



Dear FID Community,

Terri is one of our longest-attending TWR guests, a woman who has seen some serious hardship on the streets. She struggles with addiction, which has often left her in a really bad way. Yet, she is one of the funniest, kindest, and most beloved women among both guests and staff. I have a vivid memory of Terri and another guest of similar life experience sitting with and supporting a third guest who was expressing a desire to leave this world. They sat on the ground with her, telling her it can get better, they will care for her, and that they had been there. Terri said, "I was there last week..." It was an incredibly intense, yet poignantly beautiful moment.

Terri is eccentric and often wears happy outfits, and her laugh is infectious. And this week, after all these years, I am thrilled to share that Terri is now housed! While she is a longstanding TWR guest, she also has a case manager at Union Station who has been working with her. The case manager was able to get her into a permanent supportive housing unit here in Pasadena. Yesterday, as is the custom of TWR, we had Terri's "Welcome Mat" party. We showered her with gifts but, more importantly to Terri, celebrated her success and laughed together with her and her community. And, when Marlene asked if it was ok to share some of these stories and use her picture, she didn't hesitate and said, "absolutely, then I can tell people I am famous!" We are thrilled for Terri - another wonderful success story for our community.



Terri at her welcome mat party

It is weeks like this that remind us that, while we continue to battle against the larger, and serious challenges that face our city, when we make a difference for one person we are answering the call to "do together what we cannot do alone." There is a teaching in the Talmud that says, "if you save one life, it is as if you saved the entire world." We achieved that this week.

So, as we head fully into 2020, please continue to [keep Friends In Deed in the forefront of your giving](#), knowing that we are working every day to help people like Terri and the hundreds of other souls that come through our doors seeking the compassion, connection, and dignity that everyone deserves.

I look forward to giving the sermon this Sunday at Sierra Madre United Methodist Church - I appreciate the invitation. Ask your clergy and I can soon be at a church near you!

Finally, a big birthday shoutout to our amazing Director of Grants and Finance, Marty Campolo, who is celebrating today! Marty is a bedrock of our success at FID and is an amazing work partner. Happy Birthday!

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,
Rabbi Joshua



As always, we can only operate with your help!

DONATE



A cake for Terri!



And gifts! All much-needed things for her new home



First United Methodist Church prepare dinner at the
Bad Weather Shelter



A delicious hot meal for our BWS clients



Members of First United Methodist Church hard at work at the stove...



...and plating up



FUMC group photo



Marlene talks to APU nursing students about
The Women's Room



Pasadena After Hours Rotary Club prepare dinner
at BWS...



...and get ready to serve it at the hatch



Housing Locator William and Homelessness Prevention Manager Debbie hold their first lunch event to discuss with landlords how FID can support them when renting to low-income tenants. If this interests you, please contact William at wslocator@friendsindeedpas.org



All Saints Church provide dinner at BWS



Thank you to Chris, Salicia, and Rafael of Learning Works
for their generous donation of toiletries!

