

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2020

Stories from the programs

Serving the housed and the unhoused



Richardia's Story

Richardia has had a difficult life, and has been coming to The Women's Room for a long time. She was shuttled back and forth between various places and various family members, including a cousin who stole her food stamps, took her money, and, eventually, threw her out.

More recently Richardia has been working with the Street Outreach Team and has been awarded a place in bridge housing, where she will stay until she finds permanent housing. She will get support - community groups and a case manager - to help her make the transition.

The thing she is looking forward to most in her new home is the chance to cook her own food and to be able to relax and feel good. She says "Friends In Deed is a very nice place with very nice people."

Lois's story

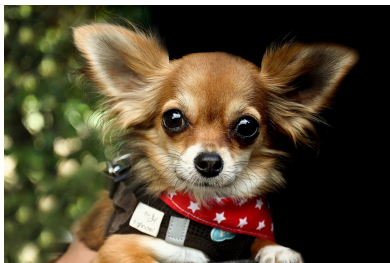
This is a story about the value of patient, ongoing street outreach work. It was Street Outreach Worker Scott who first made contact with "Lois," in the Hastings Ranch area of Pasadena. Scott is approachable and friendly, and Lois must have found him easy to trust because she began hanging out in the Hastings Ranch area more often, hoping to make contact with him again. Scott managed to engage with Lois enough that she was prepared to come to The Women's Room and make use of the



facilities there.

Lois was thrilled to have the opportunity to do her laundry and to shower. She got very excited about the kaftans we have in The Women's Room - a very humanizing touch, allowing our ladies to have something clean and comfortable to wear while they are getting their clothes washed. Many places only offer hospital gowns, and our pretty kaftans made a big impression on Lois.

This is just one example of how the way The Women's Room is being used differently since the Street Outreach Team started operating. Having someone go out on the streets and build trust gives homeless women the confidence to then come and take advantage of the food, showers, and laundry facilities we can offer. Our TWR staff members are hopeful that they will be able to help Lois more as trust develops.



Suzanne's Story

"Suzanne" is an extraordinary and resilient character, but very resistant to being housed. This is partly due to the fact that she refuses to live anywhere where there might be alcohol or drugs, but also because she will not be parted from her dog, "Mi Amor." Her attachment to Mi

Amor is clear from the attention she gives him; he waits faithfully for her outside The Women's Room and she comes out regularly to check on him and make sure he has enough food and water.

Of all the women who come to The Women's Room, Suzanne is among the most colorful. She has built a whole life for herself on the streets with her loaded cart, her passion for buying and fixing old electronics, and her love of costumes, especially at Halloween. She is extremely creative, very upbeat, and is rarely heard to complain. Despite years of living on the streets she has neither lost her sense of humor, nor forgotten who she is.

It's tempting to think of Suzanne as one of our failures, because her living situation has not changed. But even though we have not (yet) managed to find a housing situation that works for Suzanne, we are still able, through the services of The Women's Room, to make her life a little better than it would be - and that's worth a lot.

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

DONATE

FRIENDS IN DEED 2019 IMPACT REPORT

Friends in Deed is an interfaith organization that provides supportive services to meet basic human needs, so our homeless and at-risk neighbors can rebuild their lives. Celebrating more than 125 years of service, we meet the needs of clients and guests by leveraging our dedicated staff, hundreds of volunteers, schools, community organizations and congregations.

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry, which operates like a small market, allows individuals to “shop” for the foods that they and their families will enjoy. We don’t give them a bag of food, but rather allow them to choose for themselves, always offering as many fresh fruits and vegetables as we can.



Women's Room

The Women's Room provides a day refuge for homeless and at-risk women. We offer showers, laundry services, and meals as well as a variety of classes, creative outlets, case management opportunities, and field trips. Community professionals also provide manicures, haircuts, massages, therapy, chiropractic services, and many others, all pro-bono. The ladies are cared for by dozens of volunteers each month.



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Homeless Prevention Program

There are thousands of people one paycheck away from becoming homeless. Our Homeless Prevention Program provides short and medium term rental assistance for those facing eviction.



51

individuals and families provided with rental assistance and services including



Case management



Life skills



Financial assistance

Street Outreach Team

Our team builds relationships with chronically homeless individuals, encouraging them to accept services that can lead to housing, while our Housing Locator seeks out landlords and tries to find units to offer individuals ready to be housed.



