



OPENING THE WORLD TO OUR WOMEN AT KENMARE HIGH SCHOOL

About Us

The York Street Project was founded in 1989 as a one-stop network to help homeless women and children break the cycle of poverty and begin their journey toward self-sufficiency. Our work is accomplished through four separate, yet inter-related programs: Kenmare High School, St. Joseph's Home, and The Nurturing Place, St. Mary's Residence. Each of the programs has a director to oversee operations and a dedicated professional staff. The unique nature of York Street's interrelated programs allows the staffs to easily communicate concerns and coordinate actions to address the barriers facing our families from all angles. Our staffs are able to be in close touch with the mothers, strengthening parenting skills and relationships in preparation for moving toward self-sufficiency.

Kenmare Alternative High School

Specifically, Kenmare High School is a Middle States-accredited and non-denominational alternative high school for young women aged 17 to 35 who dropped out of the public or private school system. It was founded in 1982 and operated out of the basement of St. Boniface Parish in Jersey City until the buildings at 89 York Street were re-habilitated to incorporate the network of programs that simultaneously give women and children the tools needed to break the cycle of poverty: housing, education and childcare.

Logistics/Policies

Marleen O'Connor, Principal, brings more than 30 years' experience in teaching, administration, and guidance for the Jersey City population. Combined with that of our veteran staff of 4 teachers, one social worker, and one secretary, they work hard to educate women pre-disposed to dropping out in the best possible environment and to address the unique challenges that face an alternative high school.

The School is open Monday through Friday, with homeroom beginning at 8:50 am. Instruction time is from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays and from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays. Academic assistance is available after 3:00 pm. Daily instruction times are as follows:

Period 1	9:00 am	to	9:50 am
Period 2	9:55 am	to	10:45 am
Period 3	10:50 am	to	11:40 am
Period 4*	11:45 am	to	12:23 pm
Period 5*	12:27 pm	to	1:05 pm
Period 6	1:10 pm	to	2:00 pm
Period 7	2:05 pm	to	2:55 pm
Period 8*	3:00 pm	to	3:30 pm

Volunteers should go to the 89 York Street building, closest to the corner of Washington Street and across from the Main Post Office. After entering the front doors, walk up the steps and through the glass door to the receptionist's desk where volunteers can sign-in.

Volunteer Opportunities

Tutoring

Our students come to us with limited successes in their academic experience. Many are returning to school after a long hiatus, so tutors are needed to help with basic skills, study skills, technology, and self-confidence. Study is for 30 minutes for each student between 11:45 and 1:05 and after school from 3:00 to 3:30. Tuesdays and Thursdays are the best days for volunteers to work with our women. For those who can come consistently, we will pair you with a student for a one-on-one mentoring partnership. For those who are available less frequently, we will let students know you are here and available to help as needed.

Guest Speakers

Come share your story! Tell our women what you have accomplished in life, where you started and how you got to where you are now. Are you following your lifelong dreams for a career or did life's circumstances lead you to your current job? Do you juggle family responsibilities and work? Our women need to know that landing that perfect job and balancing all that life throws at them with ease only happens in the movies! This opportunity will be tailored to our class schedule and your availability/interest.

Preparing Our Students for the Workplace

The Career Preparation Program of Kenmare Alternative High School is designed to improve employment opportunities for very-low and low-income women who have completed the required coursework for graduation by providing them with the necessary academic, technical, and work behavior knowledge and skills needed for success in a career of their choice. Ultimately, this prepares them for the lifelong learning needed to remain marketable in today's competitive environment. Our program is composed of four interconnecting components and utilizes a wide range of training and coursework areas. Students are provided with hands-on skills in both classroom and in real life settings throughout the Jersey City business community.

Informational interviews across a broad spectrum of business sectors help our students understand the many different career opportunities that exist (i.e. the financial world is more than accountants and traders!). It is our aim to open up their post-secondary education and career paths beyond the basic opportunities with which they may be familiar.

Currently, we are working with two local corporations with job shadowing, mentoring, mock interviews, and dressing for the workplace and can tailor a program that best works for your workplace that might include coming to our school for a class presentation, an assembly, a panel, or a visit to your office.

We are grateful to have the support of the community to assist in their academics, technology, and career preparation and welcome individuals or groups to get involved in myriad ways.

For more information about the York Street Project and its network of programs to help homeless women and children break the cycle of poverty, please visit yorkstreetproject.org. Or, if you have questions, contact Jennifer Mehr, Director of Development, via phone (201.451.8225) or email (jmehr@yorkstreetproject.org).