



Dear Friend,

There are rare moments in our work when a person shares deeply and personally about their own story. We have permission from Mr. Rummage to share his words, which he sent to William. The following is what he wrote:

*"I became homeless in 2012. After being one of those people who'd worked all their life, I simply wasn't prepared for this turn of events. I kept thinking I wasn't born for this, but apparently I was wrong.*

*I thought that I'd made it through the economic downturn in 2008, with a job that I loved and was good at, I think. But corporate politics has a way of catching people unprepared.*

*I lost the job at the end of 2012 and spent the next year doing everything I could think of to find something new – but being over 50 years old made it extremely difficult, to the point of impossible. It didn't take long to fall into deep depression and eventually the only course I could see was to just end it, and commit suicide. I was very close to finishing things but a friend, who had gotten some idea of where I was going, stepped in and stopped me.*

*To be clear, I never had to sleep under an overpass or be a dumpster-diver. It might be hard to see it, but I think I was fortunate to be admitted right away into Pasadena's homeless shelter, Union Station. Because of the darkness in my heart, I was there for a year, when the average person was allowed to be there only for three months. This was an unexpected blessing because, through Union Station, I was given access to medical and psychiatric care, and began the long climb out of the pit I was in. And eventually I reached a point where it was decided that it was time to move me back a little closer to the world, and I moved into Centennial Place, a permanent supportive housing building for people who had been in similar situations to mine. I was there for seven years.*

*It became clear to me about two years ago that I had to move on. I wanted to try to find my place in the world. So I began to look into other living possibilities, starting to get on waiting lists for Section 8 housing. Before long I had signed onto more than a dozen lists. But there was no response. I kept trying and began to share my goals with people around me, both those in the same position as me and*

*with authority figures who might be a help.*

*Eventually, I got back in contact with William Shelby, who had been my counselor when I first moved into Centennial Place. He was now working with Friends In Deed as a housing locator. After great effort, Mr. Shelby found a place. It took time, much longer than I thought that I could cope with, but I am now moving into my own place. I'm going to do everything that I can to make this work, because I can see that even after all the help that I've received, it's on me.*

*If you find yourself in a position similar to mine, I can only strongly suggest that you find people that you can trust, and don't give up. No matter how dark the road seems, don't give up. Good things can happen."*



In a week when we are all living in a heightened state of fear and anxiety, I feel extremely grateful that I can share this success story. And not only share it, but to let you hear how one person talks about his life, in a brutally honest and deep way. We thank Mr. Rummage for trusting us with his inner and personal thoughts.

In regard to COVID-19, I want to assure everyone that we are taking all the necessary precautions at FID to ensure that we can continue our services with safety and the appropriate protocols. Our staff is in constant contact and we are discussing things almost on an hourly basis. This primarily affects the Food Pantry and The Women's Room. Thanks are owed to Tim, Marlene, and their staff for their diligence and extra efforts. We have been adjusting some of the ways that we operate, especially in the Food Pantry. Our main concern is the safety and health of our clients, volunteers and staff. We will continue to operate until we are told that we shouldn't.

Let us keep all those affected, be they the sick and their families, medical staff, first responders, or our health providers, in our prayers.

Blessings and have a lovely, and safe, weekend,

Rabbi Joshua



PS. Over 350 families come through the Food Pantry every week. Besides food, we provide toiletries such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and pet food to our community. We are currently low on these highly desirable items and would appreciate any donations. Please contact the Food Pantry staff, Tim or Stacey, with any questions - 626 797 2402 ext 107 or email (Tim) [pantry@friendsindeedpas.org](mailto:pantry@friendsindeedpas.org) or (Stacey) [pantryassociate@friendsindeedpas.org](mailto:pantryassociate@friendsindeedpas.org).

As always, we can only operate with your help!

DONATE

LEARN ABOUT PLANNED GIVING



Our thanks to Girl Scout Troop 5051 for making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Our Street Outreach team have been out in the cold and the wet delivering them to people living on the streets!



