

NYC DOC Volunteer Services booklet excerpts

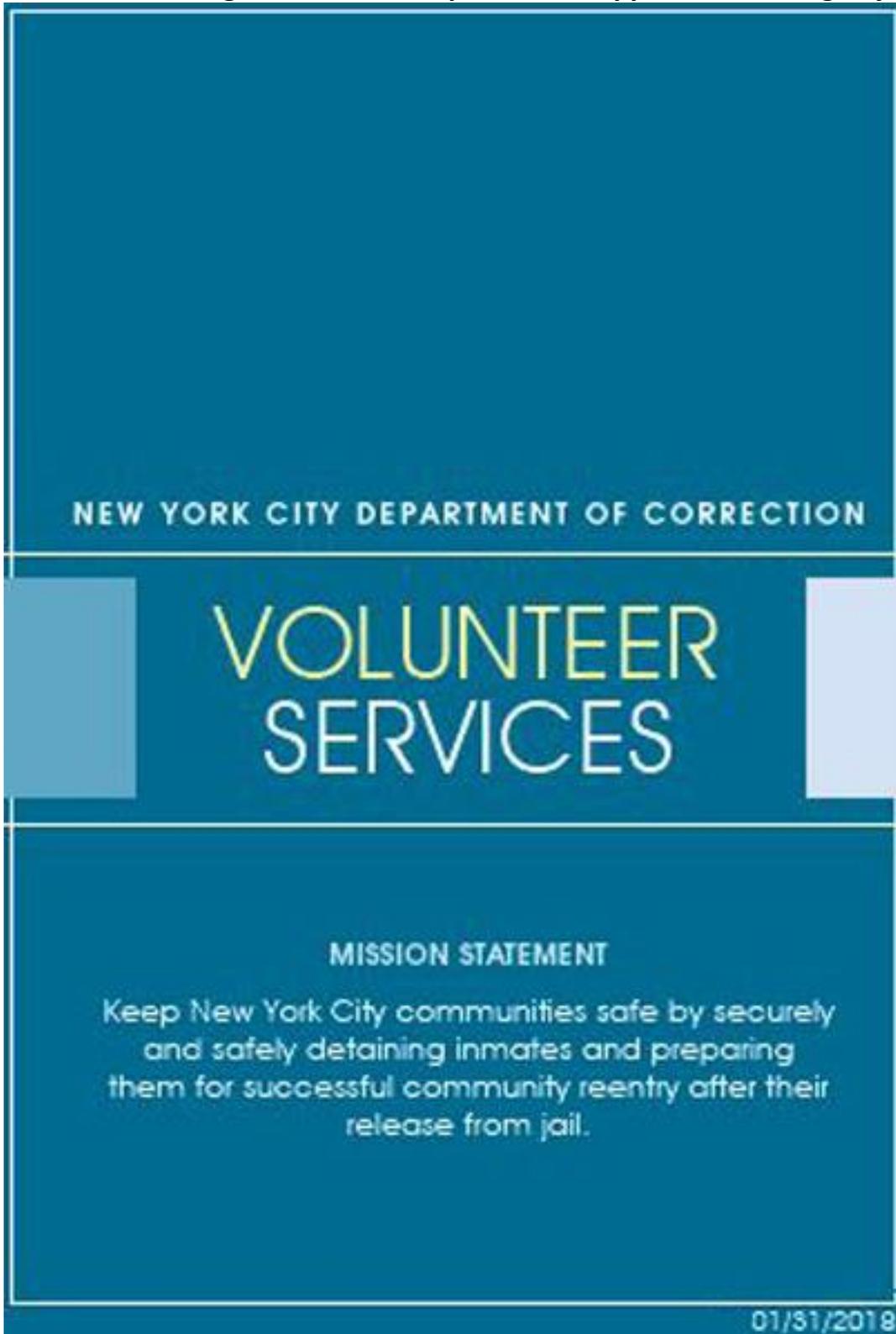
CorrectionHistory.Org – with New York City Department of Correction’s permission – presents elements excerpted from the agency’s booklet guide given to prospective volunteers during the orientation process for applicants seeking to join NYC DOC’s

Volunteer Services program.

Nearly identical booklet guides for prospective DOC volunteers have been traced by this site as going back at least a half decade or more.

Of course, some volunteer service programs themselves trace back their connection with DOC in terms of decades. A few can count their partnering with the Department by scores of years

At least one -- the Women Prison Association (WPA) – even predates DOC emerging as a separate distinct agency from its ancestral dual Department of Public Charities and Correction.



