

Message from Mark Goldsmith

President & CEO

I'll tell you how I ended up on Rikers Island. Fifteen years ago, I volunteered for PENCIL's "Principal for a Day" program. I asked to be assigned to the toughest school. A short ride later, I was on Rikers Island in a classroom with a group of young men who inspired me to be a catalyst for change.

My students on Rikers, all those years ago, had everything stacked against them. They'd been dealt an unfair hand, yet they were still willing to hear me out when I talked about the commitment it would take for them to avoid recidivism once released from jail. "About 60% of the men in Rikers today, when they're released, will end up back here. That does not have to be you," I promised them.

Leaving Rikers, I knew my words were not enough.

When these young men stepped out from behind bars, they needed an organization in place and equipped to give them critical support. They needed education and training to decide whether going back to school was the right path for them, or perhaps to gain entrée into the professional field that would give them financial stability. Importantly, these guys needed mental and emotional support – for that, I'd need a team of trained and licensed social workers. To deliver on my promise to these young men, I established Getting Out & Staying Out (GOSO).

Fifteen years later, GOSO's impact is significant and, importantly, measurable: the recidivism rate among GOSO participants is under 15%, compared to the national average of over 60%. GOSO's holistic approach is redefining reentry. We've created a family atmosphere in our East 116th Street offices, and this feeling of inclusion and support absolutely factors into our participants' success.



Mark Goldsmith volunteering as "Principal for a Day," on his first visit to Rikers Island, in 2004.

The hard costs of operating GOSO are significant: our annual MetroCard costs alone are in excess of \$150,000, to ensure these young men arrive to interviews and jobs professionally and on time. **But the investment is worth it.** Our rigorous Job Readiness Curriculum, of which I am extremely proud, leads nearly all of our participants to not only a three-month paid internship (subsidized by GOSO), but full-time employment. With the support of the entire GOSO family, our guys are recognizing the investment we're making in them and they're committing themselves to staying out of the criminal justice system.

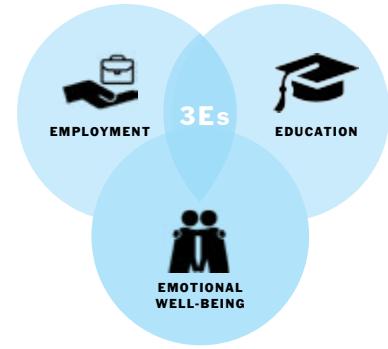
Fifteen years since first stepping foot on Rikers Island, I still return every week and I tell the young men I meet that I'm there to give them a shot, and that they can count on GOSO to be a consistent resource for them when they're released. I can make that promise because I know we have the help of generous supporters like you.

As we enter our 15th Anniversary year, I ask you to please support our vital services with a contribution to our agency.

We have a saying at GOSO: "It's all about the guys!"

M.G.


What are the Three E's?





GOSO staff's work is framed by our Three E's.

Each "E" plays an equally critical role in the success of our participants.

We believe that all three work together to form a foundation on which GOSO Guys can build their futures.

 Education is fundamental to our participants' success. Not only does GOSO encourage participants to earn their high school diploma or GED (through our program operated in coordination with the NYC Dept. of Education), we provide workshops and individual counseling designed to keep young men in school until they complete their education, allowing young men to consider if the collegiate path is right for them.

 Meaningful work experience that builds skills and opens doors -- is critical to the success of our young men. Our robust employment program, GOSOWorks, connects GOSO participants with our network of 70+ employers city-wide. With individualized focus, we evaluate job readiness, teach interview skills and, importantly, cover transportation costs and provide appropriate attire for job interviews (first impressions are everything!).

 Emotional Well-Being is supported by our experienced and knowledgeable staff of licensed social workers (LMSW or LCSW). 50% of GOSO participants are living with mental health issues. In one-on-one and group therapy sessions, we care for our participants' mental health to support their important work in school and on the job. GOSO staff also conducts screenings for depression, PTSD and substance abuse, allowing us to refer participants off-site as appropriate.

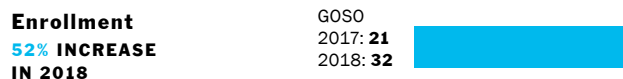


Growth of our Education Center

In 2018 we opened a site down the street from our main office completely devoted to Education (one of the Three E's!). The GOSO Education Center is a place where participants come to learn, to explore, and to challenge themselves to grow academically. GOSO is especially committed to supporting young men in their pursuit of higher education. To ensure our participants have the resources they need to succeed, we've significantly expanded our educational programming and facilities. And just in time -- enrollment in our education programs grew by 52% in 2018.

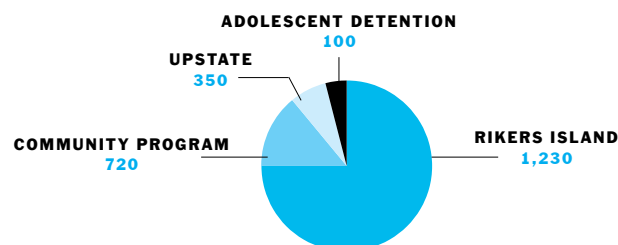
- Offering college-level courses allows participants to test the waters and determine if college is the right choice for them. Through our collaboration with College Now and LaGuardia Community College, established this fall, they get college credit, too!
- We've increased the amount of vocational trainings that we offer, including the addition of the OSHA 30-hour Construction Training, which about 30 participants completed in October.

EDUCATION



Overall GOSO Enrollment

TOTAL GOSO ENROLLMENT: 2,400
14% INCREASE IN 2018



Where is Education Taking Our Participants?

Carlos P. walked the stage, this spring, at Bard College to receive his [degree name].

Carlos' success is especially meaningful to our president and founder, as he was the very first young man Mark Goldsmith met on Rikers Island fifteen years ago. Attending Carlos' graduation was the highlight of his year!



GOSO Staff is Moving Up!

For the past 5 years, Geoffrey Golia, has been an integral member of Team GOSO, moving through the roles of intern, Career Manager, and Director of GOSOWorks. In 2018, he has moved on to his new role as Associate Executive Director.

Two other team members who will be stepping up and leading GOSO into the next 15 years, are Julia Friedman and Shaquala Santiago. Julia and Shaquala have most recently served as Senior Career Managers (LMSWs), and will now be assuming the roles of Senior Director of Community Programs and Senior Director of Client Programs (respectively).



Shaquala

Geoffrey

Julia

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Young Professionals Are Taking Action!

In 2018, GOSO established its Action Board: a cohort of young professionals committed to making an impact in criminal justice reform. In six short months, our Action Board membership has grown to 21 members, each contributing expertise and connecting their professional networks to the organization.

The Action Board is a passionate group of men and women volunteering their time for GOSO. Whatever the need, the Action Board is swift to respond: they've sorted clothing for our interview wardrobe, grilled guys as part of our intensive interview skills workshops, secured event sponsors, and played an important role of audience development through their lively social media networks. At the Action Board inaugural Happy Hour, held in October in the West Village, more than 100 guests turned out to learn more and support GOSO. This ticketed event raised over \$5,000 to help fund GOSO's day-to-day programming.

The Action Board continues to grow and make an impact. To join us, visit goSONYC.org/action-board.



2019 GALA GOSO's 15th Year Anniversary

THURSDAY, APRIL 4TH, 2019
PIER 60, CHELSEA PIERS

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE
IN JANUARY 2019

2018 RECIDIVISM



GOSO rate well below the national average

COST

