



Homeless Storage & Check-In Center

Update for City Council
Public Safety and Neighborhood Services
Committee
October 3, 2012

Presented by:
Noor Kazmi, President
Jacky Vel, Operations Manager

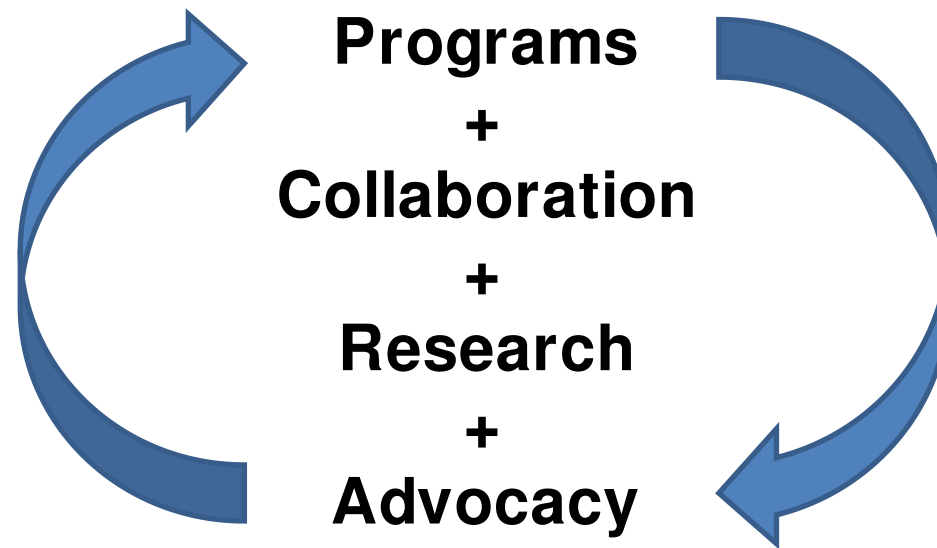
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www.girlsthinktank.org



“Basic Human Dignity For All”



Girls Think Tank inspires, empowers and organizes its community to advance basic human dignity throughout San Diego.



Girls Think Tank: About Us

- 12 professional women as volunteer board members
- Coalition of >80 volunteers and collaborators including representatives of the homeless community
- 4 part time staff
- Programs:



**Legal Referral
& Advocacy Clinic**



**Advocacy for
Portland Loos**



**Survival
Backpacks**



**Storage &
Check-In
Center**



About The Storage & Check-In Center

Our Goal: To provide an accessible space where homeless people can safely store their personal belongings so as to use public transport, job hunt, work, attend classes, meet with health professionals /service providers and begin their transition back to housing, while freeing the streets of almost 30,000 lbs of materials in carts and under tarps.

Our Service:

- ☐ 4000 sf. serving 315 clients, one-third of whom are women, 120+ on waiting list
- ☐ Serving 75-125 clients per shift (Mon-Fri a.m. and p.m. shifts, Sat a.m.)
- ☐ Employs 4 part-time staff (two working their way out of homelessness)
- ☐ Employees are supplemented by volunteer bin-runners “giving back” and benefiting from increased self-esteem and a chance to receive a character reference for seeking employment or entering a transition program

Annualized costs through 2012: \$92,000 or 80 cents per client per day

•Funded by \$14k from previous operator, \$36k from City Council via SDHC, \$42k of private donations and GTT reserves



Support from the Community

Written statements of Support have been received from:

- Judge and Mrs. Coates – long time homeless advocates. Judge Coates also heads the Homeless Women's Task Force for San Diego.
- Ruth Bruland, Exec. Director of St Vincent De Paul Village
- Annie Eichman, President of Little Italy Residents Association (L.I.R.A.)

Support has also continues to be voiced by

- Clean & Safe Downtown San Diego
- SDPD Homeless Outreach Team
- San Diego City Attorney



Storage & Check-In Center Client Testimonials

K.H. lives in transitional housing “I am able to look for permanent housing and finish getting my GED. It has freed me up to take care of my business.”

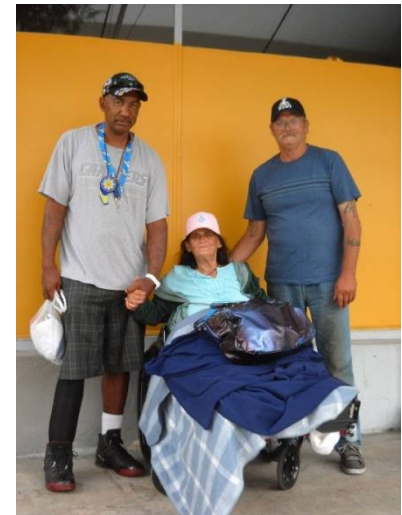
K.S. is a student at City College “I can wear clean clothes to school knowing my personal belongings are safe and secure. Without [free storage] I would have to find a grocery cart, chain my things to a street light pole and pray that they were safe”

Anonymous . A veteran. “People in need get storage and info about other services. People with storage bins often help others with hygiene supplies and cloths. The Center shows that the larger community is actually trying to understand the true needs of the homeless ”

L.S., a senior “[Without the Check-In Center] I would give everything I have away. When you carry lots of stuff, people know you are homeless. Everywhere you go, you feel you don’t belong there or any place. I used to hide my stuff in bushes. Sometimes it was stolen”

D.McC, a job-seeker “[The Check-In Center] allows me to use the library which doesn’t allow large bags and to interview, to look professional and ‘un-homeless’ ”

D.M, an under-employed security guard “I can ride the bus and go look for a [better] job...Now, I feel like a *real citizen of San Diego.*”



*Check-In Center clients
Cletis, Sandra and Butch*



Storage & Check-In Center July Client Survey

78 clients answered questions about personal circumstances and usefulness of the facility in their daily lives:



- Male = 71%, Female = 29%
- Status: 20% Veteran, 27% Senior, 28% Disabled, 3% LGBT
- Willingness to pay a monthly fee? 34% said no, 32% said between \$1-5 per month, 34% said \$6+ per month
- Income of respondent: 17% did not respond, 62% said \$0-100 (some food stamps only), 16% state income > \$500
- 74% indicated average of “very useful” or “useful” service for ease of keeping clean, attending work, keeping appointments, using public transport etc.



The Future of the Storage & Check-In Center

- Current location @ 9th Ave & Broadway is due for redevelopment on Nov 1, 2012.
- 60 days notice given to all clients
- GTT seeking new premises & funding to keep operating at least through June 2013
- Possible sublet of SVDP property to create a primarily outdoor storage facility of 4,000 sf.
- Annualized costs through 2013: \$110k
 - less than 50 cents per client per day
 - Ongoing operational costs of \$80k but additional \$30k rent per year
 - Some additional setup and moving costs





Your Questions?

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