VOLUNTEER SERVICES



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

The New York City Department of Correction aims to work in conjunction with the community to pool resources together in order to render a variety of services to the inmate population. Through these services we hope to supply a positive foundation for these individuals that will give them the tools needed to successfully reenter society and in turn reduce recidivism. Volunteers are an integral component in these efforts. We welcome and appreciate the contributions of all those who are willing to give of themselves and their time to assist in the delivery of these services.

Cynthia Brann

The WPA had its beginnings in January 1845 as the Female Department of the Prison Association of New York (PANY), which had been founded a year before by leading NYers very much interested in various penal reforms.

These included improving conditions and operations in the prisons and jails as well as support and encouragement of reformed convicts after their discharge.

PANY sought provide such released inmates with the means of obtaining an honest livelihood, and sustaining them in their efforts at personal reformation.

The PANY Female Department volunteers visited New York prisons, jails, and police station lockups. They reported on conditions and advocated for reforms, several of which they eventually achieved, including the required assigning of matrons where women inmates were incarcerated.

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VOLUNTEER SERVICES

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VOLUNTEER SERVICES

CONTACTING VOLUNTEER SERVICES NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION OFFICE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES

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Six months after the Female Department had launched itself as a division of the NY Prison Assn., it opened what we would today term transitional housing for women ex-inmates.

In 1853, the Women Prison Association emerged as its own entity, about four decades before DOC emerged as its own agency separate from the Department of Public Charities (later known as the Welfare Department).

For this web site's multi-page review of WPA history, see the list of links at the end of the current presentation.

PANY changed its name to the Correctional Association of New York in 1961. CANY is primarily known today for its criminal justice system research, reports and reform advocacy. Links to

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AM I QUALIFIED TO BE A VOLUNTEER?

Eligibility for volunteer service with NYC DOC is considered without regard to race, color, religion, gender, nationality, age, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, disability or any other legally protected status. NYC DOC reserves the right to deny applications based on security concerns.

All applications will be considered with the exception of those applicants who:

- Have a conviction for a violation, misdemeanor or felony in the past three years
- Have been under probation, parole, or post release supervision within the last three years
- Have served any jail or prison time within the last three years
- Have any criminal charges pending
- Fail to disclose previous or current criminal justice involvement
- Have been dismissed from a DOC facility or had their DOC Volunteer Identification Card revoked

PANY/CANY history on this site come at the conclusion of this presentation.

HOW DO I BECOME A VOLUNTEER?

- Complete and submit a volunteer application via mail, fax or email to the DOC Staff Sponsor of your volunteer program or the Director of Volunteer Services. *(Applications can be found on the DOC home page or can be sent to you by fax or mail.)*
- Attend an orientation scheduled by volunteer services and be fingerprinted
- Clear a background check
- Receive a Volunteer Identification Card which will provide you with clearance to enter specified DOC facilities on designated days and times listed on the Volunteer Identification Card

Note: In order to be provided with a Volunteer Identification Card, you must produce state/government issued non-expired photo identification. The following is a list of acceptable forms of identification:

- DMV Driver's license/Non-Driver's identification card
- Resident alien or permanent resident card issued by the U.S. Department of Justice
- Passport *(from any country)*
- NYS benefits identification card *(Medicaid/food stamp photo ID)*
- US Armed Services identification
- Consulate-issued or diplomatic identification

1940 became executive director of the Osborne Association and later its President. Seven years after his 1979 death, a Rikers Island school was dedicated as the Austin H. MacCormick Academy in memory of him.

In 1990, group of educators, social service professionals and community workers formed an organization to assist released MacCormick Academy students overcome their post-incarceration problems. They call their association the Friends of Island Academy.

Another community partner with DOC throughout the decades has been the Osborne Association which developed from the merger of two organizations (the Prison League Association and the National Society of Penal Information) after the 1931 death of their founder, New York prison official and reformer, Thomas Mott Osborne. Among other services, it provides post-release assistance to ex-inmates.

After serving six years as NYC Correction Commissioner under Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, Austin H. MacCormick in

For over 20 years volunteers have entered the Department of Corrections providing a variety of services such as religious, legal, educational tutoring, employment assistance, art courses, musical and dramatic entertainment. In recent years, individual volunteers and representatives of community service groups have contributed to the development and implementation of programs designed to provide motivation, self-awareness and individual growth. Others serve as specialized consultants to facility staff or expend boundless energy in the mobilization of local community resources, both in financial and human services, in support of the correction facility and its inmates.

This type of cooperation between the public, private and voluntary sectors has helped to promote growth and development within the Department of Correction. In addition it continues to help dispel negative stigmas, focus on reality and create new, meaningful programs and services for the inmates.



