
Maryam Bey
Reentry Specialist

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Maryam Bey moved to Newark, NJ in 1968. She married in Newark and raised her family in Newark. In 1969, she dropped out of Weequahic High School in the 12th grade and later obtained her GED in 1974.

She and her husband purchased their first home in Newark's Clinton Hill Southward section. They started a licensed daycare center and school named Creative Garden School, Inc. which they operated in Newark for 10 years. In 1984 Maryam closed the doors of Creative Garden School, she became involved in Newark Public Schools as a Parent Activist. As a result of her involvement, she was elected as the PTA President of Malcolm X Shabazz High School, served as Newark Public Schools Elementary Parent Council President. She hosted Parent Notebook, a local TV show designed to empower parents of their rights in the public-school system.

Maryam's divorce did not stop her involvement in the Newark community. She continued to chair and produce successful empowerment conferences spoke at many programs and community functions. Maryam purchased her second and current home in Newark's West Ward. At the age of 43, Maryam was accepted to St. Peter's University in Jersey City as a full-time student, she successfully obtained her Associates Degree in Urban Education and Public Policy in 1994 and her bachelor's Degree in 1998.

Maryam ran 6 times as a schoolboard candidate for Newark Board of Education before she was elected in 2001. Maryam has received many awards from community- based organizations as well as from state and local government for her community involvement, support for Newark's libraries, and her work in education and gang violence prevention.

In 2001, she became Legislative Aide to At-Large Councilwoman Bessie Walker. This was the most fulfilling position for her because it gave her the opportunity to serve the citizens of Newark. In 2005, as one of the Founding Committee members of

Reaffirming Our Commitment to Children, Inc. (ROCC) a non-profit organization that members created to provide services in education and sponsored a program Honoring Newark's Champions of the 2005 US Youth Games: Almost Forgotten Youth-Tomorrow's Leaders." In 2006, Maryam became a counselor at the Council for Airport Opportunity's Welfare to Work Program for females. Eventually she accepted a position at The Kintock Group, a halfway house in Newark as an Employment Counselor for returning citizens from prisons across the country. Using her skills and contacts she acquired from being the Founder & Executive Director of a school, an Aide to a Councilwoman Bessie Walker, the Newark Public School Board President, and by acquiring degrees in education & public policy, she was very successful in persuading inmates and staff to comprehend their worth and the importance of their contribution to society.

Also in 2006, Maryam served as Educational Chairwoman for Westward Councilman Ronald Rice, Jr's, Education Committee. In 2008, Maryam was offered and accepted a position at Delaney Hall, an "Alternative to Incarceration" program in Newark, N.J. Maryam continued honing her skills in the area of preparing residents for re-entry back into society. Her lectures focused on responsibility, accountability, no excuses, job readiness, attitude and dress for success. She negotiated a Writing Project with New Jersey Performing Art Center (NJ PAC) to create a poetry program that was funded by NJ PAC. In 2009, in collaboration with Antoinette Hill-Wright CEO of Life Management Institute, Inc., Maryam produced "Break the Silence- Stop the Violence, a conference held in Plainfield, N.J. that focused on violence in the urban community.

Maryam was hired at The Honorable Mayor Ras J. Baraka's Office of Re-Entry – Newark Works as a Career Advisor in 2014 and by 2018 Maryam was promoted to Manager of Reentry Services, an issue she is very passionate about. Currently, Maryam is the Coordinator for Reentry Services for the City of Newark. With a desire to continue her community involvement in the areas of education and mass incarceration, Maryam created a TV Show entitled "Tell a Vision" in 2016. Tell a Vision focuses on individuals who are making a positive difference in their communities.

Maryam with her dynamic team of brothers and sisters who were part of drug use/distribution/sales, gangs and ***living that life*** have become testimonies of success. They have spoken in prisons across the country, jails, schools, faith based institutions, colleges and universities. Her team also includes psychologists, social workers and attorneys. The Tell a Vision team conducts trainings in halfway houses, County Correctional Facilities, schools, faith-based institutions, colleges and universities. Topics include: after incarceration, women's mental health, support for elder prisoners, education, personal responsibility, no excuses, attitude, power of the hustle, entrepreneurship and real estate investment. We will design a training specifically for your facility's needs and for those who teach in prisons, halfway houses or those who are preparing to become attorneys to brothers and sisters behind the wall. Maryam believes transformation begins before reentry.