

THINK DIGNITY

OCTOBER 2020

NEWSLETTER

THINK DIGNITY

COVID-19 UPDATE OF OUR SERVICES

With COVID-19 still affecting San Diego County, our Basic Dignity Coalition meetings and Fresh Start Showers program will continue to be halted until further notice. We will monitor the situation to determine a safe re-opening date in the future.

We will continue to operate our Street Boutique and Legal Clinics virtually while our Transitional Storage Center and Street Cafe remain open for in-person services with regular business hours.

Impact of Transitional Storage Center on Homeless San Diegans



Danny McCray, Site Supervisor of Think Dignity's Transitional Storage Center, walks through the 400 lockers and bins utilized by San Diegans experiencing homelessness. (Photo courtesy of [San Diego Union-Tribune](#))

For San Diegans experiencing homelessness, many are forced to carry all their belongings with them with the risk of having their items stolen or disposed of while they

are sleeping or traveling to appointments. Since we took over management of the Transitional Storage Center (TSC) in 2012, we have assisted over 500 individuals with transitioning off of the streets by providing access to 400 lockers and bins that offer safe storage for an unlimited amount of time.

One story that we wanted to highlight was from a client who transitioned out of our TSC last year and visited our staff to share his successes. Paul struggled with alcoholism while experiencing homelessness, but through support from our TSC staff, he was able to receive referrals for essential services and safely secure his belongings while he attended housing appointments and job interviews. After closing out his locker at the TSC, he moved into an apartment with his wife and gained full-time employment.

Our TSC continues to serve more than 400 individuals annually, and we want to commend our TSC staff for always creating safe, human-centered spaces for all of our clients.

To learn more about our Transitional Storage Center, click below!

[Learn more about our TSC](#)

Survival Supply Distribution: Winter 2020

THINK DIGNITY
Hands-on Advocacy & Activism with the Homeless

WINTER SURVIVAL SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION

Early December 2020
(exact date TBD)

Needed items for care packages:
(We need 300 of each item)

- No-rinse shampoo caps
- No-rinse bathing cloths
- Travel-sized shampoo
- Travel-sized soap
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Hand sanitizer
- Lip balm
- Travel-sized lotion
- Winter gloves
- Rain ponchos
- Blankets
- Sleeping bags
- Backpacks
- Flashlights w/batteries

We are happy to share that we will hold our Winter Survival Supply Distribution this year in a modified format to ensure the safety of our staff, volunteers, and guests. As large

gatherings are still discouraged to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19, we will instead create care packages with backpacks and/or duffel bags that will consist of travel-sized hygiene items, unisex winter clothing items, and other essential supplies. Our care packages will then be delivered to unsheltered individuals through our staff and volunteers in early December 2020.

More details will be finalized and announced by November, so keep an eye out for our November newsletter and social media accounts.

If you are interested in supporting our Winter Survival Supply Distribution as a donor and/or volunteer (we have limited availability for volunteers at this time), click any of the buttons below.

Sign up as a Volunteer to deliver care packages!

Donate item(s) for our Distribution!

Executive Director Corner



Mitchelle Woodson (third from left) speaking on

We are proud of our Executive Director, Mitchell Woodson, who was a featured panelist at the recent City of San Diego Nonprofit Academy's Virtual Conference! Along with Daniela Kelly, Executive Director of Sherman Heights Community Center, and Monte Jones, CEO of Logan Heights Community Development Corporation, Mitchell spoke on authentic community engagement, touching on the realities and challenges of homelessness.

When asked to provide three key points for an authentic community engagement roadmap, Mitchell emphasized the following:

1. **"Speak with the communities you are serving** to ensure you are providing appropriate services and advocacy.
2. **You have to be okay with having uncomfortable conversations.** Have people feel that anger, sadness, and humility in order to understand the needs of the communities you are serving.

3. **Uplift the voices of the people you are serving** by ensuring that they are always at the table."

"Everyone has a voice. What we need to do is uplift these voices."

We stand by her statements as we strive to always embody and implement these values in every action we take as a homeless advocacy agency, and we are honored that our efforts were highlighted as an authentic community engagement approach in San Diego.

To watch the full recording of the panel, click below!

[Click here to watch the Authentic Community Engagement Panel](#)

Advocacy Highlight:

Politifest



Voice of San Diego's Politifest 2020 is happening now until Saturday, October 3rd!

Every year, the Voice of San Diego hosts Politifest to provide spaces for San Diegans to hear and engage with expert panelists, who speak on various political issues affecting San Diegans. With the elections coming around the corner, this year's Politifest will focus on ballot measures, policies, and issues to educate and empower San Diegans.

We are proud of our Executive Director, Mitchell Woodson, as she will be joining other expert panelists on a panel, titled "Policies to Reduce the Role, Presence, and Budget of Local Police," to speak on the criminalization of homelessness and poverty. Her session will be held on Saturday, October 3rd at 10:00am.

To hear Mitchell's panel, register below!

[Register for Politifest 2020](#)

Other Ways You Can Support

Love our innovative programs?

You can support them through any of these options!

Donate to our
programs

Forward this to a
friend

Be a sustaining
member

Shop on Amazon
Smile

By selecting Think Dignity as your Amazon Smile beneficiary, you can automatically donate .5% of your purchases straight to our programs at no extra cost!

Impact of Your Support

As a **Sustaining Member**, your commitment helps us ensure the longevity and success of our programs and advocacy efforts.

Your monthly donation can:

\$5/mo.
(*\$60/year*)

Provides 15 women with brand new undergarments at our Street Boutique

\$10/mo.
(*\$120/year*)

Provides half a month's supply of water for those living on the streets

\$25/mo.
(*\$300/year*)

Sponsors a shower and hygiene pack for one person for an entire year

\$60/mo.
(*\$720/year*)

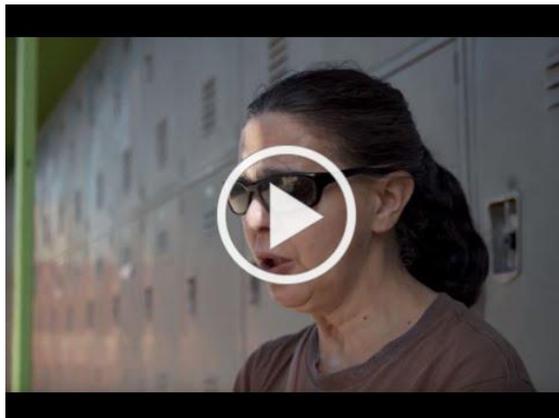
Sponsors one Legal Clinic site to provide access to justice for homeless individuals

\$100/mo.
(*\$1,200/year*)

Sponsors three lockers at our Transitional Storage Center for an entire year

Every amount counts.

Your generosity can make a great impact in another person's life and transform our communities as shown in our new video below.



Our organization is primarily supported by private donations, **which allow us to advance basic dignity for our unsheltered neighbors.** Thank you!

Special Thanks to our Think Dignity Sponsors

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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: (619) 537-8736 | info@thinkdignity.org

