

THINK DIGNITY

JULY 2020

NEWSLETTER

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NEW! COVID-19 UPDATE OF OUR SERVICES

While our Basic Dignity Coalition meetings and Fresh Start Showers program will continue to be temporarily halted until August 3rd due to the recent increase of COVID-19 cases, **we are happy to announce that our Street Boutique and Street Cafe programs will be re-opened this month!**

Our Legal Clinics will continue to operate virtually at this time, and our TSC will continue to remain open with regular business hours.

We will continue to monitor the situation and post updates on our newsletters and social media, but read below to find out more about our re-opening plans and advocacy efforts!

Re-opening of Our Street Boutique



Our team is ready to bring our Street Boutique back to the people by mid-July! In adherence to proper health guidelines, we have made several modifications that allow us to protect the health of our guests while maintaining our high service quality.

Our Street Boutique is centered on the freedom and dignity of choice, so **we have developed an online retail website** where our guests can still have the shopping experience at our regular events and select brand new and unused undergarments and

menstrual hygiene items at no cost. Every order will then be safely prepared by our staff and delivered to our guests. We will re-launch at some local shelters and transitional

housing centers, but we are also in the process of developing new ways for unsheltered individuals to access our Boutique services.

To ensure that we can host our Street Boutique every month, **please consider donating \$25 to sponsor a set of brand new and unused undergarments and a month's supply of menstrual hygiene items for 1 person.**

Our goal is to raise \$3,000 to provide support to at least 120 homeless San Diegans by the end of the year, so click the button below to help us advance basic dignity!

[Donate to our Street Boutique](#)

Re-opening of Our Street Cafe

Our Street Cafe is ready to hit the streets this month! We will be implementing a new set of sanitation and safety procedures to protect our guests, volunteers, and staff, and we will continue to provide nutritional meal options and produce to our unsheltered neighbors through our partnership with the San Diego Food Bank and Starbucks. We are currently working with local service providers and community groups to finalize location details, but keep an eye out on our social media for updates!



If you are interested in supporting our Street Cafe, we are happy to accept donations of bottled water! We often serve 100-150 people per month, so please contact our Programs and Operations Manager, Merlynn Watanabe, at merlynn@thinkdignity.org if you are able to donate cases of bottled water.

Flattening the Curve of Inequality



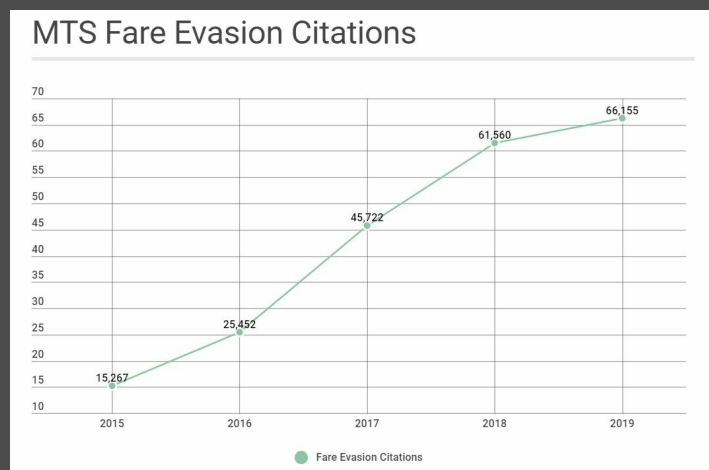
Mitchelle Woodson, pictured above, speaks about the barriers and gaps homeless San Diegans have faced during the pandemic. (Source: Twitter / @sdACLU)

We are proud of our Executive Director, Michelle Woodson, who was recently on a panel for the ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties (SDIC)' webinar series, "Flatten The Curve Of Inequality." Alongside her co-panelists, Jonathan Markovitz (SDIC) and Eve Garrow (ACLU SoCal), Michelle addressed the realities and challenges that homeless San Diegans have faced before and during the pandemic, such as criminalization and dehumanization, emphasizing the need for accountability from elected officials and systemic changes in our society.

If you missed the livestream, you can click below to watch the full webinar on the ACLU's YouTube channel.

[Watch the ACLU webinar here](#)

Impact of MTS Fare Evasion Citations on Low-Income Residents



The graph displays the drastic increase of fare evasion citations over the past five years by MTS code compliance officers. (Source: Voice of San Diego and MTS)

In mid-June, the Voice of San Diego found that the amount of fare evasion citations by

MTS had quadrupled over the past five years, rising from 15,267 tickets in 2015 to 66,155 tickets last year. Moreover, with many low-income residents not having the capacity to pay the \$193 ticket or appear in court, they often face additional fines of \$500 or more. As a result, many residents face long-lasting legal and financial barriers that also impedes on their ability to acquire or maintain stable housing.

In response to this aggressive enforcement, MTS recently launched a pilot project called the "Fare Enforcement Diversion Program," which would not only reduce fines but also offers alternative methods of appealing or resolving an unpaid ticket.

To read more on the Voice of San Diego's fare evasion enforcement analysis and the new MTS program, click on the buttons below!

**Voice of San Diego's Analysis
on MTS Enforcement**

**MTS Fare Enforcement
Diversion Program**

Our Dignity Defenders



PHOEBE & KATRINA

Meet our young Dignity Defender, Phoebe, who has been dedicating her summer with her mom, Katrina, to regularly make and mail batches of reusable masks from Florida to support homeless San Diegans!



CHRISTY DAWN

Our Dignity Defenders in Los Angeles, [Christy Dawn](#), have not only donated 500 of their sustainable masks but also created them with deadstock fabric to reduce textile waste and greenhouse gas emissions!



AROMA

Our corporate partner in Florida, [Aroma](#), donated personal-sized body wash, Bokke Balms (which help with blisters, cuts, dry skin, and more), and an automatic hand sanitizer dispenser with refills through their Buy 1-Give 1 campaign!

#DignityDefender Partner Highlight



Pacific Beach Rotaract 2020-2021 Board of Directors (Source: Instagram / @pbrotaract)

Since 2016, we have had the pleasure of partnering with the [Pacific Beach Rotaract](#) (PB Rotaract), a volunteer and network community for young San Diego professionals, through several of our programs. During this time, they have not only adopted one of our Fresh Start Showers sites to provide volunteers and essential supplies but also made numerous in-kind and monetary donations to support the various needs of our homeless guests. We are honored to have Dignity Defender partners like PB Rotaract who truly embody our mission and values of advancing basic dignity through holistic and human-centered efforts!

To learn more about PB Rotaract and how you can join, click the button below!



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, and through your generosity, we are able 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

