
DREAMS
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2025

Guiding Principles

Respect: Be excellent to yourself and thereby inspire self-respect in others. Serve others with honesty and dignity.

Passion and Joy: Be passionate about serving clients/guests and joyful about the way that we do it.

Restoration: Bring about positive change and solutions in the lives of clients/guests.

Responsiveness: Do the things that nobody else will do. All client needs are valid and important and should be addressed in a timely manner.

Collaboration: Be expert in what we do and let others be expert in what they do. Build trust through strong collaborative relationships with partner organizations serving our clients.

Quality over Quantity: Serve clients/guests at a high standard even if it limits the number of people we can serve.

Efficiency and Effectiveness: Use every dollar wisely to effect the most change

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

Volunteers in 2025

1,500+ Volunteers

5,600+ Hours Served

Board of Directors 2025



Mary Gross
President



Kim Pike Walters, CPA
Treasurer



Kay Dendy
Secretary



Sean Green, PhD.
Director



Scott Suckow
Director



Jack Abbott
Director



Levi Giafaglione
Director

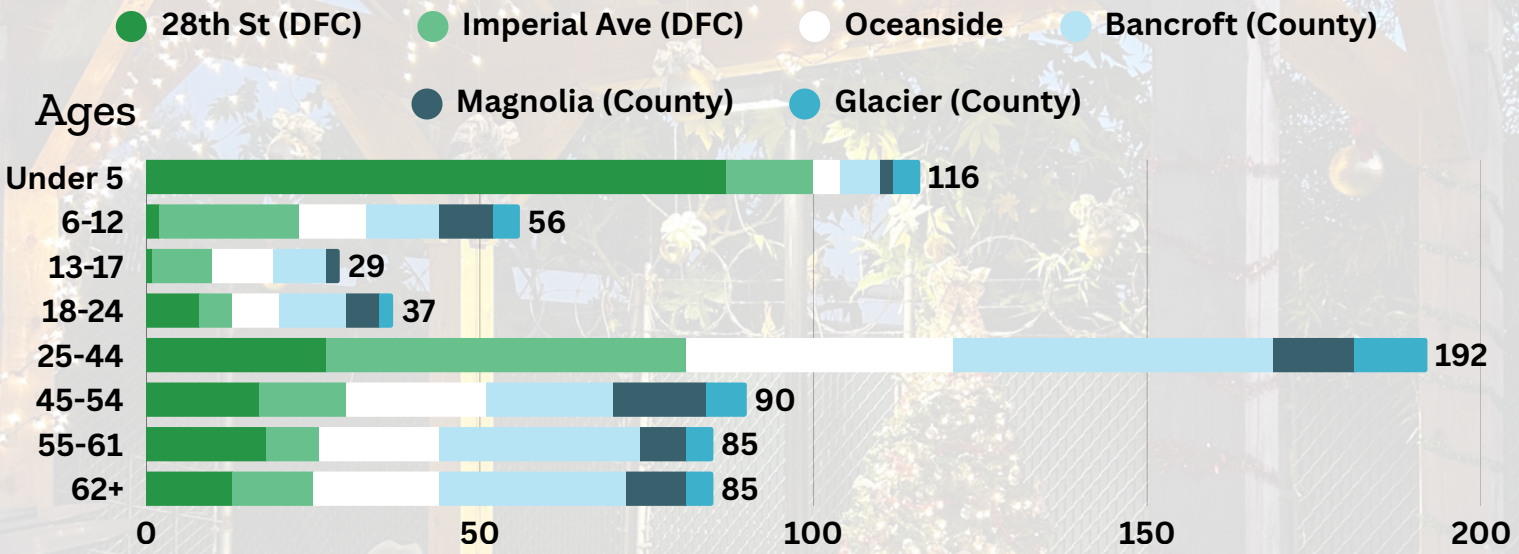
Safe Parking: 15 Years of Services

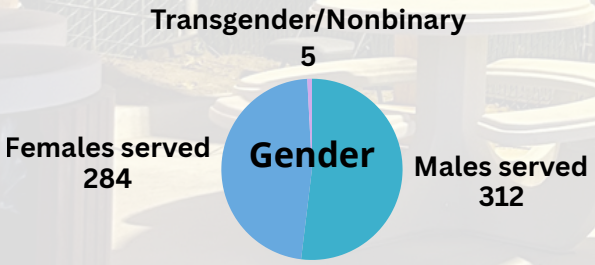
408
Households (Vehicles)

