

**FRIENDS  
IN  
DEED\***



Dear Friend,

During this pandemic, we have worked hard to adapt our programs and services to both meet the needs of our clients and to make sure we are doing it as safely as possible. In four of our five programs, we have been successful in achieving those goals. So, it is with disappointment and sadness that I have to share how and why we were not able to achieve these goals in the fifth program. Please note that this will be a longer email than usual so I can lay out the details.

- Friends In Deed and the Housing Department of Pasadena are longstanding partners who have worked together on the Bad Weather Shelter (BWS) for over three decades, along with our dedicated host congregation, Pasadena Covenant Church. I want to share the reasons and thinking regarding why we decided we cannot open the BWS this season. This is a tremendously difficult and painful decision, but ultimately the safety of clients and staff was the driving factor. We recognize the challenge this poses to our neighbors experiencing homelessness, and we are working hard to mitigate those as best we can, as you will read below. Please know that we did not take this decision lightly.
- Friends In Deed and Housing Staff worked together in weekly meetings for several months to find solutions to the many challenges that the BWS would have faced in operating safely during a pandemic.
- The primary reason for our decision to not open this season was that we determined that the weather-activated, night-by-night, low-barrier model would prevent us from implementing many of the measures that were necessary for safe operations. For instance, we would not have been able to quarantine entire groups of people if someone were to test positive.
- Much of the population served by BWS is highly vulnerable to serious illness and death from COVID-19 due to age and the presence of chronic health conditions. A congregate shelter, even with mask wearing and social distancing, still carries a heightened risk of transmission of COVID-19 for participants, as well as staff. Ultimately we determined the risks to outweigh the benefits, especially as there are other, safer ways to meet

shelter needs. We have also heard from some folks on the streets that they feel safer, even out in the elements, than in a shelter. [See this recent LA Times article.](#)

- We will be meeting the cold weather and shelter needs of our unhoused neighbors in other ways this season, including distributing warm clothing and cold weather supplies through street outreach and at community meal programs. We will utilize BWS funding and other emergency funds for non-congregate shelter (motel vouchers) to meet the shelter needs of the most vulnerable. We will work with regional partners to increase access to other nearby winter shelters.
- County winter shelters that will remain in operation are open 24/7, serve a set group of people, have limited coming and going, and lock down their facilities for a minimum of 14-day quarantines when necessary. The BWS would not have been able to operate under this model.
- The East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless, whose shelter has the same setup as ours, also made the very difficult decision to not operate their winter shelter this year, due to similar safety challenges.
- We are concerned about and working to mitigate the impacts this will have on the community and, most importantly, our most vulnerable neighbors as we serve them.

We are grateful for everyone's support and understanding as we approach the winter season. Rest assured, we will be calling on you for donations of gear, supplies and food as we begin our operations. Once we have finalized our partnership plans, we will share the information concerning which churches we are working with this coming season, as well as the other strategies we are laying out to meet the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Blessings, have a lovely weekend and a Happy Thanksgiving!

Rabbi Joshua



We can only operate with your help!

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Our thanks to [Westridge School](#) for collecting over 4,000 lbs of food in their food drive! Pictured are Charley and Mia, helping Tim unload the food.



Kristen from [Fueling the Fearless](#) drops off over 100 Greek gyros lunches for the Food Pantry. Thank you!





Rabbi Joshua picks up a \$1,600 grant from the Rotary Club, from their safe, socially distanced, "Zoom Headquarters." Thank you to Rotary President Ken Joe and all the Rotarians!



Our thanks to Friends In Deed supporters Cary and Beverly Belling, and the San Fernando Valley Symphony Orchestra. Cary Belling - violin, David Weaver - Guitar, and Larry Muradian - String Bass will be performing a concert on Cary and Beverly's front porch Sunday 22 at 2pm - and collecting donations of food for our Food Pantry! They have also generously made the live stream of the concert available to our FID community – join them on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88443293273?pwd=bmQzWVh6KzZleU9nZGE3RjZPRjc5UT09>



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