Visit us at: www.nyc.gov/boldest

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As is the case with the previously mentioned Women Prison Association, the Correction History website has many pages about Thomas Mott Osborne, the Osborne Association, former NYC Correction Commissioner Austin H. MacCormick, the Rikers Island MacCormick Academy, and the Friends of Island Academy. To access those pages, see the list of links at the end of the current presentation.

When social reformer and New York City Board of Correction Commissioner Barbara Margolis began her Fresh Start culinary training program for Rikers inmates about a quarter century ago, her

aim was to ready them for professional positions in the food services field. In 2008, Fresh tart merged with the Osborne's Rikers program that taught inmates catering skills.

Below: Screen capture of NYC DOC website's Volunteer Services page.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Department of Correction Volunteer Services Unit operates under the umbrella of the Department's Programs and Discharge Planning Division. The unit relies on an array of volunteers to provide a variety of activities, programs, and services to the inmate population to promote the rehabilitation, personal growth, and character development of those incarcerated.

Community-based organizations, groups, and individuals work to help inmates begin new lives, reconnect with their families, and become productive members of society.

These community-based organizations, groups, and individuals share a commitment to promote activities that contribute to the reduction of recidivism. Volunteers accomplish this by sharing their unique talents, skills, and knowledge, and by adapting to the challenges of a jail setting. Currently volunteers provide religious, social, educational, recreational, and other services that enhance personal development and create links between those incarcerated and their communities. The Department is open to other suggestions.

Services provided include but are not limited to:

- Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous Groups
- Alcohol/Drug Counseling
- Alternatives to Violence Training
- Culinary Program
- HIV/AIDS Education Counseling
- Horticultural Program
- Individual/Group Counseling
- Job Readiness
- Legal Services
- Library Assistance
- Life Skills Classes
- Literacy Assistance
- Parenting Classes
- Pastoral Counseling
- Self Development Classes
- Transitional Assistance
- Vocational Training

PERSONS INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING THEIR SERVICES:

- must successfully complete a background investigation
- must not be actively on parole or probation, and must not have had a criminal record last 3 years

Persons interested in volunteering their services and/or in need of additional information contact office of Volunteer Services at 718-546-0453.

Another long-time DOC community partner has been the Horticultural Society of New York. For decades on the island, it has grown inmate skills and hope as well as flowers, plants and veggies.

Likewise, the Fortune Society, founded in 1967 and run for and mostly by ex-inmates from NY prisons and jails

focuses, has worked with DOC on specific programs. The society focuses on educating the public, aiding ex-inmates & at-risk youth break crime cycle thru wide range of services.

This webmaster would be remiss were he not to mention Abraham House an alternative-to-incarceration program found in 1993 by NYC DOC staffers and volunteers. It provides a holistic, family-based program of services to offenders and their families, and other families who struggle to cope with poverty, violence, crime, and lack of essential services.

Located in the South Bronx, Abraham House works with the Courts to offer first-time offenders a home where they can turn around their lives and learn to become responsible citizens. Although founded by a French worker priest, Belgian nuns, and Correction Officers who, by the way, identified as Baptists, the program is non-denominational and open to all. Also highly worthy of mention are Mother/St. Theresa of Calcutta's Missionaries of Charity.

CorrectionHistory.Org too is a voluntary endeavor. Though this non-commercial site appreciates its close-working relationships NY correctional agencies and organizations since launching in 1999, it is wholly owned and run by the webmaster and neither seeks nor accepts any outside funding. Editorial freedom that comes from independence is too precious to barter away.

See Variety Among NYC DOC Volunteer Opportunities at
<http://correctionhistory.org/pdf2/NYC-DOC-Volunteer-Variety.pdf>

Return to *CorrectionHistory.Org* homepage:
<http://www.correctionhistory.org>

Below: List of links to *CorrectionHistory.Org* presentations on volunteer groups, programs and leaders cited in the text accompanying the NYC DOC booklet excerpts.

*Note: Listed here are links to *CorrectionHistory.Org* pre-existing presentations on the volunteer endeavors cited in the text appearing above alongside NYC DOC's website Volunteer Services page excerpt and the seven pages excerpted from the January 31, 2018-published, 16-page* Volunteer Services booklet given by NYC DOC to prospective volunteers during orientation processes. The booklet numbers its table-of-contents page as 1. The table page lists content titles for Pages 2 through 13, and did not number the Commissioner Message page nor the front and back cover pages. The booklet page images shown in this presentation have been reduced in overall size, but all the information printed on them has been included and enlarged for readability.