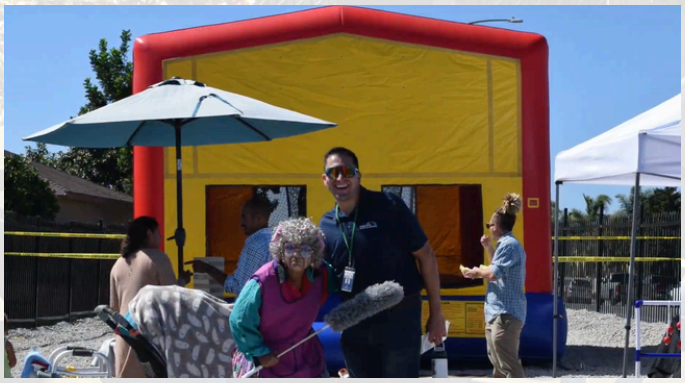
690
People

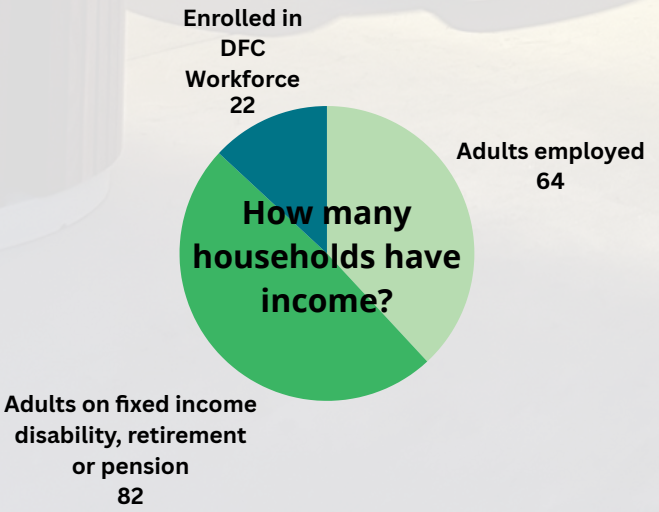
186
Positive Exit

Note: According to HUD definitions, Safe Parking is not classified as shelter; participants are recorded as residing in "a place not meant for human habitation." Dreams for Change embraces a broader, participant-centered view of success, celebrating housing at every stage.











Voices of Safe Parking & Community

In 2010, Dreams for Change launched San Diego's first Safe Parking Program. What began as a response to the growing number of individuals and families living in their vehicles during the recession would go on to influence communities across the country.

Fifteen years later, Safe Parking remains a place of safety, dignity, and opportunity. Through the voices of a participant, volunteer, intern, and staff membes, we reflect on the people and relationships that have shaped the program and its impact over the years.



Kevin L.

Former Participant & Former Board President

"It wasn't just about having a place to park. It was about dignity, community, and knowing I wasn't alone"



Jeoffrey Lopez

MSW Intern

"Being alongside the Safe Parking community has given me one of the most impactful and rewarding experiences of my MSW journey."



Ava

Program Coordinator - 11 Years with DFC

One paycheck can separate any of us. Your situation is temporary, your future is permanent."



Gloria Hernandez

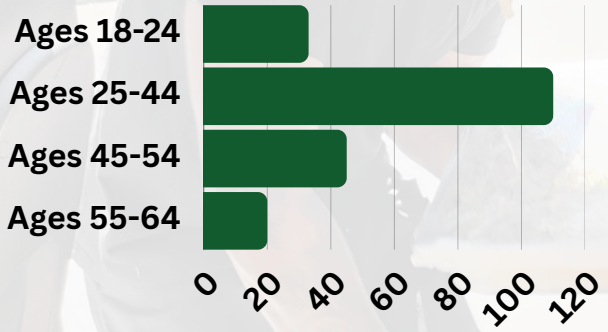
Volunteer & Donor - Outreach Dir. Oasis Church

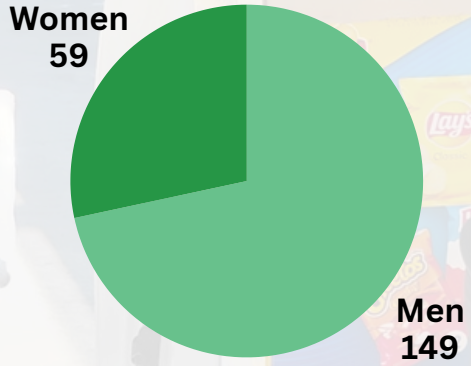
"I have a heart to serve our friends in the Safe Parking Program because I know firsthand what it's like to experience homelessness."

Dreams' Cuisine / Workforce Training

Employment Social Enterprise

Trainees	Found Jobs	Jobs with DFC	School Apprenticeship
208	69	35	5





Paid Trainee Total Hours and Wages 24,220 $429,902

Dreams' Cuisine Addressing Food Insecurity

Number of Meals Prepared 108,410

Weekly Food Distribution

629 Households / 2313 People

- 113 Children Under 5
- 384 Children Age 6- 18
- 482 People over 60



Voices of Workforce

People whose lives were changed through employment, training, leadership opportunities, and the Fresh Food Truck legacy.



