

Tri-Ess provides a password-protected "Membership Directory" on its website, featuring member profiles and pictures (optional). Most crossdressers have often felt alone, and may live far from any Tri-Ess Chapter or other support group. To meet another sister through e-mail or postal correspondence can be very rewarding.

The Tri-Ess "Big Sister Program" offers personalized support and assistance. A volunteer Big Sister, through correspondence and personal visits, when possible, helps the Little Sister in ways ranging from finding the right feminine clothing to attending her first chapter meeting. For the crossdresser's spouse or partner, Tri-Ess provides an experienced spouse to be a "Caring Friend" offering support and hope in coping with crossdressing in their relationship.

The Tri-Ess "Pen Pal Program" matches crossdressers desiring to correspond with volunteers who identify with the fears, loneliness and concerns often associated with Cross dressing. This Correspondence provides opportunities to discuss our deepest feelings and experiences with others who share them. The Society provides a free, confidential "Mail Forwarding Service" that allows crossdressers to correspond while protecting personal security.

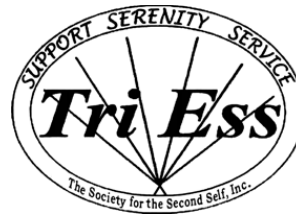
The Society also creates, publishes and distributes a variety of articles, brochures, and pamphlets on crossdressing.

Tri-Ess serves as an effective voice of advocacy for crossdressers and their families. In recent years we have maintained outreach booths at conventions of helping professionals. We support lobbying efforts by transgender community political action groups. Tri-Ess leaders have appeared on radio and television talk shows, informing the audiences about crossdressing. Tri-Ess members participate in educational outreach by speaking to Crisis Hotline volunteers, police departments and university classes. Our Outreach Department is spearheading a wide-ranging effort to educate seminarians and clergy about crossdressing and other forms of transgenderism.

The Society's Board of Governance has designated specific funds to assist in financing professional, academic research treating crossdressers as ordinary people. The Board continually evaluates these and other program opportunities to ensure that Tri-Ess provides crossdressers, whether novice or experienced, and their

families, with the finest resources designed to meet their needs. The Tri-Ess Library Project purchases and donates books dealing positively with crossdressing to school and public libraries.

The society for the Second Self, Inc. is recognized by the IRS as a publicly supported, tax exempt, Section 501c(3), educational, literary and charitable organization described in section 509(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code"). Contributions to The Society are tax deductible to the donor under Section 170 of the Code. Please consult your tax advisor. A copy of their determination letter will be furnished to potential donors upon written request.



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Tri-Ess Today



Presented as a public service by:
The Society for the Second Self
(Tri-Ess)

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**In addition to support, Tri-Ess provides
many benefits to crossdressers and
those close to them.**

The Society for the Second Self, Inc. ("Tri-Ess," or "The Society") is a nonprofit, volunteer organization that identifies and meets the needs of crossdressers and 'her' wife, significant other, or partner in a committed relationship with the crossdresser. Tri-Ess Support, informational and support activities, extends to parents, children, and other family members and friends of the crossdresser. The Society also provides accurate informational and educational resources about crossdressing and crossdressers for the purpose of promoting understanding, acceptance, tolerance and a constructive public and self image.

Tri-Ess is a support and educational organization for crossdressers, their spouses, partners and family.

An all-volunteer organization, Tri-Ess provides programs, activities, services and assistance in a knowledgeable manner that demonstrates a personal interest and a caring concern. Tri-Ess makes its educational and informational resources available to educators, researchers, mental and physical healthcare professionals, employers, clergy, law enforcement and public officials, vendors, and the general public. The Society supports, participates in and sponsors academic research on the subject of crossdressing. The Society has a long history of working with other transgender community support organizations toward common goals.

Crossdressers are found in every society. Unfortunately, men dressing and behaving as women (for personal expression) remains a misunderstood phenomenon in many modern cultures. But Tri-Ess is in the vanguard of the effort to replace ignorance with knowledge and understanding.

