

FRIENDS IN DEED*



Dear FID Community,

There are some weeks that I have big, exciting stories, where we housed someone, changed the course of someone's life or saved someone from imminent danger. And there are weeks where we did the "little things" for people. These weeks are just as important. After nearly three years at Friends In Deed, I have come to appreciate that offering a woman a shower and clean clothes, providing a family with healthy and fresh food, listening to someone's pain, and being a supportive and loving presence in their lives - all of these are vital and valuable services that we give to folks. We change a person's life just by being there for them and meeting their everyday, "normal" needs. And our volunteers are often the ones on the front lines of the compassion, connection and dignity that is the hallmark of our work. Seeing the extraordinary in the ordinary - thank you!



That doesn't mean I am not thinking about the larger issues that continue to plague our city. A few weeks ago I published an op-ed about getting creative in our approach to either housing people permanently or temporarily, providing some sort of emergency mental health clinic, and offering mobile services for the most chronically and physically challenged folks on the streets. While I had hoped someone in the city government would have taken me up on the chance to go deeper, that didn't happen. With elections ramping up for city council and mayor, I hope all of

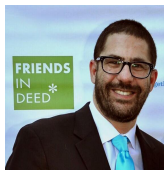
you will make this issue front and center, and don't accept the same old answers to the vexing problem that we are all deeply concerned about. Challenge our politicians to take stronger stands, offer bolder solutions, commit dollars to walk the talk. And today, *now*, not at some point in a distant future. Our guests and clients at FID depend on you to be the voice that they don't have.

As you all know, none of the work we do, large or small, is possible without your ongoing financial support. Now that Jazz is over (which was incredibly successful financially), and before we hit the Winter Appeal, [I ask you to consider Friends In Deed in this time](#), as we continue to help the most vulnerable in our community.

It is the larger issues of the day that I will be contemplating when I spend 24 hours praying, searching my soul, and seeking repentance and renewed hope on Yom Kippur, which is Tuesday night and Wednesday. It is a solemn day, a fast day for the Jewish community, one in which the themes of forgiveness, acknowledging wrongs committed, and apologizing to people we may have hurt, are focused on. On the most macro level, I believe that we owe serious apologies to all of those living on the streets, especially our seniors, for failing to care for them as a priority in our society. And while not our issue at FID, I believe we owe apologies to our children and grandchildren for passing them a planet that just may not be sustainable for many, if not most of them.

In keeping with the theme of this season, I ask forgiveness from anyone in our FID community that I may have hurt, intentionally or unintentionally. I know I have made mistakes, and will seek to better myself in the coming year.

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,
Rabbi Joshua



PS. Our popular Breakfast Bites program is back! If you or your organization are interested in providing breakfast snacks and drinks for our clients outside the Pantry any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, please call Helen at 626-797-2402 ext 201, or email office@friendsindeedpas.org.

PPS! Don't forget the 125th anniversary tours of our programs at FID House on the second Thursday of the month, 10-11 am. Contact Helen (see above) to sign up.

As always, we can only operate with your help!

DONATE



New paint in The Women's Room, courtesy of the Gesner-Johnson Foundation!



LDS sisters help out in the Food Pantry



And more LDS missionary friends!



A few more Jazz on the Green photos...



Honorees at Jazz on the Green: (from left to right) Rabbi Joshua, Mishele Myers, Ingrid Kuo of Nothing Bundt Cakes, Pasadena, Rev'd Steve Wong and Doreen Rudder from Pasadena Covenant Church, Claire and Bill Bogaard, and Richard Cheung



A wonderful crowd!



Street Outreach Specialist Najwa, with Sandor Lakatos, pianist



Castle Green



The Women's Room art show at the Armory Center
for the Arts



More from the art show - for details, see below



The Women's Room Art Show

September 21 - December 1, 2019

An exhibit of artwork created by guests of The Women's Room, which serves San Gabriel Valley women who are alone and homeless, or at risk of homelessness. The Women's Room is a program of Friends in Deed, an interfaith collaborative dedicated to meeting the needs of great Pasadena's most vulnerable residents.



armoryarts.org/womensroom

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