

November 2019 Newsletter



The next BDC meeting will be
Thursday,
November 7 at 6-7 pm
Please note location
655 West Broadway, Suite
1900



Please check in at the security
desk in the lobby as a member of
Think Dignity/GTT to attend the
Basic Dignity Coalition meeting on
the 19th Floor

<https://www.thinkdignity.org/basic-dignity-coalition>

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR 10TH ANNUAL GALA

Thank you to our
sponsors, guests and
volunteers who made
our 10th Annual Gala -
Masquerade Ball
a great event!

Your support is
invaluable to Think
Dignity and helps us
provide the resources
to make a difference in
our community!



Think Dignity is pleased to announce that our
2019 Masquerade Gala Digital Photo Gallery is now available at
123EventPhotography.com
in the Think Dignity Folder

Thank YOU for Your Support!

FRESH START SHOWERS #DIGNITYDEFENDERS

We cannot express our appreciation enough for the incredible amount of support we have had from community members and partners this past month at our Fresh Start Showers events! Our volunteers have gone above and beyond to ensure that every single guest receives high-quality services and is treated with the utmost respect and compassion. We would like to especially thank and highlight our recent superstar volunteers:

Carissa Arevalo

Cheryl D.

Christine Harrison

David Sullivan

Kelsey Sportsman

Michelle Eberhart

Steve Gilbert

SDSU College of Engineering

USD Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering

If you are interested in joining our squad of Fresh Start Showers #DignityDefenders, click [here](#) for our Volunteer Interest Form!

RAISING THE FUTURE

#DignityDefenders come in all ages, as clearly shown by these students from the Design 39 Campus (D39C) in North County. As members of a FIRST Lego League, they are striving to develop innovative solutions for homelessness through science and



engineering lenses, and we have the honor of supporting their research efforts through our Fresh Start Showers program!

They have also:

- ✓ started a toiletries drive for our Fresh Start Showers guests
- ✓ presented their research to Brain Corp.

...AND...

✓ created a podcast for their school to raise awareness on homelessness!

You can click [here](#) to listen to their podcast!

HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK AT USD



Our staff were honored to support the University of San Diego's (USD) Homelessness Awareness Week by displaying our Fresh Start Showers trailer and providing in-depth information about our impact on the community at their

Housing, Food, and Resource Fair in late October. The event provided opportunities for USD students to learn about local agencies and service providers who are tackling various facets of homelessness in San Diego County and explore future career options that can further support local initiatives. Students were able to check out our shower trailer and learn about how our Mobile Operations of Dignity (MOD) Squad, legal programs, and Transitional Storage Center are addressing issues homeless individuals face through dignified and trauma-informed care approaches.

If you are interested in donating to any of our programs and support our efforts in San Diego communities, please click [here](#).

SPECIAL EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is an annual international movement that encourages the spirit of giving through online fundraising during the holiday season. This year's **Giving Tuesday is on December 3rd** beginning at midnight. You can donate through our website, our fundraising page on MightyCause, or on Facebook.

Our goal this year is to raise \$2,000. The funds will go towards our immediate program needs and materials. Items include toiletries for our Fresh Start Showers or brand new undergarments and menstrual hygiene products for our Street Boutique.

Mark your calendars and remind your friends! We will continue to provide more details as we get closer to the date, but please contact Merlynn Watanabe at merlynn@thinkdignity.org for any questions.

Winter Survival Supply Distribution

We are excited to announce that our 2019 Winter Survival Supply Distribution will be held on **Sunday, December 8th at 9:00 am on 14th and J St.** (corner of Faultline Park). We are currently seeking a minimum of 100 donations each for brand new sweaters and underwear for men and women (sizes S-XXL), as well as personal hygiene items (shampoo, soap, deodorant, combs), so please contact Merlynn Watanabe (merlynn@thinkdignity.org) if you are interested in donating any of these items.

Ugly Sweater Mixer

We hope you all still have your ugly holiday sweater from last year because we are excited to party with you all at our 2019 Ugly Sweater Mixer! This year's holiday event will be held on Tuesday, **December 10th** at [McGregor's Ale House](#) (10475 San Diego Mission Rd., San Diego, CA 92108) from 6-8 pm.

Please plan to join us in celebrating our accomplishments over the past year with great food, drinks, and activities!

STREET BOUTIQUE

Many thanks to Wesley Community Services Center for always opening their safe space for our Street Boutique to provide homeless individuals with brand new undergarments and menstrual hygiene and incontinence products this past month! We were also very pleased to partner with Purses for a Purpose again, who brought a beautiful array of purses filled with personal hygiene products for our guests.