Re: Prison Association of New York/Correctional Association of New York and the Women Prison Association

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/chronicl/cany/html/cany01.html>
<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/chronicl/wpa/html/wpaone2.htm>

Re Austin H. MacCormick, Friends of Island Academy, Osborne Association, Thomas Mott Osborne

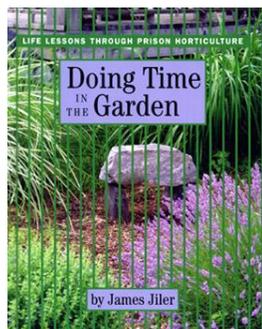
http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/chronicl/ri_academy/ps616.html
<http://www.correctionhistory.org/islandacademy/html/foiatitlepg.html>
http://www.correctionhistory.org/islandacademy/html/foia_ch1.html
http://www.correctionhistory.org/islandacademy/html/foia_ch2.html
http://www.correctionhistory.org/islandacademy/html/foia_ch4.html
http://www.correctionhistory.org/auburn&osborne/tombrown/html/wpw_intro.html
http://www.correctionhistory.org/auburn&osborne/tombrown/html/wpw_ch01.html
http://www.correctionhistory.org/auburn&osborne/tombrown/html/wpw_ch02.html
<http://www.correctionhistory.org/auburn&osborne/index.html>
<http://www.correctionhistory.org/auburn&osborne/html/thomasmottosbornebio-part1.html>



<http://www.correctionhistory.org/auburn&osborne/html/thomasmottosbornebio-part2.html>

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/auburn&osborne/html/thomasmottosbornebio-part3.html>

http://www.correctionhistory.org/auburn&osborne/html/osborne_orgs.html



Re: Barbara Margolis and Fresh Start

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/images/bobbie-obit.jpg>

Re: Horticultural Society of New York

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/chronicl/rikersfarm/doingtimeingarden.html>

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/chronicl/rikersfarm/doingtimeingarden2.html>

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/chronicl/rikersfarm/rikersfarm4.html>

Re: Fortune Society

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/fortune/html/captivespirit01.html>

Re: Abraham House

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/chronicl/nycdoc/raphael/html/raphaeltr.html>

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/chronicl/nycdoc/raphael/html/godbehindbarsabrahamhouse.html>

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/chronicl/nycdoc/raphael/html/abraham1a.html>

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/preview3/Remembering-Unforgettable-Father-Peter-Raphael.pdf>

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/preview3/Catholic-Worker-Editor-Remembers-Also.pdf>

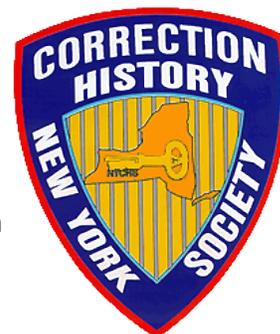
<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/chronicl/nycdoc/raphael/html/cwarticleonabrahamhouse.html>

Re Mother/St. Teresa's Missionaries of Charity

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/chronicl/nycdoc/fr-repole/welcome-to-rikers-mother-teresa.html>

Historical Background Note: On the night of major league baseball's 1999 All Star Game (July 13th), an all-star lineup of NY correctional leaders – heads of NGOs and government agencies – gathered in the Manhattan Detention Complex, better known by its historical nickname, The Tombs. Their purpose: to launch a voluntary endeavor to pursue, preserve and promote the history of correction services in New York –city, state, county, community – including alternatives-to-incarceration and transitional services. Besides commissioners and deputy commissioners of various penal agencies, those participating in that meeting more than 20 years ago also included leaders from some of the volunteer associations and community partners cited in the above text:

Women's Prison Association's then executive director Ann L. Jacobs, then Osborne Association executive director Elizabeth Gaynes, then Horticultural Society of New York president Anthony R. Smith, and then South Forty president John Rakis (later deputy director of the Osborne Association). Former NYC Correction Commissioner Michael P. Jacobson, now of the Vera Institute, was among the speakers as were Austin MacCormick Clarke of NYS DOCS and Barbara Margolis of Fresh Start. NYC DOC Commissioner (Later NYPD Commissioner Bernard B. Kerik also spoke.



CorrectionHistory.Org was born there and then twenty years ago. On May 7, 2011, the website launched its social media extension, the *New York Correction History Facebook Group* accessible to Facebook-ers via <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NewYorkCorrectionHistory/members/>

With a membership now (2/21/20) at 2,250+, it is one of the very few “open” or “public” NY Correction-related membership groups on Facebook; this is, anyone on Facebook can access its discussion page and view the messages and images posted there. But only members may post material.