Retiring the Fresh Food Truck

Told by Teresa Smith, PhD, CEO

"Our first Fresh Food Truck was more than a kitchen on wheels; it launched a dream. It served meals, created jobs, and carried hope to our community. As we retire it, we honor the legacy it leaves behind."



Mara

Former Trainee and Current Team Lead

"I began as a trainee, now I'm a team lead. Working with my team taught me how rewarding it is to grow together."



Demeta

Former Safe Parking Participant/ Workforce Graduate.

"Remember to always move forward and never give up. Keep trying, keep pushing, keep rising higher. Every step counts. Take it one day at a time, and it will absolutely pay off."

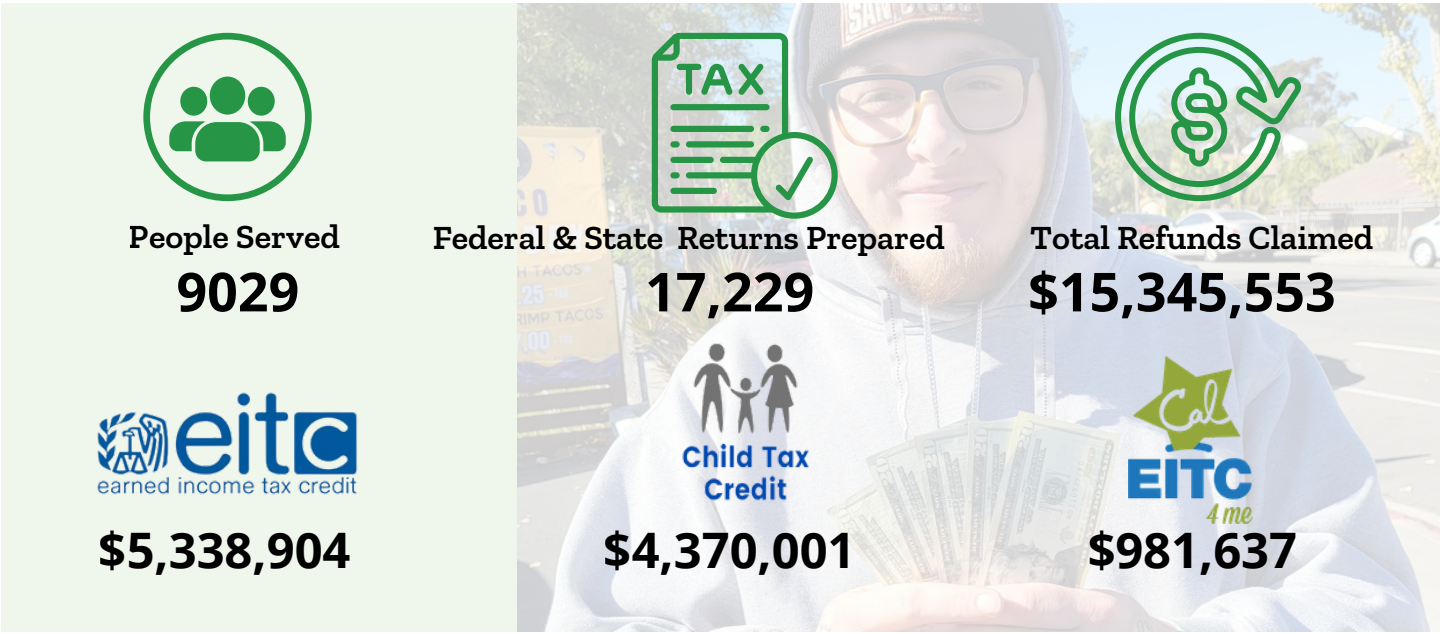


David S.

Workforce Trainee Graduate

"Stay positive and keep trying to apply for jobs. Stay strong and dont give up."

Free Tax Preparation



Voice of VITA - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance



Why I Keep Coming Back

Kim Pike Walters first volunteered with the VITA program while attending UCLA. Years later, after moving to San Diego, she reconnected with the program through Dreams for Change and has returned each tax season ever since.

"There is a reason I keep coming back year after year," Kim says. "I love giving back to the community, helping others, and seeing the impact that a little bit of financial help can make in someone's life."

One of her most memorable experiences came when a client was so grateful for the assistance they received that they offered her a tip.

"Of course, I politely declined," Kim recalls, "but that moment stayed with me because it showed just how meaningful this service can be."

Many taxpayers tell Kim they spent hundreds of dollars on tax preparation in previous years. Through VITA, those same services are provided free of charge, allowing families to put that money toward essentials like food, rent, transportation, and other household needs.

As both a VITA volunteer and Treasurer of the Dreams for Change Board of Directors, Kim has seen how financial stability connects to the organization's broader mission.

