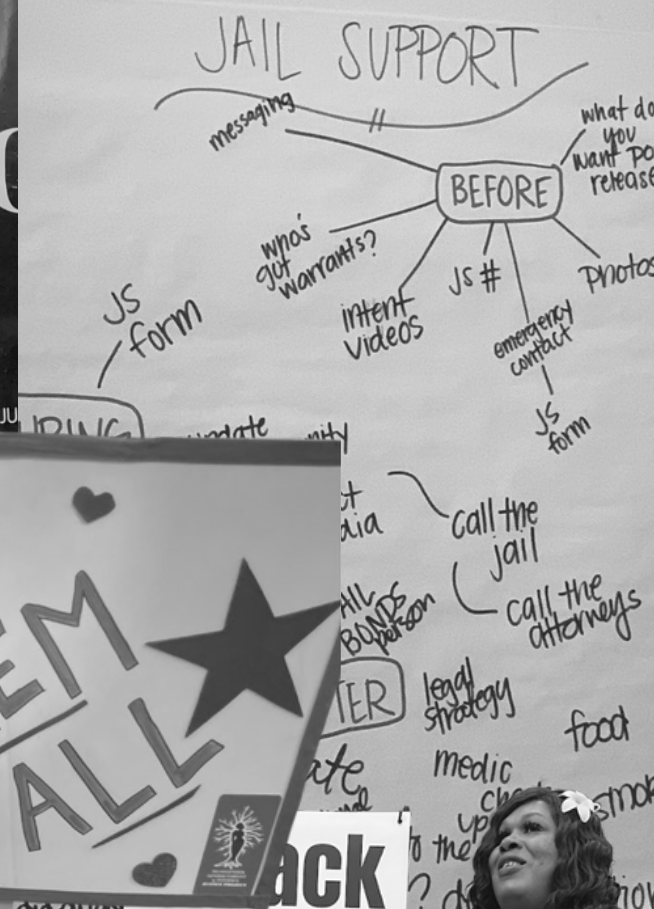


Winter
Newsletter



2023
YEAR END
RECAP.






A MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

For nearly two decades, TGI Justice Project has dedicated itself to providing invaluable services to the Black transgender, gender variant, and intersex (TGI) community in San Francisco and beyond. Our expertise is vast, with a primary focus on leadership development, community organizing, and legal and social support services for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated trans individuals, with a particular emphasis on the Black TGI community. What sets us apart is our very nature, as we are one of the first and only legal advocacy and support organizations driven by formerly incarcerated Black TGI individuals.

Our organization centers the Legal Program/Re-Entry Program, Housing, and Leadership Development to support advocacy and organizing led by members of the impacted TGI community. Our clients are primarily Black transgender women who are either currently or formerly incarcerated. Many of them have also been or currently work as sex workers, and some have experienced chronic homelessness. Our services are specifically tailored to reach those in the San Francisco area who are not being reached by other organizations.

TGI Justice Project (TGIJP) serves as a hub for the TGI community in San Francisco. We currently found a new permanent office space to launch the Black Trans Cultural Center, which will function as a national welcome center for Black TGI individuals, a local community center for organizing cultural and political activities, and a site for providing leadership development and job opportunities to formerly incarcerated Black transgender women. We aim to address issues impacting our community and create a safe space for all.





A YEAR OF OVERCOMING OBSTACLES



The COVID-19 pandemic that started in 2020 brought unprecedented challenges to people all around the world. Many lost their loved ones, their jobs, and their sense of security. The global health crisis forced us to change the way we live, work, and interact with each other. Schools were closed, businesses were shut down, and travel was restricted. Social distancing became the new normal, and face masks became a must-wear accessory. Our clients were drastically impacted ultimately positioning us to provide for their immediate needs which includes housing and mental health care. We spent this year struggling to keep our clients housed, advocating for decarceration, for the injustices our TGI fam are facing on the inside, and developing our wellness program to help provide our staff and clients with resources to not just survive, but to thrive.

However, amid all the obstacles, there were also moments of resilience, solidarity, and hope. Communities came together to support each other, frontline workers risked their lives to save others, and scientists worked tirelessly to develop vaccines. As we move forward, let us remember the lessons of the past three years and continue to work towards a brighter, healthier, and more inclusive future.

The focus of 2023 was empowering the TGI community with our core programs and establishing a Black Trans-Cultural Center.

DOIN' THE WORK!

It has been such a pleasure to serve the TGI community for almost 20 years! Here is just a few clients sharing with us how we served them and the joy they've been able to experience being part of the TGIJP family!

Client Feedback

TGI JUSTICE

Share your joy with us! How has TGIJP served you?