As crossdressers, we are blessed with additional personality components beyond those stereotypically assigned us at birth. As we accept our masculine-and-feminine, dual-gendered gift, and seek to understand and explore it, the result is a very fulfilling broadening of our entire personality. Our occasional adoption of a complete feminine persona and total gender role presentation is an outward personal expression of our inner feminine feelings. We dress appropriately in emulation, rather than in mockery, of femininity. Crossdressing is about gender expression not sexual orientations. We cultivate our complete feminine image with make-up, wigs, feminine clothing, shoes and accessories, and even feminine names.

The Tri-Ess philosophy, can be expressed through the acronym FIBER.

F - Full personality expression (blending both our masculine and feminine characteristics), in order to be all we can be.

I - Integration of our masculinity and femininity to create a happier, more complete person as we use our enhanced understanding of ourselves in our daily lives.

B - Balance between masculinity and femininity in our total personalities.

E - Educating crossdressers toward self acceptance, educating our families toward understanding, and educating society toward acceptance of crossdressers as ordinary people with a special gender gift.

R - Relationship building in the context of crossdressing. Based upon these concepts, The Society uses all available resources to achieve its purpose. Our charitable, educational and literary activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

Tri-Ess sponsors and provides leadership resources for about thirty Tri-Ess Chapters in North America. Chapters hold regular meetings that provide opportunities for crossdressers to practice and improve their feminine gender presentation skills through informative, educational "how-to" programs. The meetings also serve as social gatherings where members can enjoy company of others like themselves. Meetings are held in hotels, members' homes, or at empathetic churches, businesses or restaurants, but always in a safe, secure, nonthreatening, family-friendly, social and educational environment. Many chapters also offer non-crossdressing activities that serve as an excellent way to bring out timid, new crossdressers and spouses. Tri-Ess chapters function in partnership with the national organization, helping crossdressers and their families emerge from secrecy, educating local communities about crossdressing, and working in tandem with Tri-Ess at conventions of helping professionals.

Tri-Ess produces Holiday En Femme, an international convention for crossdressers and their supporters, that travels to chapter cities in North America. Holiday participants meet new friends and attend a wide range of educational seminars and workshops featuring recognized professionals and community leaders. They enjoy shopping and dining excursions in crossgender mode while learning about themselves and crossdressing. Spouses and Partners International Conference for Education (SPICE) is the only event in the transgender community designed to address relationship issues

for crossdressers and spouses and partners in committed relationships with crossdressers SPICE is a non-cross dressed event that travels to chapter cities across North America. With the help of counselors and therapists that specialize in transgender and relationship issues, SPICE provides programs designed to overcome fears, provide current information, promote understanding, enhance communications and strengthen family relationships.

The Society publishes "The Mirror," a well respected magazine, which covers crossdressing with stories of emergence, interesting experiences, activities and events within the transgender community, timely wardrobe and fashion information, articles by spouses and partners, "how to" self-improvement articles, news from Tri-Ess Chapters, treatises on transgender expression and the law, articles on religion and scholarly articles and professional research about the "whys" of crossdressing along with photos, poetry and even cartoons..

Tri-Ess publishes the "Sweetheart Connection," the only quarterly newsletter by and for spouses and partners of crossdressers. The Connection offers spouses and significant others an outlet to explore the many aspects of having a transgendered partner. With stories and informational articles written by family members and helping professionals, the Sweetheart Connection provides valuable information and support to the significant others of crossdressers. Tri-Ess and its chapters established a web presence that includes websites and online forums. This online presence extends access to information and our educational outreach worldwide.

Tri-Ess moderates CDSO for Spouses and Partners of Crossdressers, CDTRIESS for Crossdresser Members, TRIESS42 for Tri-Ess Couples, CD-KIDS operated by and for our children, and SERENITY our most recent project, an online forum for parents concerned with telling their children about a crossdressing parent. Subscriptions to these are free and come with Tri-Ess membership.