



Dear FID Community,

Happy Friday! One of my main goals in 2020 is to meet many new people and introduce them to the mission of FID. As the Executive Director, [I need to ensure that we have sufficient funds to sustain our amazing programs](#) and be able to provide the compassion, connection and dignity to all of the guests and clients that our incredible staff and volunteers serve every day. You can help by bringing new people into the FID family. I have been giving many private tours, having coffee and lunches, and connecting with people since the beginning of the year; the best way to share the passion of what we do is to allow people to see our programs first hand and up close. If you have folks we should meet, please let me know and we can set it up. Thank you!

Great story this week: Nika says that since she's been going to The Women's Room, she has been treated like a person, and this has kept her going. All the staff have such amazing hearts.

Nika comes from a background of long-term systemic abuse, affecting all members of her family. She says, "it took away my smile" when she was growing up, resulted in a number of stays in psychiatric hospitals, and shaped the way she has interacted with people since. Not unexpectedly, many of her family turned to drug use, and this added to the toxic environment. It's not surprising that Nika decided she had to get away at any cost, even to the point of sleeping on trains or at the Bad Weather Shelter, rather than carry on living with relatives.

Thankfully, things are now looking up for Nika. She has received counseling, and says that this was the best thing she ever did - her "thoughts don't consume her anymore," or "hinder her progress." And now Najwa has found Nika a bridge housing placement where she will be helped and supported on the journey toward independent housing.

"Najwa is a hustler, she gets things done," says Nika. And you can see from the photo that Nika's smile is back!



From now on, Nika's focus is creating a stable environment where her 10-year-old daughter will be able to come and live with her. Nika hopes that she will be able to pass on the life lessons she has learned to her daughter, and give her daughter a better foundation to life than she herself had. And to, hopefully, have as big and bright a smile as Nika does.

Another success story and an amazing way to end the week.

TWIN SHEET SET DONATIONS: Our Bad Weather Shelter has been busy and for that reason, we are in need of new, white twin-sheet sets. Help us make sure that we have enough clean sheets for our homeless brothers and sisters every night we are open. You can bring donations directly to FID House on Washington.

As a huge basketball fan and a Lakers fan since my childhood, obviously this was a devastating week with the tragic death of Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gigi, and the other seven beautiful human beings on the terrible helicopter crash. I had the pleasure of seeing Kobe play many times at Staples, including in an NBA finals game. Our hearts and love go out to all the families. May they rest in peace.

A final public service announcement: We are going to be switching our database system next week, so our regular efficiency at sending thank-you letters will be delayed for just a little bit. Please know we care deeply about each person who contributes and the letters will go out as soon as possible. Our new data system will be much better for us, so it will be worth the wait! Thanks for your understanding.

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,
Rabbi Joshua



As always, we can only operate with your help!

[DONATE](#)



Nika moves in to her new home, joining other TWR guests already housed there!



Ellen, a teacher at St Rita School, brings in goodie bags that first and fifth graders have made for our guests



Beautifully decorated goodie bags!



Pasadena Jaycees ready to serve dinner to our Bad Weather Shelter guests



A happy team of volunteers!



Staff and volunteers at the Bad Weather Shelter



Rabbi Joshua with two of the Jaycees volunteers



Nursing students from Azusa Pacific University in action

