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BREWSTER'S SECOND-CHANCE MANSE

Despite its upper-crust name, there are no lords, earls, or duchesses living at Morningthorpe Manor. The Brewster mansion, with its 31 rooms and 13 fireplaces, instead houses “commoners”—the kind with guts, determination, and a strong will to

radically improve their lives. The stately 1894 mansion, on 50 acres that include a carriage house and two other residences, is one of the five facilities nationwide that make up Delancey Street, America’s leading residential self-help organization for the disenfranchised. It’s a haven for everyone from ex-cons to the homeless to those who have simply hit rock bottom.

Since opening in 1980, the Brewster Delancey Street has turned around the lives of up to 7,000 men and women, ages 18 to 68—many of whom were hard-core drug and alcohol abusers with no work skills or education and



Morningthorpe Manor helps the disenfranchised get back on their feet.

histories of poverty or violence. During their two- to four-year stays, residents earn a GED and are trained in three marketable fields, such as the culinary arts, woodworking, moving and trucking, construction, accounting, automotive repair, and antique refinishing.

Occupants also learn positive ethics, as well as practical and social skills that teach them how to lead productive, crime- and drug-free lives full of purpose and integrity.

The truly amazing thing about Delancey Street, however, is that it’s run by the residents themselves. Each of them receives food, housing, clothing, education, and all other services at no cost. Because there’s no staff (paid or otherwise), monetary and product donations from companies and individuals are essential. To find out how you may contribute, visit delanceystreetfoundation.org. —J.H.