DREAMS LA FOR CHANGE

Presentation by:

Teresa Smith, PhD, CEO & Founder

Mission

The mission of Dreams for Change remains its guiding beacon: To respond to the needs of communities by creating innovative and costeffective programs to empower and stabilize the lives of families and individuals.

History

Dreams for Change was founded in May 2009 by Dr. Teresa Smith to serve the needs of families and individuals who were struggling due to the recession's economic downturn. Since then, it has pioneered multiple costeffective interventions that stabilize the lives of thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness and other low-income people.



FINANCIAL AND HOUSING STABILITY JOB PLACEMENT / HIGHER EDUCATION WHO: Trainees are people Dreams' Cuisine **DREAMS** with 8 to 10 of the highest barriers to **FOR CHANGE** employment, including formerly incarcerated, homeless, age, and SAFE SLEEP mental health. MALL WHO: FOOD ACCESSIBILITY People **FINANCIAL** experiencing LITERACY homelessness, **EMPLOYMENT** low-income seniors, SUPPORT individuals, and **PATH** PATH families **CLASSROOM FREE TAX ASSISTANCE EDUCATION** WHO: INCOME Low and PATH Moderate income individuals and Dreams' Cuisine Families MANAGEMENT **LIFE EVENT** An interesting fact: more than 70% of the SAFE PAID ON-THE-JOB TRAINING participants in Safe **PARKING** Parking have income.

Programs

- Safe Parking
- Safe Sleep
- Workforce Training
- Asset Building

Services

- Case Management
- Housing Navigation
- Free Tax Prep
- VITA Volunteer
- Financial Literacy
- Food Truck
- Food Distribution
- Job Placement

Safe Sleeping

The Safe Sleeping program is a City of San Diego-funded initiative that provides a non-traditional congregate shelter space. The program provides tents, cots, and sleeping bags for unsheltered adults who were living in encampments, city streets, parks, and canyons.





20th and BSt.

Opened on July 28, 2023

Implementation

- Determining staffing structure to support
- Site setup-similar layout to Hep A camp response
- City developed initial layout with adjustments made on the need
- Planned steady intake gear up with intakes

O Lot

Opened on October 21, 2023

Implementation

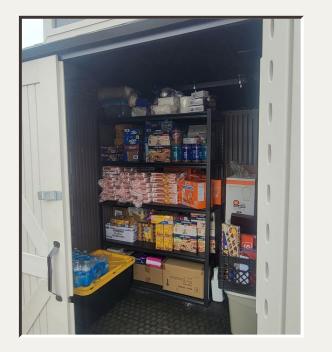
- Different layout and determining how to best utilized the space
- Opportunity for creating space for client special needs
- Vendors coordination
- Subcontractors
- Setup



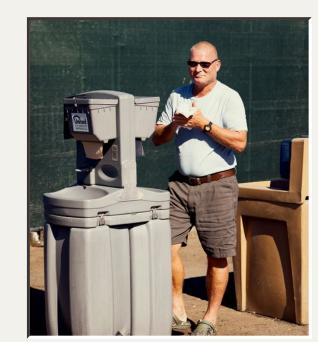












Amenities

B Site

- Porta potties
- Handwashing Stations
- Showers days
- Storage bin
- Coffee
- Microwave
- Pet Supplies
- Charging Stations
- Lending Library
- Shuttle Service

O Site

- Porta potties
- Handwashing Stations
- Showers
- Laundry
- Locker storage
- Coffee
- Microwave
- Pet Supplies
- Charging Stations
- Shuttle Service





Access

- City outreach team partnership
- SD PD HOT
- 211

Intake

- Application, program expectations, consents
- Issue of cot, sleeping bag, hygiene kits
- Assignment of tent space and tent
 - Based on client's preference
 - Intake community
 - o Open Space
 - Needed support

Service Coordination

- Encampments group intakes
- On site partners
- Off site partners; Sharia
 Closet
- Case management
- Peer Support
- Volunteers

Direct program services include case management, health services, meals, harm reduction, crisis intervention and recreational activities.



Challenges

- Drugs
- DV
- Weather
- Rapid intakes
- Supply chain -vendors
- Health concerns
- Media





Successes

- Building communities
- Increases in feelings of dignity and respect
- Outreach worker connections
- Higher engagement into services
- Housing