~~Feedback was better~~
Friendly and Welcoming environment.
Positive vibes and warm smiles always brightens my day.
THANK YOU! ❤️

TGI JUSTICE

Share your joy with us! How has TGIJP served you?

TGIJP Has Given me a political and spiritual Home. I AM Filled with love because I have found a movement nota moment!

TGI JUSTICE

Share your joy with us! How has TGIJP served you?

From day 1, in (1996-1997) TGIJP became my Family and through the years, Has been a pivotal Part of my Journey !! ❤️





WE WILL BE FREE!

In 2023 TGIJP worked with California TGI Policy Alliance (CTPA), a coalition of Transgender, Gender Non-conforming, and Intersex (TGI) CTPA and Transgender, Advocacy Group (TAG) to engage in collaborative efforts to support bills and decarceration efforts.

BILLS WE SPONSORED AND CO-SPONSORED:

AB 1487 (Sponsored)

PASSED

AB 1487 would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, create the Transgender, Gender Variant, and Intersex Wellness Reentry Fund for purposes of funding grants to create programs, or funding existing programs, focused on reentry programming specifically to support transgender, gender variant, and intersex people who have experienced carceral systems.

AB 1163 (Sponsored)

PASSED

AB 1163 would require specified state agencies and departments to revise their public-use forms, by January 1, 2025, to be more inclusive of individuals who identify as transgender, gender nonconforming, or intersex.

AB 957 (Co-sponsored)

AB 957 would clarify that affirming a child's gender identity is in the best interest of the child in the California Family Code and remove barriers to name and gender marker changes for minors, increasing the likelihood that a gender-affirming parent is given legal custody and authority to make important decisions about the child's medical care and education.



OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- We launched our Wellness Program services to support wellness and mental health services for Black TGI people this year!
- Guided by the leadership of our Re-Entry Department Coordinator Zy'aire, TGJIP developed Parole Preparation for our incarcerated TGI fam.
- Our CEO, Janetta Johnson helped lead us through her vision for our new permanent building. She selected the building in 2016 and secured funding to get us closer to the dream! TGJIP's Executive Director, Sharyn Grayson was essential in getting us moved into our new permanent office!



DID YOU KNOW?

- TGJIP serves about 500-750 per year in San Francisco through our local Legal, Re-entry, Housing and Wellness programs, as well as through support to policy initiatives impacting the larger BIPOC TGNC community who are currently or formerly incarcerated.
- We expect to increase this by 25% within the next year.
- 95% of our clients identify as TGNC, 95% identify as Black or BIPOC, 75% experience homelessness or housing unstable, and 85% as formerly or currently incarcerated.
 - 100% identify as no to low-income, with the vast majority with income receiving their income through sex work or the informal economy.

DREAMING OF BLACK TGI FUTURES



Our new building is a key step in anchoring our movement of Black trans abolitionist organizing and how we are creating new worlds, building new homes and structures for ourselves, and keeping our folks safe and free from violent institutions, cycles of oppression, and systems that do not serve us. We must have access to safe transformative justice, healing justice, community accountability, stratus organization with trained healers, leaders, mental health assistance, and space with access to mental health providers.

There is so much we have learned over the past 20 years through the services we have provided, including that when we welcome community members back into society, we must do everything we can to provide economic, housing, and transportation resources so they are set up for success. Re-entry must come with a paycheck, and this space allows us to make sure we can shape our work from a lens of transformative justice. We can create a space for trans people to heal and be mindful of the labor and shoulders we stand on, especially Black TGI people who have been in prisons. We have a duty as we fight to dismantle the whole system, and make sure the resources are there when members are coming out of the jail and prisons.

Now that we have our building we will be able to:

- Develop the space into a Black trans cultural center that supports our leadership development and wellbeing.**
- Provide new and stable housing and employment opportunities made by Black TGI people, for Black TGI people.**
- Build a community space for TGI people to access deeper community connections, resources, and direct services as well as an office and coworking space.**
- Renovate parts of the building to build out a laundry room and provide this as a service and opportunity for employment**

OUR FUTURE GOALS



We have research that in the next 12-24 months, we are expecting as many as 185 people leaving locked facilities and needing re-entry services. We find one of the biggest needs of re-entry clients, besides housing, tends to be wellness and mental health supportive services. We are seeing large increases in the number of people needing our services in all program areas, including legal, housing and wellness services.

TGIJP is committed to expanding access to healthcare for Black, Black, and Brown TGI individuals. To achieve this goal, we plan to consolidate and expand our existing community, social, and clinical services through providing wrap-around services.

Our goal is to offer a range of services including individual and group counseling, substance counseling, harm reduction trainings, enhanced information and referral services, service connection, short-term case management, and case coordination.

When TGIJP connects with members of the TGI community, we will want to offer a variety of possible tracks to ensure that everyone receives the necessary support and resources they need.