

June 2019 Newsletter



Basic Dignity Coalition Meeting

Thursday, June 6 at 6-7 pm

Moniker Warehouse

705 16th Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Suite 210-D, Second Floor

Voices of Dignity Training on June 6 at 5 p.m.

The Voices of Dignity training at 5 p.m. and Basic Dignity Coalition at 6 p.m. will discuss next steps in focusing our resources in a thoughtful, integrated approach. Only those on the ground know real, sustainable solutions. The voices of those with lived experiences must be heard!

Love our innovative programs?

You can support them by donating [here](#) or [forwarding this message to a friend!](#)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



2019 SUMMER SURVIVAL DISTRIBUTION



We are excited to share that our **Summer Survival Supply Distribution** will be held on **Sunday, July 28th from 9 - 11:30 am** at the corner of 14th and L St., where we will be distributing necessities, such as sunblock, menstrual hygiene items, socks, and hygiene packs, to our unhoused neighbors!

If you are interested in volunteering, please click [here](#) to RSVP! Our volunteer spots are limited, so please sign up as soon as possible. If you are interested in donating, please contact Michelle Gastil at michelle@thinkdignity.org.

SAVE THE DATE



for our 10th Annual Gala!

If you seek additional information on **sponsorships** or, would like to receive an invitation, please contact us at: tdspecialevents@gmail.com

MOLINA CHAMPIONS AWARD



Congratulations!

On May 29th, Molina Healthcare recognized Michelle Woodson as Molina Community Champion and honored Think Dignity's efforts with a \$3000 grant. Michelle's work focuses on the empowerment, autonomy, and self-determination of San Diego youths and addresses the chains of poverty that transfer from generation to generation and become quite difficult to break.

She has helped achieve incredible success stories in our Homeless Youth Legal & Advocacy Project - from youth becoming housed to acceptance letters into some of the most prominent University of California schools. Michelle epitomizes this spirit and grace of service and community-based efforts. It's always an inspiration and honor to work with you, Michelle!

#BeAMoVER

BASIC DIGNITY COALITION AND VOICES OF DIGNITY

Stop Criminalizing Homelessness and creating impossible challenges against the homeless!

On May 14th, the San Diego City Council voted in favor of the Mayor's new ban fining individuals for sleeping in their vehicles. Similar to the cruel and unconstitutional 36-year-old vehicle habitation ban that City Council had previously repealed in February 2019, the Mayor's measure creates greater restrictions that prohibits individuals living in their vehicles from parking on a city street within a block of a school or residence between the hours of 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. with cooking or sleeping items such as food, water, bedding, etc.

Opponents of the new ordinance noted the significant lack of resources and lack of places for our unsheltered population to go. Those with lived experiences tearfully explained the cycle of poverty and impossible system created by these ordinances that

criminalize life sustaining activities such as sleeping. Homeless advocates spoke about the inefficacies of criminalizing poverty and how it further entrenches individuals into homelessness.

The new measure requires impacted individuals to utilize the various "Safe Parking" lots throughout the city to avoid penalties, yet even with the Mayor's promise for new lots and more spaces, there will still not be enough spaces to accommodate all individuals living in their vehicles. Ultimately, this measure creates even more barriers for homeless individuals that continue to push them further into homelessness.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS AND EVENT UPDATES

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY

Downtown Fellowship's next Community Clean-Up Day would normally be scheduled for next Saturday, June 8th (every 2nd Saturday of even months).

Due to staff transitions, the **June 8 date is canceled** - the next date will be August 10th.

MOD SQUAD PROGRAMS

FRESH START SHOWERS

The rain didn't stop our MOD Squad from providing hot showers for more than 100 guests around the San Diego County!

Thanks to UCSD for providing oral health screenings at TAY Academy.

STREET BOUTIQUE

We were able to assist 12 women at our May "Treat Yourself" Street Boutique event at Christie's Place! Our guests were able to select brand new undergarments and receive the best attention from hairstylists. Many thanks again to Christie's Place for hosting and partnering with us for this event!

STREET CAFE

This month we provided food for our unhoused neighbors in Ocean Beach, Cesar Chavez Park and downtown San Diego.
78 clients received healthy options during our May Street Cafe!

Legal Updates for May 2019

LEGAL CLINICS

Think Dignity's legal clinics assist with collecting stories and navigating the homelessness ticket process.

SAN DIEGO ACTIVISTS PANEL: Creative Performing and Media Arts Middle School

Mitchelle spoke on a panel of San Diego Activists at Creative Performing and Media Arts

Middle School with Ms. Zauderer's 6th grade classes. Ms. Zauderer's class is researching important social justice issues and welcomed a variety of different local activists to speak about our causes. There were activists from The LGBT Center, Think Dignity, Alliance San Diego and Team Enough. The students were very engaged and identified ways that they could get involved in their communities.

MONARCH OPEN HOUSE

Monarch's Open House was a huge success. Hundreds of families attended for a night of good food and connecting with local organizations that provide much needed resources for families experiencing homelessness. We were able to connect with new families and agencies to share more about our innovative programs and services.

FORUM ON YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

A team of community members, faculty members at SDSU, and undergraduate and graduate students presented their research that focused on answering the key question:

How do the physical, figurative, and social constraints of homelessness impact transitional aged youth.

Their research found that stigma, criminalization and over-policing leaves homeless youth with no safe space to exist without being ticketed. Moreover, resources are contained in particular areas and often place unfair requirements of having a serious mental illness diagnosis or other vulnerability to access resources. Many youth identify that being homeless is not enough to qualify for resources they need. Lastly, the study recommends the need for more coordinated resource efforts that promote growth.



