

WED APR 17 2019

## Dignity Is The Word

Not if, but how are we of service to the unhoused?



Quarterly Digest // Seeking Shelter // April 2019

How are you today? Have you eaten? Are you thinking nice things about yourself?

I want to check-in with you as we look back at the last quarter because well-being is at the core of dignity work. As a donor to our Seeking Shelter fund in San Francisco, thank you for recognizing the inherent dignity of all people.

Dignity can be shown in ways big and small. This month, [our ALMA team](#) spent a couple of hours preparing and plating meals with [Miriam's Kitchen](#) here in DC, and the staff emphasized the importance of serving high-quality, healthy food and being sure to smile and greet the guests. Lava Mae, a [mobile shower nonprofit](#) in the Seeking Shelter fund, offers guests two things that are in short supply when you're unhoused: privacy and a hot shower.

Maybe the key is being intentional in how we support people experiencing homelessness, and not just that we do. What do you think?

This quote is such a nice summation of how dignity feels:

*"To know that I have 15 minutes to myself, in a safe private space where hot water and wonderful soaps wash me clean is the highlight of my day. I reconnect with who I am; I feel hopeful and find what I need to hang on another day as I wait for housing to open up."* -from a guest of Lava Mae, March 2019

Thank you for supporting dignity,

[Whitney](#), Head of Growth & Community

## **Human Connections: How Homes Heal**



*Photography by Fran Guijarro*

## **Stories Behind the Fog**

Charles was priced out of the San Francisco rental market and became homeless — just around the time he was diagnosed from stage 4 prostate cancer. Getting housing was an integral part of his healing process.

[Read his story.](#)

Impact & Results

# What We're Celebrating



*Annual Children's Art Show at Raphael House*

## **Art Is In the Air**

*Raphael House*

Kids at Raphael House broke out the crayons, watercolors and colored pencils for the Annual Children's Art Show. Parents celebrated with their little artists while kids took home fun prizes. Seeking Shelter donors who give \$50+/month provide supplies for the [Children's Program](#).

[See more photos!](#)

## **World's Colliding: Equal Pay & Homelessness**

*Equal Rights Advocates*

Did you know gender and racial pay gaps contribute to homelessness? According to the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, single-parent families, nearly all of them headed by women, are extremely vulnerable to homelessness. Equal Rights Advocates, a nonprofit in our [women@ fund](#), wants you to support a bill to require big California companies to submit reports showing how much they pay by sex, race, ethnicity and job category. [Sign now.](#)

## **Celebrating the Good**

*Simply the Basics*

"Shakespeare for All Neighbors" is the latest wellness project from [Simply the Basics](#). "Shakespeare covers the whole gambit of the human experience," Founder Meghan Freebeck Freebeck shared. "Shakespeare is a safe way for them to explore their own experiences and celebrate the good in their lives." [More on that.](#)

## **Hiking > Homelessness**

*At the Crossroads*

Enjoy delish bites and beautiful views at Summer SunDay 2019, an annual hike up Mount Tam to support homeless youth. [Check it out.](#)

## **Getting Serious About Ending Youth Homelessness**

*Larkin Street Youth*

Airbnb and Twilio donated \$2.7 million to local organizations addressing homelessness, including Larkin Street Youth. This infusion of funding helps your Seeking Shelter dollars stretch even further. [Read more.](#)

## **Support Seeking Shelter:**

*Subscribe to ALMA's Seeking Shelter fund to donate to local orgs helping the homeless, each month.*

[SUPPORT SEEKING SHELTER](#)