

**FRIENDS
IN
DEED***



Dear FID Community,

When I came into the office on Wednesday, there were three clients waiting to see the Street Outreach team, including a mother and 22-year-old daughter just released from the hospital to the streets. Then, an older gentleman, a veteran, came to see our Homelessness Prevention (HPP) manager, as he was on the verge of being evicted. People had found us and were seeking our help. The mother and daughter agreed to go to a shelter in downtown LA, so they at least had a place for a few days. We are very close to helping the veteran with his rent. The size and scope of our agency continues to grow.

On that note, our HPP manager is being inundated with calls, people desperate to not be evicted, all with their own personal stories. We wish we could help each one of them, but sadly, we can't. Not only are there significant restrictions on the money we get from the government, but even the money we do get is spent so fast that it is almost gone. We have distributed tens of thousands of dollars since the summer. Since we don't get that much unrestricted, private funding for this program, we are severely hampered in who we can help, for how long, and with how much money. It is often heartbreaking, especially when faced with a single mom or an elderly person. I am grateful to our manager, Debbie Turner, who is working so hard to help as many people as she can, and offer compassion to those that she can't.

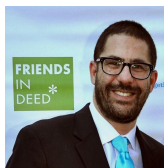


Rabbi Joshua at St. Rita's Church, with organizers Lenore and Marilyn

Last week I had the pleasure of being at St. Rita's Catholic Church in Sierra Madre and speaking at their annual Women's Guild breakfast. One of the readings was Psalm 34, which says, "God is close to the brokenhearted..." I talked about how our clients and guests are some of the most brokenhearted people, and the support of our congregations offers them a sense of closeness to that which is greater than ourselves, a source of compassion and love. This Sunday, I look forward to being at Assumption Church in Pasadena, where the reading is Psalm 145, one of the most famous in the Jewish liturgy. Among the verses of this acrostic (in the original Hebrew) psalm are "God is good to all, compassionate to all beings;" and "God is close to all who call out." Whether you have a sense of God in your life, or call this energy by another name, I believe that these psalms are reminding us that no matter where we are in life, whatever our circumstances, we don't have to feel alone or forgotten. And the more I do this work, the more I see that our clients and guests are often some of the most confident in this feeling. I am inspired and strengthened when I witness this.

On behalf of all of our guests, clients and staff, [we are so grateful for your support](#), and hope that Friends In Deed will continue to be in the forefront of your 'charity-giving' mind in the coming days and weeks ahead. As we know, the need never ends for those who are most vulnerable in our community. Thanks for all you do!

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,
Rabbi Joshua



P.S. Don't forget to turn your clocks back!

PPS. 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.

PPPS! 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



Staff, volunteers, and guests at The Women's Room get into the Halloween spirit!



TWR Associate Jane and volunteer Celia get in touch with their inner flamingos



A Halloween cake for The Women's Room



Students from Flintridge Prep help at the Food Pantry



A welcome delivery for the Food Pantry from Los Angeles Regional Food Bank!



A field trip for the guests of The Women's Room to see their artwork in the exhibition at the Armory Center for the Arts



Another TWR artist poses with the paintings



TWR Case Manager Denisse and volunteer Jean pose with an appropriate piece of art!



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.



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