11

individuals temporarily housed



3

individuals permanently housed

Bad Weather Shelter

We partner with the Pasadena Covenant Church to provide chronically homeless individuals a warm meal and safe place to sleep, when the temperature drops below 40 degrees or it's raining, between the day after Thanksgiving and March 1.



90

average number of people per night



45

nights open last season

Finances

We are a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and every gift, big and small, is appreciated and transformed into life-changing programming for our most vulnerable neighbors in the Pasadena community.



The majority of non-grant funding came from:



12%
Golf Classic



18.5%
Jazz on the Green



4%
Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

\$1,189,000	-	\$1,152,000	=	\$37,456
Income		Expenses		Net Revenue

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For Your Calendar!

May 4, 2020 - Friends In Deed's 3rd Annual Classic Golf Tournament

May 7, 2020 - Pasadena Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast - now being hosted by [Jericho Road Pasadena](#)

Volunteer Spotlight

A well-run machine



Linda's story

Linda tried to persuade us to say that she is a retired movie star, but the truth is she could hardly be more valued by us if she was! She has been volunteering in the FID office for around three months, and her years of office experience and her gregarious personality have already made her an important member of the team.

After retirement, Linda was looking for something useful to do and spoke with a friend who is on the board of Union Station Homeless Services. The friend suggested Linda

try Friends In Deed and we are glad she did because not everyone is prepared to spend their free time doing frankly rather tedious data entry!

Linda has been kind enough to say that every single person she has met at FID has been "interesting, fun, and a pleasure to be around." Najwa's story, in particular, struck a chord with Linda - how Najwa turned her life around and is now helping others as she herself was helped. Linda says that she sees FID's way of working - focusing on helping individuals with approaches that are life changing in both small and big ways - as a series of small steps in creating a foundation for a better future.

Judi and Chip's story

Judi and Chip were driving past FID House one day when they saw the line outside the Food Pantry and wondered what was going on. They googled, and thought, "Wow, this is our neighborhood - and we want to help our neighbors!" And being retired, and looking for a volunteering opportunity, they got in contact.



Judi and Chip have now been volunteering in the Food Pantry for around two months. They say they are very impressed by the teamwork they see, under the guidance of Tim and Stacey. Judi talks about hearing the "beep, beep, beep" of a reversing truck, and hearing Tim yell "Trader Joe's!" and suddenly all the volunteers are heading for the back door, ready to help unload another delivery of food. Judi says it's a "well-run machine: Stacey and Tim got it down!"

[Click here to find out how to volunteer at Friends In Deed](#)

New fundraising opportunities!



We hope that you will support our good friends at **Jericho Road Pasadena** as they take up the mantle of hosting the **Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast this year on May 7**. However, this means that we now have to think about alternative ways of raising the money we used to raise at the breakfast - and that's where you come in!

Our programs are going to be running smaller individual fundraising events during the course of the year, and these will be fun-filled opportunities to participate in our FID community. Watch this space! But if you have an idea for a fundraiser that you'd like to set up and run yourself, we'd love to hear about it! Please contact us so we can figure out how to support you.

PROGRAMS

The Women's Room (TWR) Daytime shelter for homeless and at-risk women

The Food Pantry - Dignified grocery shopping experience for 300+ households weekly

The Bad Weather Shelter (BWS) Weather-activated shelter offers a hot meal and warm cot for up to 140 guests

Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) Short- and medium-term rental support to prevent eviction

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

STAFF

Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater, Executive Director
Marty Campolo, Director of Finance and Grants
Marlene Martinez, Program Director (TWR)
Tim Nistler, Program Director (Pantry)
William Shelby, Program Director (BWS, Street Outreach), Housing Locator
Debbie Turner, Program Manager (HPP)
Jane Armbruster, Program Associate (TWR)
Stacey Cutshaw, Program Associate (Pantry)
Denisse Mirkin, Case Manager (TWR)
Najwa Payton Jones, Street Outreach Specialist
Scott Desjardins, Street Outreach Worker
Helen Angove, Operations Manager
Doug Haught, Security & Grounds
Coty Dietel, Food Pantry Aide

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Erica Fishman

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Connie Holguin
Celia Leaver

FRIENDS
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