

**FRIENDS
IN
DEED***



Spring Newsletter 2021

From the Board President

Dear Friend,

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Friends In Deed has been blessed to receive an outpouring of support from our community. This continuous help has allowed all of our programs to remain fully operable, servicing the Pasadena area in numerous ways. Your partnership has been of the utmost importance, and will remain so as we continue to pivot and stay nimble to the needs of the homeless and at-risk members of our community. Thank you for standing by our side.

We are pleased to bring you this newsletter with stories of good news and action we are accomplishing thanks to you - our steadfast supporters!

Bret Schaefer
Board President, Friends In Deed



Stories from the programs

The importance of community connections

A long-lasting difference - Heavenly's story

Heavenly was one of five children in an extended family with one wage earner some 30 years ago. At one point her parents



let the family know they were going to be living on beans, rice, and hot dogs for the next two years because money would be tight while they saved to put the family in a healthier financial position.

But one of Heavenly's strongest memories of that time is not a sad one. Heavenly remembers playing in the Friends In Deed parking lot, giddy with excitement at the possibility of new clothes and shoes, school supplies, and food luxuries like mac n' cheese and cake!

There is no doubt that this freedom from hunger and food insecurity played a big part in Heavenly being able to do well in school and become a successful adult. But more than this, she recalls a dignified, joyful experience that lifted up the whole family.

Heavenly's experience of being "lifted up" as a child has inspired her to try and find ways to help other people similarly. She founded [My Tribe Rise](#), an Altadena-based grassroots nonprofit that fights for food justice, organizes volunteer groups to do community projects, and forges connections between groups and individuals.

Friends In Deed is incredibly proud and humbled to know that our impact on one person's life 30 years ago has had such a lasting, profound, and ongoing impact on a whole community.

An obstructive landlord - Phil's story

Phil first contacted Friends In Deed in February 2020, before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. He had been laid off, was behind on rent, and was due to attend court.



Friends In Deed educated the parties about the rent moratorium, allowing Phil to remain in his apartment through the summer. He found part-time work and applied for various assistance programs to enable him to pay partial rent, but the landlord refused, saying "all or nothing". The truth was the landlord wanted Phil to move out so he could raise the rent.

In October, Phil received a three-day eviction notice. His heart dropped. He took the matter to court, but the case was denied. Phil's original court date in the spring had been two weeks too early to qualify him for the protection provided by the rent moratorium.

Phil was forced to leave his apartment and wound up sleeping on his son's couch. He spent the next month sending out work resumes and applications for apartments, receiving many disheartening rejections. He got temporary work putting up election booths, but still could not find a landlord to accept him. It was only after Friends In Deed pledged to help that a landlord was prepared to take a chance. FID is providing ongoing rental support which will gradually decrease as Phil finds his feet. Phil says that Friends In Deed has truly been a "friend in need."



A back house with a sympathetic landlord - Shanta's story

Shanta is a costume designer in the film industry, and her income was hit hard by the pandemic. She couldn't keep her home and had to move in with family, sleeping in a living room for nearly a year. She received unemployment but could not save enough money for a security deposit on an apartment.

With the promise of help from Friends In Deed, Shanta started to look for somewhere to live, but found that landlords didn't want to take the risk of a tenant on unemployment. Eventually, she found someone who had built a rental unit on their own property. This landlord knew Friends In Deed and was prepared to rent the unit to Shanta with first month's rent and a security deposit, along with a percentage of rental help for a few months from FID.

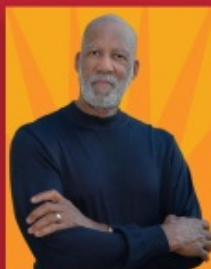
Shanta says her field of work is beginning to open back up, and not only has she been earning some casual income, but she also had an interview for a job on the day we spoke with her. We wish her the best of luck for getting fully back on her feet!

