



Kali Williams is the founder and administrator of the Facebook group Buy Nothing Midtown Sacramento & Beyond.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE CYRUS

## The free market—literally

As a single working mother, **Kali Williams** was looking for a way to ease her own child-raising costs. The Winters-born, Sacramento resident also wanted to reduce consumer waste, pool communal resources and stop unnecessary support of huge corporations such as Amazon and Walmart. Not finding anything that filled that niche, Williams founded a new space in 2016: the Facebook group **Buy Nothing Midtown Sacramento & Beyond**. It's an online marketplace for people across Sacramento to give away unwanted clothing, furniture, food and more. There, the nearly 1,700 members post photos of things they no longer need and give them to folks that need them more, all without the exchange of a nickel.

SN&R chatted with Williams about the group's origin and mission.

### Why did you start the group?

I mostly was inspired by having an infant at home, and I'm a single mom. The cost of having a child is ridiculous, and the amount of stuff that you have to acquire for a child is just off the wall. I had no idea until I was in it, and what was happening was, I would get from other parents like, huge garbage bags full of clothes and toys that their children had outgrown. And I just thought to myself, "You know, this is a really amazing boon for me." This is stuff I would not be able to acquire on my own, and I want a system for then passing that stuff on to other people who need it.

### The whole Buy Nothing Project is larger than Sacramento, right?

Yes, and I had heard of it—I wasn't aware it was as big of an organization as it is. I'm not actually connected to them.

I looked into it recently, and there's a whole application process and stuff to start a "Buy Nothing" group. I thought about changing the name; I wondered if eventually I'd get a cease-and-desist [order] because I'm using that name, but I could not think of a better name to communicate what we're doing.

### Had you had similar experiences with free, sharing economy groups?

No, I hadn't, but I've always been passionate about minimizing waste and reuse. In my teens and early 20s, I would hunt the Midtown alleys for old furniture and things, kind of dress them up and either give them away or sell them, because it was such a bummer. I grew up in a really small town, and so to come to a city and see so much waste—when you have a higher population, there's going to be more waste, and I had never really seen it on that scale ... So on a very small scale I was going, "Well, how can I reduce the amount of things that are sitting around being unused, and turn them into something that's usable for people and enjoyable?"

### Any memorable experiences with the page?

... Gosh. I find it really amazing, we've had some really specific gives. I have these ink cartridges that only work for a very specific printer, and then to have someone else go, "I have that printer, I'll make use of that."

I've had people exchanging everything from breast milk to expensive electronics.

### Are there interesting things that get given away?

No, I think it's actually mostly really mundane things—household items and dog food. I bought this 40-pound bag of food that my dog rejected, and somebody else goes, "Oh my gosh, that's exactly what I need." That's just really thrilling, because without a way to facilitate giving like that, that's something that would just end up in the garbage. □

Sign up for the group at:  
facebook.com/groups/buynothingmidtownsac.

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Department of Toxic Substances Control

August 2019

## Public Notice

The Mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

EMERGENCY PERMIT  
CSPC DOPHEN CORPORATION  
4070 TRUXEL ROAD

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95834

On September 24, 2018, CSPC Dophen Corporation, biopharmaceutical research facility, requested an Emergency Permit from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) for onsite treatment of expired chemicals at 4070 Truxel Road, Sacramento, California. The items to be treated include 2-liters and 250-milliliters of tetrahydrofuran, 3-liters of diethyl ether, and 1-liter of 1,4 dioxane.

The Clean Harbors Environmental Services (CHES) company has been contracted to conduct this treatment. The chemicals are potentially reactive and unsafe for transport in their present state. The treatment involves the addition of liquid solution to the containers to stabilize the chemicals. Once the chemicals are treated, they will be transported offsite for proper management. DTSC has determined that the chemicals pose an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health and the environment if not properly managed. Therefore, an emergency permit should be issued. This Emergency Permit is effective from October 8, 2018 through December 6, 2018. The Emergency Permit includes measures to minimize any adverse impact to the community and the environment.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA): DTSC has determined that the project is exempt from the requirements of CEQA and has filed a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the State Clearinghouse. The Emergency Permit, NOE, CSPC Dophen Corporation's request for this project are available for review at the file room located at:

DTSC Sacramento Regional Office  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826  
(916) 255-3758, call for an appointment

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

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**NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED:** TTY users may use the California Relay Service @ 711 or 1-800-855-7100. You may also contact the Public Participation Specialist listed at the end of this update.