Thanks also to Pasadena After Hours Rotary Club for donating lovely



new tables and weighing scales for the Pantry!



The new tables in all their pristine glory



And the new scales for weighing food



Rabbi Joshua visited Pasadena Covenant church on Sunday -  
pictured here with Revs. Jake and Marlene Pomeroy

# Local Man Joins Friends In Deed's Board

Local resident Kevin Bourland has been elected to join the board of directors at Friends In Deed, a 126-year-old nonprofit organization that services homeless and at-risk residents in the Greater Pasadena area.

"We are thrilled to welcome Kevin to the Friends In Deed board of directors," said Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater, the organization's executive director. "Kevin brings a wealth of experience in the nonprofit board leadership realm, as well as significant business acumen as a successful real estate agent and local executive. We look forward to his insights and participation during this exciting time in our organization."

Bourland is a designated estates director at Compass, a distinction awarded to top real estate producers whose sales inventory includes multimillion-dollar estates. Before entering the field of residential real estate, he was a professional film actor appearing in feature films, television shows and TV commercials. He has also directed dozens of television commercials representing national brands in the U.S. and Canada.

Bourland has been a resident of South Pasadena for 24 years and lives in a restored 1919 California Craftsman home, where he and his wife, Carol, raised their two sons.

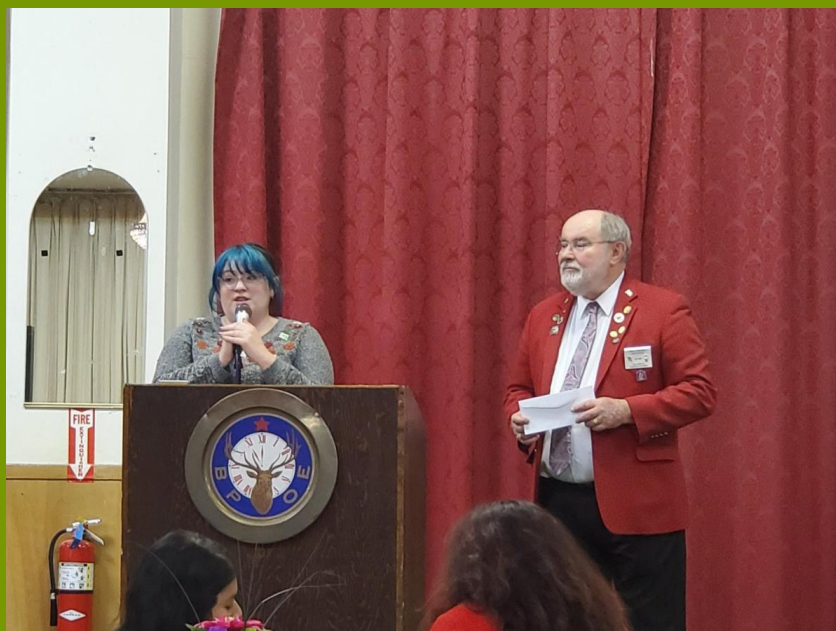
"As a real estate agent, I am fortunate to work with buyers and sellers as they transition into their next home," Bourland said. "It is a very emotional and rewarding time for sure. But I also realize that within our same community there are people who have no home to go to,



Kevin Bourland

and that many additional people are right on that precipitous edge of homelessness. I have known Joshua Grater for quite some time and I admire what he and his current staff and board have accomplished with Friends In Deed. When I was asked to join the board, I considered it a privilege and a great opportunity to be of service to a community that has been very kind to me. We all deserve a home. Even for a night."

A big welcome for new FID board member Kevin Bourland!



TWR Associate Jane accepts a donation of \$1000 from Pasadena Elks Lodge #672. Thank you!





BWS staff member Leo serves up chili dogs on the last night of shelter operation for the season





Diane, from Crescenta Valley Methodist Church, presents a check  
from their "Empty Bowls" fundraiser



A huge donation of food and toiletries from Trader Joe's, Monrovia.  
Thank you so much!