"VITA helps families build financial stability, but it's just one part of Dreams for Change's larger mission to help people achieve housing stability, employment, and long-term self-sufficiency."

Safe Sleeping Program

Since June 2023, Dreams for Change has operated the City of San Diego's Safe Sleeping Program under contract, providing a low-barrier overnight program for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Participants receive meals, hygiene services, 24-hour security, and a designated place to sleep. Pets are welcome, and community partners regularly provide meals, pet supplies, hygiene kits, clothing, and other essentials. Participation in case management, housing navigation, workforce development, and other supportive services is voluntary.

Participants are referred through San Diego's Coordinated Entry System (CES), and the program operates under the San Diego Housing Commission's Universal Terms of Shelter Service.

Because the program serves people at many different stages of their journey, Dreams for Change measures success beyond permanent housing alone. In addition to permanent housing placements reported through HUD and City contract requirements, we recognize meaningful progress such as entering interim housing, beginning treatment, reconnecting with family, and other milestones that move participants toward long-term stability.



1375
People Served

242
Positive Exits



905
Total Exits

Who uses Safe Sleeping?

Age 18-24	**35**
Age 25-44	**598**
Age 45-54	**370**
Age 55-64	**250**
Age 65+	**122**
Men	**847**
Women	**481**
2+ Gender Identities	**13**
Trans/Non-Binary	**5/11**
Questioning/Other	**3**
Prefer not to answer	**16**
Employed	**53**
Fixed Income	**265**
Veterans	**45**
1+ Health Conditions	**1150**
Chronic Health Condition	**595**
Chronically Homeless	**883**

Emergency shelter/hotel or motel paid for with emergency voucher	**50**
Safe Haven	**1**
Transitional Housing	**3**
Staying with family/friends	**11**
Rental (subsidized or unsubsidized	**142**
In Patient Treatment - Medical, Mental or Substance use	**35**
hotel/motel not paid for with voucher (clt paying on own)	**1**
Jail/prison	**13**
Streets	**616**
No exit interview/not collected/clt prefers not to answer	**7**
Deceased	**4**
Other, Transfer between sites	**22**

Esther , Workforce Graduate and Former Homeless Services Participant

Esther's journey reflects the impact of stability, opportunity, and persistence. Through our Homeless Services Programs, the Workforce Program, and Rapid Rehousing services, Esther was able to maintain employment, strengthen her recovery, and ultimately move into permanent housing. Today, she lives independently, drives her own vehicle, and shares her home with her puppy, Chapito.

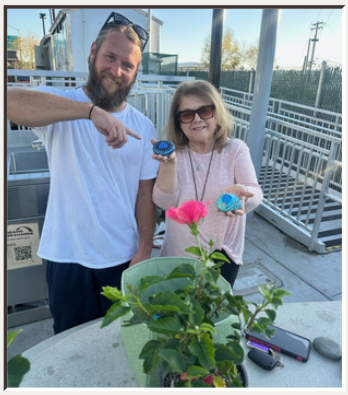


Esther S

Former Participant/Trainee and Current Staff

"Dreams for Change saved my life, now I get to truly enjoy time with my daughter and grandchild."

Financials







Admin Rate

8%

Platinum Transparency 2025

Candid.

Charity Navigator

FOUR-STAR

2025

Balance Sheet Summary

As of Dec 31, 2025

Distribution account	Total
Assets	2,360,148.09
Current Assets	1,763,678.39
Bank Accounts	414,422.46
Accounts Receivable	1,218,471.91
Other Current Assets	130,784.02
Total for Current Assets	**$1,763,678.39**
Fixed Assets	596,469.70
Other Assets	$0.00
Total for Assets	**$2,360,148.09**
Liabilities and Equity	2,360,148.09
Liabilities	463,167.24
Current Liabilities	427,224.64
Accounts Payable	86,698.15
Other Current Liabilities	340,526.49
Total for Current Liabilities	**$427,224.64**
Long-term Liabilities	35,942.60
Total for Liabilities	**$463,167.24**
Equity	1,896,980.85
Total for Liabilities and Equity	**$2,360,148.09**

Summarized Statement of Activity

Income			
	Public Grants/Donations	$	130,825
	Federal Funding	$	278,362
	Local Government Funding	$	5,623,351
	State Funding	$	547,404
	Program Sales	$	894,765
	Total Income	**$**	**7,474,707**
Expenses			
	Personnel	$	5,310,782
	Operational Expenses	$	1,775,072
	Total Expenses	**$**	**7,085,854**
	Net Operating Income	**$**	**388,853**
	Capital Improvement	$	309,040
	Net Income	**$**	**79,813**

DREAMS FOR CHANGE



www.DreamsForChange.org
P.O. Box 16327, San Diego, CA 92176
Dreams For Change is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.
EIN: 27-0447059. Your contributions are fully deductible.