It is through your generosity that we are able to provide these programs and other services

[DONATE](#)



Join Mayor Victor Gordo for the
**48th annual Pasadena Mayor's
Interfaith Prayer Event**
HOSTED BY JERICO ROAD PASADENA



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Dr. Terrence Roberts
Civil Rights Pioneer &
Mental Health Professional



MAY 3-7, 2021

As an in-person breakfast event is not possible,
daily inspirational messages will be sent each morning.

FEATURING:

Prayer & music from Pasadena places of worship & nonprofits

EVENT INFORMATION

**This event is open to our entire community;
faith and non-faith backgrounds welcome.**

REGISTER OR DONATE:

2021MIPB.eventbrite.com

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

jrpasadena.org/sponsor

For more information, contact Jericho Road Pasadena at 626-714-7234 or ExecDirector@jrpasadena.org · Photography by William Kidston

Stories from our volunteers

"Fast" food!

Gamifying service: Shereen and Ali's story

Shereen started volunteering with Friends In Deed when she was just 14 years old! She was looking to do some impactful volunteer work

and found the FID website. She contacted Tim to ask if she could volunteer at the Food Pantry, and Tim said sure - as long as one of her parents came with her. Shereen and her father Ali have been volunteering regularly ever since!

Shereen and Ali used to help with the Saturday morning Trader Joe's delivery, sorting produce, but more recently they have been putting together the pre-packed bags of shelf-stable groceries that we have been giving out since the start of the pandemic. They make a game of it - challenging themselves to pack a certain number of bags in a given time. They like to feel that they make the most of the time they spend at Friends In Deed, working as fast and efficiently as possible so that their work has the biggest impact.

This is not to say that they leave no time for enjoying their work. Shereen says that in all the time she has helped out in the Pantry, she "has not met one person who isn't genuinely great!"



It's all about perspective: Goh's story

Goh is a self-described "bicultural music samurai" who has been volunteering at the Food Pantry since September 2019. We'll let him introduce himself with a short video of the Pantry he made:



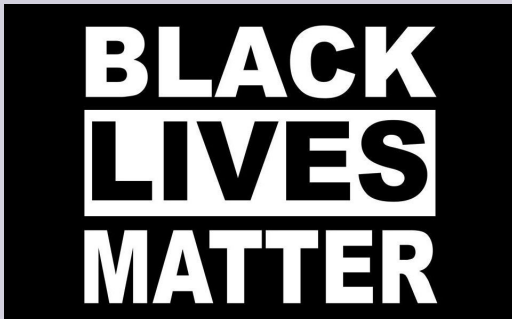
Goh says that one of the things he values about his volunteer work is the opportunity to be in touch with the community during the pandemic. He brings versatility and a sense of humor to tasks (a point where he and Tim have a meeting of minds), but has also taken away with him a changed perspective.

He illustrates this with a story about



one of the Pantry clients: a demanding lady who drove him a bit insane by constantly changing her mind about the groceries she needed. Goh is a “runner” - a volunteer whose job it is to run back and forth from the building to the parking lot, picking up the groceries the client needs. This client had him go back to the building four or five times. He recalls consciously working to change his perspective on this client’s behavior. He worked to to understand where she was coming from, and her frustration with the language barrier while balancing the needs of her family were evident. From this new perspective, Goh says he learned to

genuinely love this client and all her quirks. He tries to give everyone the benefit of the doubt and “see the beauty, rather than the ugly.”



PROGRAMS

Bad Weather Shelter (BWS)

Providing cold-weather support for our neighbors experiencing homelessness

Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance (EPRA)

Short- and medium-term rental support to prevent eviction

Food Pantry

Dignified grocery shopping experience for 350+ households weekly

Street Outreach

Team of workers on the streets engaging with our neighbors experiencing homelessness and connecting them to services

The Women's Room (TWR)

Daytime shelter for homeless and at-risk women

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Marty Campolo, Deputy Director & Grants Officer
Meria Velasco, Director of Development
Helen Angove, Operations Manager

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