

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.

"I don't know of anywhere else I could have found so much help."

Moses,
Foyer alumni



NEED

Key Program Components

The Chelsea Foyer builds a positive and supportive community that sets high expectations for its residents and provides services that are grounded in our signature strength-based youth development practices. As the majority of the young people who live at the Foyer have experienced significant trauma in their lives, in addition to helping them gain the skills they need to make the transition to adulthood, the Foyer provides them with a safe haven in which to grow and to heal. The following are the key components of the program:

- Personal Support
- Life-Skills Development
- Workforce Development
- Community
- Housing
- After-Care Services

Too many NYC young people are on their own – completely unprepared for adulthood and without anyone to look to for support.

Every day in New York City there are an estimated 20,000 – 40,000 homeless young people living on the street, in shelters, or staying temporarily with friends or family members. Thirty percent of them were once a part of the foster care system, discharged from care completely unprepared for the challenges of independent living. Unlike other youth, they often have no one to look to for financial and emotional support. Once their connection with the child welfare system ends, all too many of them are left without any safety net at all.

our vision

A KALEIDOSCOPE
reframing relationships, embracing change,
creating opportunities

our mission

TO LEAD
in the development of innovative
programs that ensure a more promising
future for our program participants

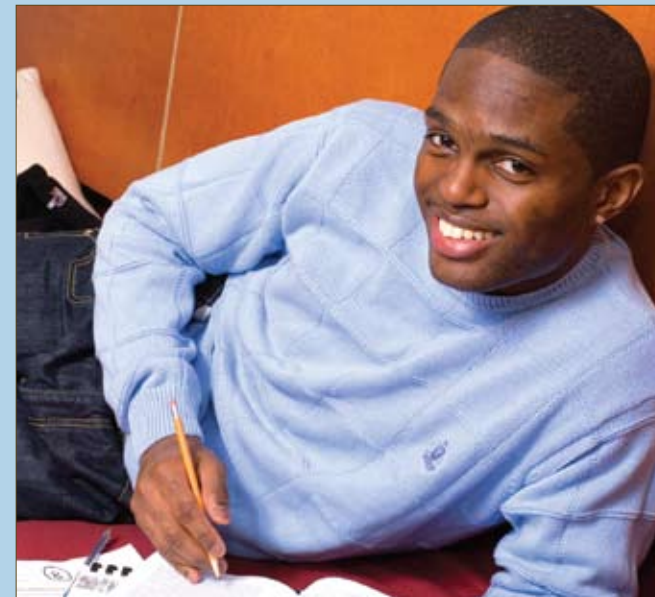
TO ADVOCATE
zealously for principles
necessary to empower those
with whom we work

TO PROVIDE
quality service to individuals consistent
with their dignity and to communities
consistent with their needs



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Living. Learning. Working.

THE CHELSEA FOYER AT THE CHRISTOPHER

Guiding At-Risk Young Adults
on the Path to Self-Sufficiency



A Collaboration Between Good Shepherd Services and Common Ground Community

OVERVIEW

Partnership

The Foyer is a partnership between Good Shepherd Services and Common Ground Community. The program is located within the Christopher Residence, an adult supportive housing program owned and operated by Common Ground. Common Ground, with its long expertise in housing and community development, provides facility management and building-wide security for the Christopher while Good Shepherd has overall responsibility for the Foyer program and provides all on-site support services to the residents.

Preparing for permanent housing



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

Program Overview

Based on a highly successful European model and among the first to open in the US, the Chelsea Foyer at the Christopher (Foyer) provides 40 young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 who are aging out of foster care, homeless or at-risk of homelessness with supported transitional housing in a co-ed setting.

Residents live in suites or studio style apartments and participate in a personalized program of services for up to 24 months. The young people receive on-site case management and life-skills development services and linkages to job training and placement and educational development resources. Residents must apply to be part of the program and once accepted, they are required to hold, at-minimum, a part-time job to support their daily needs and help them save for the future. They contribute a program fee, determined by income, in lieu of rent, which is deposited in a savings account and returned to them when they successfully complete the program.

Ultimately, the goal of the Foyer is to prepare residents for permanent housing and economic self-sufficiency. By combining education and training with work experience, we help residents to improve their marketability in the workforce. As a result, young people who successfully complete the program are not reliant on public assistance.

KEY COMPONENTS

PERSONAL SUPPORT

Residents work with a dedicated Case Manager who provides them with support and links to community resources. Case Managers also assist them in creating an individualized “Action Plan,” outlining each young person’s educational/vocational, career,

housing, health and wellness, and personal goals and the steps to achieve them. In addition, Independent Living Counselors are on-site in the late afternoon and overnight to provide the young people with support from a caring adult 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

LIFE-SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Foyer residents live semi-independently and are encouraged to be responsible for their own lives. The young people participate in ongoing, comprehensive, on-site life-skills development programming

on topics including money management, nutrition and health, household management, interpersonal skills, and conflict resolution to help them develop the skills they’ll need to be successful adults.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

We work in partnership with the Workplace Center at the Columbia University School of Social Work to implement programming that helps residents create and actualize

educational, vocational and employment plans, and identify resources that further their knowledge and skills so that they can achieve their career goals.

COMMUNITY

While residents of the Foyer gain the experience of living on their own, they also learn how to be part of a community and to be responsible neighbors. The young people are encouraged to be actively involved in creating a positive

community at the Foyer by participating in regular community meetings and group activities. In addition, the “Foyer Council” gives residents a voice in the day-to-day governance of the program.



HOUSING

Upon intake and throughout their stay, residents work with staff to create a housing plan. They explore a wide variety of housing options and participate in workshops that

address related issues. Workshop topics include money management, establishing good credit, running a household, and communicating effectively with landlords.

AFTER-CARE SERVICES

We maintain an open door policy for alumni of the program, who are offered support and linked to appropriate resources in their respective communities on an as-needed

basis. This support solidifies the skills the young people practiced while living at the Foyer and provides them with a safety net as they make the transition to independent living.

“The staff was very much a part of the person I became...A lot of young women feel like their life is over in this situation. My life is my own testimony that this doesn’t have to be true.”

Takima,
Foyer alumni



RESULTS



Seeing success

The Foyer gives youth who participate in the program a vital opportunity to break the cycle of poverty, crime, and homelessness. It is our goal that each young person who comes through our door will leave us a successful, self-sufficient young adult who can serve as a role model to others.

We know that all young people have what it takes to succeed. At the Chelsea Foyer, each time we accept a new resident into the program, we make an investment – not just in that young person, but in a stronger community and a better future. The young people who successfully completed the program have proven that we have invested wisely. One year after discharge, of the reporting alumni:

- 93% are completely self sufficient
- 93% are living in stable housing
- 88% are employed at least part-time
- 72% have health insurance
- 93% earned a high school diploma or GED
- 45% are pursuing higher education or vocational training

International Endorsement

The Chelsea Foyer was approved by the UK Foyer Federation as an endorsed international overseas Foyer project. We are the first foyer in the United States to be endorsed in this way, a testament to the strength of our program.