If you are interested in volunteering with or donating to the Street Boutique, please contact Merlynn Watanabe at merlynn@thinkdignity.org.



USD School of Law Public Interest Law Panel

Mitchelle Woodson participated in a public interest attorney panel at USD School of Law to speak about the powerful work of public interest attorneys and fuel the passions of our future social justice warriors and **#DignityDefenders**.

City Council Advocacy

Think Dignity attended a City Council meeting to learn about the City's Community Action Plan on Homelessness. The recommendations, strategies and goals of the plan all incorporate feedback from the interviews of many local stakeholders and people experiencing homelessness. From these contributions and the expertise of CSH, the Plan sets a bold vision for homeless services in the City of San Diego. By working creatively and collaboratively, the City of San Diego plans to build a client-centered homeless assistance system that aims to prevent homelessness, and that quickly creates a path to safe and affordable housing and services for people who experience homelessness in our community. Check out the full report here: [Community Action Plan](#)

Politifest

Politifest is a San Diego public affairs summit produced by Voice of San Diego. Launched in 2011, Politifest focuses on issues affecting our community. This year, Politifest focused on housing and transportation issues. The day was filled with a range of sessions led by subject matter experts discuss housing supply, homelessness and potential solutions, the future of transit, and new tax and policy proposals. Our very own, Michelle Woodson, participated on a panel on "The Homeless Reality" discussing San Diego's foremost humanitarian crises offering an unvarnished portrait of the realities of San Diego's homelessness problem – from the challenges of housing homeless San Diegans to the impacts of police enforcement.

Love our innovative programs?
You can support them by donating [here](#) or

[forwarding this message to a friend!](#)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

TRANSITIONAL STORAGE CENTER SUCCESS STORY

Recently MC, a TSC client approached Danny our site supervisor, informing him that he was not feeling well, having taken some pain medication given to him from a stranger. The paramedics were called and believed that MC needed to go to the hospital. MC was afraid to go as he was concerned about his belongings. Danny assured him that his belongings were safe at the TSC.

MC showed up the next morning feeling much improved and thanked Danny for taking care of his stuff. Danny said, "When I saw him and how good he looked, this made my day." Thanks to Danny for recognizing a client in need and, for MC trusting that Danny and the TSC would have his back!

SUPPORT THINK DIGNITY

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:** provides a collection of undergarments for our Street Boutique.
- **\$10/mo = \$120/year:** provides half a months' supply of water for those living on the streets.
- **\$25/mo = \$300/year:** sponsor a fresh shower and hygiene pack for one person for an entire year.
- **\$60/mo = \$720/year:** sponsor one of our legal clinic sites where we help the indigent gain access to justice.
- **\$100 a mo = \$1200/year:** 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



Please contact Merlynn Watanabe at merlynn@thinkdignity.org for the date and location.



Friday, November 1st
Location/Time TBD

Friday, November 15th
Location/Time TBD

Please contact Merlynn Watanabe at merlynn@thinkdignity.org for the location.

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, November 4th
(6:00pm-8:30pm)
Jewish Family Services - Aero Site
[Corner of Aero Dr. & Murphy Canyon Rd.](#)
(behind Daley Square Plaza)

Friday, November 8th
(12-3pm)
TAY Academy YMCA
[215 Barnes Street](#)

Saturday, November 9th
(10am-1pm)
Thriving Life Church
[560 S Melrose Dr., Vista, CA 92081](#)

Wednesday, November 13th
1-4pm
Crisis House
[1034 Magnolia Ave., El Cajon, CA 92020](#)

Monday, November 18th
(6-8:30pm)
Dreams for Change
[5605 Imperial Ave., San Diego, CA 92114](#)

Wednesday, November 20th
(9:00am-12pm)
Wesley Community Services Center
[5380 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, CA 92115](#)

Thursday, November 21st
(10am-1pm)
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
[345 Anita St., Chula Vista, CA 91911](#)

Friday, November 22nd
(10:00am-1:00pm)
Day of Hope
Location TBD

Wednesday, November 27th
(3:30-6pm)
Meridian Baptist Church
[660 S 3rd St., El Cajon, CA 92019](#)

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



Special Thanks to our Think Dignity Sponsors

**Robbins Geller
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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:
Phone: 619/537-8736
E-mail: info@thinkdignity.org

