

FRIENDS IN DEED*



Dear Friend,

As I have said many times, Friends In Deed takes pride in the work we do on a very individual level, knowing that love and compassion offered to even one person makes a difference in their lives - and for that we are grateful. In this time of incredible pain, suffering and fear in our country, with the pandemic surging, economic hardship afflicting so many, and uncertainty surrounding us, it is so gratifying to share a piece of good news. Let me tell you about one of our longtime TWR guests.

Alicia had been living in a shelter in Pasadena and it was looking like her life was about to turn around. She had gotten everything lined up to move into permanent housing - and then she got arrested only a few days before she was due to move. After a ten-month jail sentence she was in an even worse position than before; she had lost all her clothes, she had been disowned by her family, and she had nowhere to go.

She was terrified of everything. She would go to The Women's Room, but in her own words, she would "take the food and run." But, through their endless patience and kindness, Marlene, Jane and the volunteers won her trust. Alicia says The Women's Room was a place where she could get a couple of hours of feeling human, and the food is so good she would "still eat there even if I won the lottery."



At this point, Alicia was living in a garage and had an abusive boyfriend. But Najwa, from our Street Outreach Team, began to work with her to get her out of that situation. First, Najwa found Alicia a place in a shelter in downtown LA, which frightened her because all she had ever experienced in LA was violence. But Najwa managed to persuade Alicia to be brave enough to take the place, and then worked with her to get her into transitional housing.

Today, I am thrilled to share that Alicia has been in her new home for a week. It's a process - she says it was "weird" to hold a set of keys in her hand, she's adjusting to cooking and cleaning for herself, and she says the first night there was so quiet she couldn't sleep! But she is very, very happy to be living in her own safe, comfortable home.

We are so happy for Alicia, and grateful to all of YOU who support us, so that we can help people like her to rebuild their lives. Thank you!

Next week, I will have a more detailed update on the Winter Services and Supply Giveaway program that will serve as our Bad Weather operation starting in January.

Blessings, have a safe and lovely weekend,

Rabbi Joshua



PS: HAMS for the HOLIDAYS! We have nine more distribution days left in 2020 and we know our community would enjoy a ham for the holidays. If you would like to donate a ham for the community, we would appreciate it. Hams could be dropped off at our 444 E. Washington Blvd. address on Friday and Saturday, from 8:30a to 3:30p. If you have any questions, please email Stacey at pantryassociate@friendsindeedpas.org. Thank you!

We can only operate with your help!

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PASADENA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Our thanks go to Pasadena Community Foundation for this lovely endorsement! <https://pasadenacf.org/essential-giving/>



Alicia moves into her new home!



Najwa and Fabian from the Street Outreach Team, with Alicia



We love Lawrence Bottala and the team from Western Supreme Rooter and are so grateful for how much they support FID! Here they are dropping off some food.



Some lovely art from The Women's Room

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**