



## Y ROADS CENTER – JAMAICA QUEENS

Y Roads is an integrated set of services designed to support young people who are neither employed nor in school get themselves on a path to success. The program is designed around a center-based model that builds on the YMCA of Greater New York's strengths in youth work, counseling services and leadership development.

The next generation of NYC young people is faced with the challenge of finding employment during tough economic times. **ALMOST A QUARTER OF A MILLION 16 TO 24 YEAR-OLDS IN NYC ARE "DISCONNECTED,"** meaning they are not going to school AND they are not working. Many disconnected young people are high school dropouts.

Y Roads Centers will give young people the tools they need to move forward in life.

By creating new Y Roads Centers in high-need neighborhoods, the Y will make a concerted effort to reach out to NYC's most disconnected young people. Utilizing an individualized, case-management approach, the **Y ROADS CENTERS WILL PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES** to help get young people on their path to **SUCCESS IN LIFE**.

From helping a young person get a GED, to preparing them for the workforce, to counseling for emotional and behavioral issues, to providing essential health screenings to providing access to state of the art recreational facilities - **Y ROADS CENTERS WILL GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE THE TOOLS THEY NEED** to move forward in life, and **THE GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT THEY NEED** to reach their **FULL POTENTIAL**.



### An Innovative Partnership with Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (OBT)

OBT is the leading provider of job training and employment services specifically designed for disconnected youth. Their 30-year old job training model blends business skills job training, GED classes, applied learning modules such as public speaking, and a simulated corporate work environment to ensure that young adults attain the right mix of hard skills, soft skills and credentials to succeed in the workforce. The program emphasis is on building confidence, discipline and professionalism among the young people it serves. OBT also provides job placement in a range of corporate settings tapping into their established relationships with major employers. OBT & the YMCA, a perfect partnership designed to improve outcomes for disconnected youth!

# I♥NY

Almost a quarter of a million  
**16-24 YEAR-OLDS  
IN NYC ARE  
"DISCONNECTED."**



**ONE IN FIVE**  
young New Yorkers is both  
**OUT OF SCHOOL  
AND OUT OF WORK.**

The overwhelming **MAJORITY**  
of **DISCONNECTED**  
**YOUTH** come from **POOR**  
households and communities, and  
from minority racial groups with  
**32%** of disconnected  
youth being **BLACK**, and  
**22%** **HISPANIC.**<sup>2</sup>

## **YOUTH AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW YORK CITY**

According to Community Service Society, New York City has the highest rate of "youth disconnection" in the country – a term used to describe young people who have disengaged from work or school for a lengthy period of time during the critical transition from adolescence to adulthood.

- ⚠ More than 220,000 16 to 24 year olds in New York City are "disconnected" — with 60,000 unemployed but looking, and 160,000 not even looking.
- ⚠ About half of all Black and Hispanic New Yorkers of working age were either unemployed or not in the labor force, compared to about two in five White, Asian and Other New Yorkers.
- ⚠ 63 percent of all youth crime in New York City is committed by disconnected youth.
- ⚠ Approximately half of all disconnected youth are "chronic," meaning they have almost no formal education or work experience between the ages of 16 and 24.<sup>1</sup>

## **MOST AT RISK**

- ⚠ Studies show that teen parents, teens in foster care, and young people in the juvenile justice system are most at risk for becoming disconnected, as well as immigrant children struggling with language and cultural barriers.
- ⚠ The overwhelming majority of disconnected youth come from poor households and communities, and from minority racial groups with 32% of disconnected youth being black, and 22% Hispanic.<sup>2</sup>

## **CREATING A PATH FOR SUCCESS BY "RECONNECTING" DISENGAGED YOUTH**

Each Y Roads Center creates tailored 360° programs and support based service environments with elements that include:

- ✔ General Educational Development (GED) courses
- ✔ Workforce development training and job placement
- ✔ Counseling services
- ✔ Youth-friendly medical health services and screening

At the first Y Roads Center, the YMCA is also launching a **NEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP** with Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (OBT) to serve detached youth who live in and around Jamaica, Queens. By combining the YMCA's strengths as a service provider for disengaged youth with OBT's proven expertise in job training and workforce development, the **Y ROADS CENTER WILL BE A DESTINATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE** with a **WIDE RANGE OF EDUCATIONAL, DEVELOPMENTAL AND EMPLOYMENT READINESS NEEDS.**