

# 100+ WOMEN WHO CARE DONATES \$15,285 TO DSQUARED HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS

BY KIM TARNOPOLSKI

The trajectory of one’s life is often shaped by the hurdles, opportunities, and experiences that everyday life brings them. Juan Te Dailey is the mother of a son with a severe mental health condition. She witnessed firsthand the challenges her son faced in the community when trying to find housing as an adult. Little did she know where this obstacle would lead her. In 2009, Dailey’s son was diagnosed with a severe mental health condition. Six years later, her son was denied temporary shelter over a \$40 income shortfall and lived in Kiwanis Park for one year.

Her son’s experience introduced Dailey to the stigma and assumptions surrounding mental health challenges and homelessness. In 2019, Dailey founded Dsquared Homes for the Homeless (“Dsquared”), a nonprofit dedicated to humanizing the homeless. The organization’s mission is to create a support system for the seriously mentally ill through community collaboration, mental health professionals, and rental assistance programs.

A key program is to provide “dignity in a bag”. Over 20,000 bags have been handed out to unsheltered individuals. The bags contain toiletries, socks, snacks, a reusable water bottle, and community assistance information.

Dsquared is not a shelter. Their goal is the prevention of homelessness. To date, they have helped 62 individuals find housing and avoid being homeless.

In January, Dailey shared the mission of Dsquared with her 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun group in Ahwatukee. Dsquared was awarded \$15,285.

“This was my first opportunity to share my testimony in person and I felt seen, heard, and extremely valued for my community work as a whole, not just one specific program,” stated Dailey, Executive Director of Dsquared. “The funds have been used to order 4,000 hygiene bags, prevented homelessness for two single moms, will assist a third currently homeless mom with an autistic child with move in costs, and a fourth mom currently living in her car with a baby, once she has been accepted into housing.”

Since the chapter’s inception in 2015, over \$1,058,550 has been donated to local charities through 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun. To learn more or to register for their upcoming giving circle on April 25, visit <https://100wwcvalleyofthesun.org/>. To learn more about Dsquared, visit <https://www.dsquared4homeless.org>.

