

# THINK DIGNITY

Hands-on Advocacy & Activism with the Homeless

formerly Girls Think Tank

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT brought to you by Think Dignity

Inspiring, empowering and organizing our community to advance basic dignity for those living on the streets through hands-on advocacy and activism with the homeless.

Think Dignity, formerly Girls Think Tank (GTT) has had a busy year full of program growth and expansion to continue helping serve those experiencing homelessness in our City.

We are pleased to announce that this year, over 80% of our donations went directly to our programs.

It is thanks to our avid supporters and volunteers that we were able to achieve such monumental growth.

### THANK YOU!

- **San Diego Housing Commission and City of San Diego**

- **Sudberry Properties, Inc.**

- **Duckett -Wilson Development Company**

- **San Diego County Bar Foundation**

- **San Diego Downtown Fellowship**

- **SDG&E**

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**Why the New Name?** Welcome to Think Dignity, formerly Girls Think Tank. Over the course of the following months you will notice a few changes, including: a new website, a new brand, as well as our new name. You will also notice an updated tagline and mission, which more adequately reflects who we are, what we do, and the community we serve. We love our new name because it speaks to our mission and foundation, which has always focused on advancing basic dignity for those living on the streets. Think Dignity is a reflection of our values and mission, and is not exclusive on its face. Our new name invites everyone to be a part of our organization.

**Transitional Storage Center (TSC):** We are pleased to announce we have 304 new lockers at the TSC. These lockers provide additional dignity to those we serve, and with both lockers and bins, we will now be able to serve about 400 clients total. This increases our capacity since last year by over 100 individuals!

The lockers were made possible due to the generous support of the San Diego Housing Commission and City of San Diego; Sudberry Properties, Inc. (who Think Dignity is excited to have as a 3-year funding partner); Duckett-Wilson Development Company; as well as other private donors. See all the action from installation day [here](#).

We are also happy to announce our partnership with San Diego's Downtown Partnership, which allows the collection of unattended property to be safely stored in a dignified manner.

The TSC is a win-win for downtown residents, business owners, the City of San Diego, and those who are experiencing homelessness by allowing individuals a safe space to store their items, thereby clearing the sidewalks of downtown of over 30,000 lbs. of belongings.

From March-October 2015 we have served 482 clients. Of those, 115 transitioned out of the Center due to a positive change in circumstance, including employment and housing. 126 of our clients were women and 46 were Veterans. 228 of these individuals were living in places not meant for habitation, with 59 staying in an emergency shelter, and 62 in transitional housing.

### **Community Legal Education Workshops:**

GTT started quarterly Community Legal Education Workshops in 2014 and since then have provided Workshops on Military Discharge Upgrades, Expungement of Criminal Records, Prop 47 Felony Reductions, Restraining Orders, and laws related to sleeping on the streets.

These Workshops provide those on the streets with an opportunity to learn more about specific areas of the law that most affect them from attorney's who specialize in those areas. The Workshops were made possible, in part, by a grant from the San Diego County Bar Foundation.

### **Legal Referral & Advocacy Clinics:**

This year led to expansions in Think Dignity's mobile Legal Referral and Advocacy Clinic. We have grown from providing aid at three locations to five locations.

We are excited to help out at our new Clinic locations: monthly at Monarch School for Homeless youth and bi-monthly clinics to clients of the San Diego Rescue Mission. Think Dignity Clinics provide much-needed aid to those living on the streets in order to help them resolve their legal issues and overcome hurdles surrounding these [issues](#).

The expansion of the Clinics was made possible, in part, by a grant from the San Diego County Bar Foundation.

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### East Village Clean-Ups:

Think Dignity began quarterly East Village Clean-Ups last year to show we take pride in our community. Since starting these cleanups, we have expanded our reach by partnering with the Clean-Ups of the Downtown Fellowship of Churches & Ministries in their "Doing It Better Together" efforts.



### Portland Loos in San Diego:

Think Dignity is excited to announce that the Park and Market Loo is operating successfully. While there have been challenges at the 14th and L Street location, we are happy to report that both locations are currently operating.

### Know Your Rights Project:

Our pocket guide explains in plain language the 7 areas of law that most commonly affect those living on the streets. You can access the guide on our website: <http://www.thinkdignity.org/know-your-rights>.

### What's on the Horizon in 2016:

There are exciting things on the horizon for 2016, including the roll out of a new program providing Mobile Showers to homeless individuals in various communities throughout San Diego.

### We need your help!

We are still seeking donations for the mobile showers program, as well as host locations and volunteers. To learn more about how to get involved with this program please email: [thinkdignity@gmail.com](mailto:thinkdignity@gmail.com).

We are looking forward to increasing access to basic dignity and providing increased access to clean sanitation for all.

### Think Dignity's TEN Year Anniversary in 2016!

It is hard to believe, but we are approaching our TEN year anniversary! In celebration our Gala Decade of Dignity, will take place on Saturday, October 8, 2016, from 7-10:30 p.m., at the Diamond Skybox located downtown. **Save the date**, you do not want to miss a look back at our past decade of success in providing basic dignity to those living on the streets.

### Tell-All Testimonials:

One person who attended our Community Legal Education Workshop on Military Discharge Upgrades presented by Attorney Jude Litzenberger said, "it was a very fulfilling and enlightening session. Thank you for all your dedicated efforts to our veteran community."

A law student who volunteered at our Legal Referral Clinic said "Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to participate in these clinics. I really enjoyed it last night, and can't wait to sign up for my next one."

A volunteer at the East Village Clean-Up said, "I found that the people on the streets were very appreciative and kind. I overheard one gentleman saying that he "had all that he needed" and he was homeless ... amazing perspective. It really helps all of us appreciate what we have and want to give back to those less fortunate. Thank you for the opportunity!"

### The Faces Behind the Name:

Think Dignity has 11 board members who serve on one of our three committees: Communications, Development, and Programs. Alongside our Dignity Advocates (committee volunteers), we all work together to further the progress of Think Dignity by focusing on programs that continue to advance basic dignity for those living on the streets.

We also added some new faces to the fray, including a part-time Operations Coordinator and additional staff at the TSC. Want to learn more about the team behind the name? Please visit: <http://www.thinkdignity.org/board-members-and-staff>



## Get Involved and Give Your Support!

<http://www.thinkdignity.org/become-member>

Think Dignity is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.