Dear FID Community,

Highlights from this past week:

- FID board member Jon Webster and his cycling crew riding 125 miles in honor of our 125th anniversary, which raised over $10,000! Thank you, Jon and everyone who rode and donated. (I cheered them on from home, following on Facebook...)

- Lovely Circle of Friends event at the TWR exhibit at the Armory. Thanks to volunteer Leslie Nuremberg for coming and sharing her approach of encouraging the ladies with their art and helping them express themselves. The exhibit closes December 1st, so don’t miss it - very inspiring and a great way to see the fruit of some of the labors of love in The Women's Room. And you can join the Circle of Friends by committing $1000 a year to FID.

- Exciting news that our Outreach Team was able to move one of our guests, Ms. Synthia, from bridge housing into her own apartment! Thanks to Najwa and Scott for their persistence and patience in making this happen.
Ms. Synthia’s new apartment

- Holly dropped off a whole carload of food for the Pantry in honor of her daughter’s 5th birthday.

- Nine people came for our monthly 125th Tour, seeing firsthand the work of FID and hearing from our program directors. It is always gratifying when folks visit to see, touch, and feel our work - much more powerful than just reading about it.

- Our FID van got a much-needed car wash! Thanks to Pantry volunteers Jason and Dan for doing the washing. The van doesn’t fit into a regular car wash, so they had to do it by hand. Nice work!

- Many thanks to St Anthony Greek Orthodox Church, who provided Breakfast Bites for our pantry clients on Wednesday!

We are getting ready for Thanksgiving in the Pantry, preparing to give away nearly 390 turkeys and all the fixings. Thanks to Mayor Tornek, Councilmember Kennedy, and the Pasadena Jaycees for donating! We are also gearing up for the Bad Weather Shelter to open on December 4th. We still need many more volunteer groups to sign up, so please email BWS Assistant Director Rachel McHenry to join in.

Our work never stops, and it can only be successful with your ongoing support. Please consider giving generously so we can continue "doing together what we cannot do alone."

Finally, our hearts are broken once again, as we console the students and families of Saugus High School, where another horrific school shooting took place. How long Lord, how long? How long until we take more meaningful and strong action on gun control? How long until we address the pain and suffering of these kids, who are in such despair that they would commit such a horrible act and then proceed to try and kill themselves? We have an epidemic, one that thoughts and prayers won’t answer. May God comfort and strengthen the families of the two students who were killed, send healing to those injured, and be a shelter of love and support to the entire Saugus community.

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!

Our thanks to the Polytechnic School Girl Scouts. A Harvest Festival food drive and festive decorations
The Girl Scouts have also collected toiletry products for us!

Thank you to Holly for collecting food and toiletry products in honor of her daughter's 5th birthday.
The monthly tour in the Food Pantry at FID House. It’s not too late to sign up for a tour! See above.

Circle of Friends event at The Women’s Room art show at the Armory. The exhibition continues until Dec 1, so you still have time to see it!
Huge thanks to board member Jon Webster and his cycling buddies, including Matt Brewer, for cycling a fantastic 125 miles in aid of our 125th anniversary.

A celebratory photo at the end of the ride. They raised over $10,000 for Friends In Deed, and it's not too late to donate more!
The pantry van gets spruced up for the holiday season. Thanks to volunteers Jason (pictured) and Dan (taking the photo).

The fabulous Killer Unicorns are doing a special show in aid of Friends In Deed. The cost of entry is $10, but any further donations of money or food go straight to us. Come and join us!
Have you visited Ten Thousand Villages? It’s lovely. In order for 15% of your purchase to be donated to us, don’t forget to mention our name when you get to the checkout!