



Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2019

A Message from the Executive Director

Serving Our Community Since 1894



January 9 – New England Telephone and Telegraph installs the first battery-operated telephone switchboard in Lexington, Massachusetts.

March 12 – Coca-Cola is sold in bottles for the first time.

Do you know in what year these two things happened? If you said 1894, you would be correct! And why am I telling you this? Because Friends in Deed was originally founded in that same year: 1894. Which makes 2019 our 125th anniversary. I don't know if it's as momentous as the switchboard or bottled Coke, but it is huge for our whole FID community!

Our programs continue to flourish, to grow and serve more clients, to offer new services, and to improve upon the already stellar programs (and staff) that we are blessed to have. We have received new, significant funding through Measure H, which will strengthen and bolster our Bad Weather Shelter and Homelessness Prevention Programs.

Thanks for all YOU do! None of the above would be possible without everyone's hard work, dedication, and love for the people we serve. Stayed tuned for more fun facts on 1894 as the year goes on!

Rabbi Joshua
Executive Director

Stories from the Programs

"I Got My Dignity Back"



Fifteen years ago, Sharon's husband went out to buy a loaf of bread. That was the last she heard of him.

Without her husband's income, Sharon soon became homeless. She tried shelter after shelter, enduring things like her bed being soaked, her locker smashed and all her belongings stolen. Eventually she gave up with the shelters, preferring solutions like riding all night on the buses.

The first time someone mentioned The Women's Room to Sharon, she didn't want to try it, because, after her experiences in shelters, she "didn't want to be around a group of homeless people." But once she was persuaded to go she found it cheerful and clean, with volunteers in aprons offering hot chocolate and homemade chicken noodle soup!

It took the coordinated efforts of several agencies to help Sharon put her life back together. But she says, "thanks to The Women's Room, I got my dignity back."



Kathy was an early success story for FID's Street Outreach Program. Kathy's problems began when her landlord sold the Section 8 Housing building she was living in. The new owner gave the residents notice to leave and Kathy, who is in her sixties, began living in her truck, parking at the Rose Bowl. Her increasing age and her health issues were causing mobility problems, and Kathy was more-or-less confined to her vehicle.

Kathy was already in the Los Angeles Homeless Services Division Coordinated Entry System but needed resources to help her find housing. The FID Street Outreach team were able to provide those resources, but it was Kathy's own diligence and determination - with the team advocating on her behalf - that got results. The housing authority in Monrovia were able to absorb Kathy's housing voucher and - within a month of the creation of the Street Outreach Team - they had housed their first client!



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

DONATE



For Your Calendar

May 6
Second Annual Golf Classic Tournament

May 9
Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

Volunteer Spotlight

Big-Deal Items and Impromptu Dance Routines



Jim Stevens has been a Food Pantry volunteer for about six years. At first he came because he liked doing something to benefit his local community. That's still one of the reasons he volunteers – but now, he also comes because he enjoys the camaraderie in the pantry. He and other volunteers often meet socially for coffee and lunch.

Jim has been part of the organization long enough now that he's able to answer a lot of questions and help bring new volunteers up to speed – a big help to the busy pantry staff.

When Jim first started with the pantry it rarely ever received eggs. Then Trader Joe's came on board as one of our food suppliers. Jim remembers the first consignment of eggs – they were taken out of his hands before he could even put them on the shelves! It made him realize that many of the things most of us take for granted are big-deal items to our pantry clients. It makes him feel like he genuinely makes a difference.

Jean Salas has been volunteering in The Women's Room since 2010, and everyone enjoys her off-beat sense of humor! She likes to boost morale and keep people's spirits up, and if that involves breaking into a dance routine, then so be it.

Jean was involved in helping Sharon (see "Stories from the Programs" above) to move when she first got into her new housing. When Sharon had her "Welcome Mat" party in The Women's Room, it was Jean who helped her move all her gifts to her new home – and they were immensely entertained to find all the signs in the building were in Russian. Apparently Sharon was the only

English-speaking tenant! Once Jean had helped Sharon get settled in, the two of them went out for a very enjoyable dinner together.



Meet a Board Member

A Wine, Olive Oil, and Cheese Enthusiast!



Ervin Galvan is a wine, olive oil, and cheese enthusiast and the owner and operator of We Olive & Wine Bar in Pasadena. He studied at UC Riverside with a major in Ethnic Studies and managed two dental offices before opening We Olive.

Ervin first got involved with FID through Richard Cheung, who invited him to a few of our events and to check out our facilities.

As a board member, he feels he brings a small-business work ethic and a desire to help the organization aid as many people as efficiently as possible. He volunteered at BWS one night and describes it as "a very raw and inspiring experience." He recommends everyone volunteers at the shelter at least once to experience how much good FID is doing!



Does the company you



Planned giving

work for have a matching gifts program?

Many companies offer matching gift programs to encourage employees to contribute to nonprofits like Friends In Deed. Some will even provide matching funds to support employee volunteer hours, and most of these programs will match contributions dollar for dollar. Some will even double or triple the amount of your gift!

Guidelines and amounts vary with each company. You can usually get more information about matching gift benefits from your human resources department. If they require a Tax Identification Number, please use 95-1644608.

We are very excited, at Friends In Deed, about growing our Charitable Planned Giving Program in 2019. Some of our supporters are already members of our Legacy Society and have made provisions for Friends In Deed in their will or trust. It is one of the easiest ways to help ensure the future of the organization and the important work we do every day.

The Charitable Planned Giving Program works in conjunction with gifts we receive and other current fundraising activities. This program provides us with the opportunity to establish a substantial financial asset that will increase over time. Your bequest can be used towards a particular project or left to Friends In Deed to use wherever it is needed.

A Message from the Board President

Happy New Year to All!



I hope this finds you well as we all run full tilt into 2019. Already our staff is busy with the Bad Weather Shelter, The Women's Room, Food Pantry, Street Outreach, and Homelessness Prevention. Rain or shine, Friends In Deed continues to serve our most vulnerable neighbors. I am so excited that this year we will be celebrating Friends In Deed's 125th year of service to our local community. Keep an eye out for emails about ways in which you can participate in this celebration!!

Have a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

Richard S. Cheung, D.C.
Board President

PROGRAMS

The Women's Room (TWR) Daytime shelter for homeless and at-risk women
The Food Pantry - Dignified grocery shopping experience for 350+ 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), Supervisor
(Street Outreach)
Monica Cardenas-Ochoa, Program Manager
(HPP)
Jane Armbruster, Program Associate (TWR)
Brandon McGuckin, Program Associate (Pantry)
Denisse Mirkin, Case Manager (TWR)
Rev. Donna Byrns, Community Liaison
Najwa Payton Jones, Street Outreach Specialist
Scott Desjardins, Street Outreach Worker
Helen Angove, Administrative Assistant
Allan Carp, Development Coordinator
Doug Haught, Security & Grounds
Coty Dietel, Food Pantry Aide

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