recognize that the support of a parent or other caring adult is integral to a young person's success and create many opportunities throughout the year to involve them in their young person's life at school.

In addition to providing at-risk youth with a second chance to earn a high school diploma, we seek to prepare them for college and/or careers. We place a keen focus on goal setting – both long and short term – so that students learn to recognize their innate talents and abilities and take responsibility for their own success. Each student who graduates from one of our schools does so with a viable post-graduation plan for the future.

“We know young people have what it takes to succeed.”



RESULTS

AN INVESTMENT THAT PAYS

An investment in a vulnerable young person today has great impact not just on that individual, but on his/her community, and future generations. A high school graduate has the potential to earn, at minimum, \$250,000 more in lifetime earnings than a high school dropout.

Just by showing interest in attending one of our schools, a young person shows a desire to create a different kind of

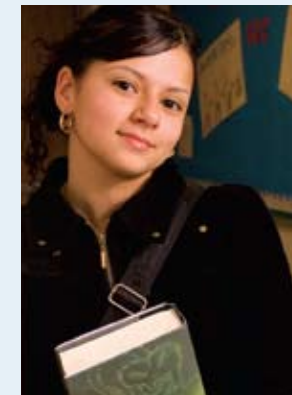
future. We work intensively with each student to keep the momentum for positive change going and growing. Our students earn credits and pass Regents exams at nearly double their former rates. They graduate at approximately a 62% rate and more than 90% move on to post-secondary education or employment.

A GROWING IMPACT

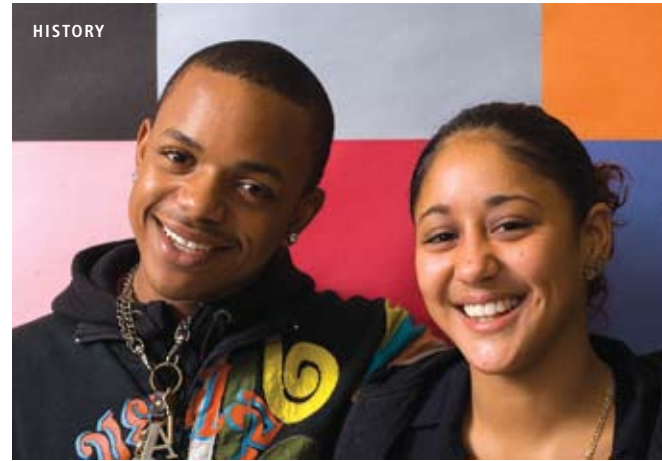
We received funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to replicate the model ourselves and, in September 2006, our first replicated school, West Brooklyn Community High School opened its doors, and a second, Bronx Community High School in September 2007. In addition to operating our own high schools, we have served as a transfer school intermediary, assisting like-minded agencies with the opening of their own schools based on our model.

who are not succeeding in traditional settings. In addition to our successful transfer schools, we operate numerous Young Adult Borough Centers (evening schools leading to a high school diploma), GED programs, and school-based support programs in locations throughout the city.

Good Shepherd has long been at the forefront of efforts to provide different pathways to graduation for older youth



HISTORY



A track record of success

Our collaboration with the DOE began in 1980, when the New York City Deputy Mayor's Office of Youth Policy asked us to develop a program to serve the large number of students who were dropping out of a high school located near existing Good Shepherd programs in Brooklyn. We agreed, and South Brooklyn Community High School (SBCHS) was born. Originally an off-site program of the locally zoned high school, SBCHS graduates received diplomas from that school.

In July 2002, after a year-long process, SBCHS became an official diploma granting high school. Our unique approach and long track record of success in meeting the needs of disconnected youth began to receive national attention. In the fall of 2005, we received funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to replicate our model and to codify our best practices to help other community-based organizations (CBOs) in their efforts to develop their own schools, both here in the city and across the country.

“I came into South Brooklyn with only 13 credits and I was able to graduate at 17. Now I'm 18 and on my way to college.”
Carmen,
SBCHS graduate