2019 YES in Sacramento

The California Coalition for Youth hosted a two-day Youth Empowerment Summit (YES) April 24-25 at the Sacramento Convention Center. YES 2019 taught formerly foster, runaway, and homeless transition-age youth on how to become change leaders in their communities and youth leaders on youth issues.

Through the various workshops and meetings with California representatives at the State Capitol, YES participants received firsthand experience in creating positive change in their communities and advocate for youth at the legislative level.

YES featured an array of speakers, throughout the YES program, ranging from California State Senators, Members of California's Assembly, to Youth Advocates and presenters from various levels of expertise and service organizations.

The Coalition's annual Youth Conference (currently known as the Youth Empowerment Summit) has brought youth and youth advocates to the State Capitol for more than 20 years to teach, inspire and become advocates for positive change. At least 50% of YES participants are youth from all across California, many of whom are accessing community services, living in transitional housing or shelters and/or are a part of a youth

At the **American Civil Liberties Union's Equity in Action Summit** on May 11, 2019, Executive Director/Managing Attorney Emily Howe spoke about housing affordability and equity before a large community audience in the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Theater. The session explored structural barriers, including ineffective & inhumane policies that criminalize those experiencing homelessness, and current issues related to housing affordability in California and San Diego. The workshop addressed awareness and advocacy to address the myths, challenges, and the need for a collective voice to address the core causes of homelessness in San Diego.

TRANSITIONAL STORAGE CENTER

Our Transitional Storage Center continues to meet goals. Similar to the early months, the rain and cold weather has been difficult, and we hope to assist more clients. Our compassionate and professional staff, as well as firsthand experience from working outside and directly with the clients prepared us for these challenges.

Client responses included:

"Staff, service were always very helpful, cooperative."

"It helped me at a time when I really needed it."

How has the Center positively impacted your life?

"Great help" "Super Job"

What were you able to do that you otherwise would not be able to do?

"Everything."

THINK DIGNITY

Hands-on Advocacy &
Activism with the Homeless

We invite you to join Think Dignity as a **Sustaining Member!** Your commitment as a sustaining donor helps us ensure the longevity and success of our programs.

This is what your monthly donation can do:

- **\$5/mo = \$ 60/year:** Will provide a collection of undergarments for our Street Boutique.
- **\$10/mo = \$120/year:** Will provide half a months' supply of water for those living on the streets.
- **\$25/mo = \$300/year:** Will sponsor fresh showers and hygiene packs for a person for an entire year.
- **\$60/mo = \$720/year:** Will sponsor one of our legal clinic sites where we help the indigent gain access to justice.
- **\$100 a mo = \$1200/year:** Will sponsor three lockers at our Transitional Storage Center for a year.

Our organization is entirely supported by private donations, with your generosity and that of other San Diegans, we are advancing basic dignity in our community. Thank you!

Shop on Amazon.com? If so, consider using [Amazon Smile!](#) It's exactly like Amazon, but .5% of your purchase goes to the charity of your choice! All you have to do is choose Think Dignity as your charity when you visit Amazon Smile! You can also purchase items from our [Amazon Wish List](#) to support our programs!



UPCOMING EVENTS



**Monday, June 11th at
5-6 p.m.
Location TBD**



**Tuesday, June 7th at 3-4 p.m.
Location TBD**

**Friday, June 21st, 3-4 p.m.
Location TBD**

Our Fresh Start Showers program is unique in how it operates and we hope that it motivates you to begin something similar in your own community!



Monday, June 3rd (6:00pm-8:30pm)
Jewish Family Services - Aero Site
[Corner of Aero Dr. & Murphy Canyon Rd.](#)
(behind Daley Square Plaza)

Wednesday, June 5th (10:00am-1:00pm)
Educational Culture Complex (ECC)
[4343 Ocean View Blvd., SD, CA 92109](#)

Saturday, June 8th (10am-1pm)
Thriving Life Church
[560 South Melrose Drive., Vista, CA 92081](#)

Wednesday, June 12th (1-4pm)
Crisis House
[1034 Magnolia Ave., El Cajon, CA 92020](#)

Friday, June 14th (12:00-3:00pm)
TAY Academy YMCA
[215 Barnes Street](#)

Wednesday, June 19th (9am-12pm)
Wesley Community Services Center
[5380 El Cajon Blvd., SD, CA 92115](#)

Monday, June 17th (6:00pm-8:30pm)
Dreams for Change
[5605 Imperial Ave., San Diego, CA 92114](#)

Thursday, June 20th (10am - 1pm)
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
[345 Anita St., Chula Vista, CA 91911](#)

(behind Daley Square Plaza)

Monday, June 24th (9am-12pm)
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
[2728 6th Ave., San Diego, CA 92103](#)

Wednesday, June 26th (3:30-5:30pm)
Meridian Baptist Church
[660 S 3rd St., El Cajon, CA 92019](#)

Friday, June 28th (10:00am-1:00pm)
Day of Hope
[560 Palomar St., Chula Vista, CA 91911](#)

****Program dates are subject to change.**
Please check our [Public Calendar](#) for updated information.

Special Thanks to our Think Dignity Sponsors

**Robbins Geller
Rudman & Dowd LLP**

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Think Dignity is a grassroots 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working towards community-based solutions through hands-on advocacy and local advocacy.

Contact Us:
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