



We empower women who are overcoming domestic violence, homelessness, and other major life challenges to reach their greatest potential.

February 7, 2017

Chuck Matthews, Deputy Director, HHSA
County of San Diego
1701 Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92058

Dear Mr. Matthews,

It is with great pleasure that the Board of Directors of Leap to Success reaches out to you to express our desire to support the County of San Diego Live Well San Diego Initiative by becoming a recognized partner agency. We are enthusiastic about becoming part of a collaboration of community and faith-based organizations working together, sharing best practices, and hosting programs which support healthy, safe and thriving communities and families.

Leap to Success is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization created in 2008 by founder and Executive Director Dana Bristol Smith. We provide a curriculum of empowerment and leadership training programs serving domestic violence survivors and women transitioning from homelessness and other major life challenges.

Our Mission: To educate and empower women who are overcoming domestic violence, homelessness, and other major life challenges to reach their greatest potential.

Our Vision: A world in which...

- Women acknowledge their own value and personal power, transform adversity into strength, and inspire others to do the same.
- Families are safe, healthy, and loving places for all members.
- Communities recognize, support, and value women, their voices, and their well-being.

Our Values:

- **Speaking Out**- bringing domestic violence, homelessness, and addiction into the light by participating in speaking engagements throughout San Diego.
- **Collaboration**-creating more by working with others to leverage our strengths and expand our reach.
- **Optimism**- seeing what is possible and focusing on solutions that help women reach their potential.

Our Solution: Programs which provide women with the practical tools and real life skills they need to regain confidence to make sound decisions and healthy choices and, rebuild their lives.

Our impact: Since our inception in 2008 Leap to Success training programs have empowered over 1,000 women with the confidence to find jobs, start new businesses, and create healthy abuse-free lives for themselves and their children.

These efforts contribute to a reduction of:

- poverty and homelessness

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- violence at home and in our neighborhoods
- the risk of violent behavior by children in adulthood

Our Programs are offered at no cost to women who are receiving services from our over 49 community partners.

Programs Include:

Leap to Confidence (LTC) - a seven week series is the cornerstone of our program curriculum. LTC teaches new habits and skills to help women develop and improve self-esteem, self-confidence and effective communication skills to use during job interviews, advancing in the workplace and, to build new networks of friends and mentors in their communities.

Many of the participants are currently living in homeless shelters and transitional housing. This safe, supportive environment helps them rebuild confidence and move to the next stage of their lives. All graduates are invited to attend the **Empowerment Circle**, a monthly follow up class.

Transformation Leadership - a year-long journey of intensive professional development, learning, empowerment, and giving back to the community designed for women who have the desire to become effective agents of change in their lives and community.

The first phase—**Learning**—is all about becoming part of a supportive team of women working together to bring out the best in each other. Through weekly classroom sessions, participants learn life-changing skills and tools, and have their own personal success coach. **Giving Back** is phase two. Participants share their personal stories and what they've learned to educate, empower and inspire others. The members of the **Graduate Speaker's Bureau** are part of our unique sisterhood of community speakers featured more than a dozen times in local TV news stories and radio interviews.

Our graduates have touched thousands of lives as they have shared their stories with audiences, large and small. They speak at shelters, schools, corporate functions, conferences, service clubs, and religious organizations in an effort to lead and inspire women to live their best lives and educate the community about domestic violence and how to overcome other adversities.

We believe that our mission, vision, solutions and our impact will add value to Live Well San Diego Initiative's collective effort in which all partners work together toward a shared purpose of achieving meaningful change in a region as large and diverse as San Diego County. Leap to Success looks forward to participating in Live Well San Diego Regional Leadership teams and other collaborative efforts as authorized by our Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Bristol Smith".

Dana Bristol Smith
Executive Director