



DearFriend

Another week has passed and we remain "safer at home." That phrase has been gnawing at me since this started, as we serve so many people without a home, where they never feel safe. Here is a story from this past week that Najwa, our Outreach Specialist, shared. This is in the first person, as Najwa recounted it to me. A shimmer of light...

"Ms. Donna Sharpe called me because she was homeless and needed help. I met with her at the Lake office about one year ago. She needed a place to shower and some other services so I took her over to TWR and gave her a tour, and she was able to shower and get some food. She loved TWR and started going there on a daily basis. Ms. Sharpe is 65 years old, and became homeless in 2011 when her son passed away, and she went into a deep depression. In her own words, she said that maybe if she had attended some kind of grief and loss support group maybe she wouldn't have spiraled downhill like she did.

Ms. Sharpe was staying on the streets of Pasadena and when this COVID-19 pandemic hit, and TWR was closed, she didn't have anywhere to turn. She said she went to a truck stop and paid \$10 to take a shower. Also, just recently she was attacked by a homeless man who asked her for money, and when she said she didn't have any, he kicked her. Ms. Sharpe stated that she was feeling very helpless and hopeless. Until today - when she said that this day felt different than most days have felt in a long time. She said that something just told her to call TWR - Marlene picked up right away; Ms. Sharpe asked if TWR was open and Marlene said yes. She said she was so happy to hear this, and that Marlene was so nice and welcoming. When she arrived at TWR, she felt the same kindness in person from Marlene, and then she saw that I was there as well, and she said what a bonus!

After she showered and had something to eat she was tired because she hadn't had a restful night's sleep since this pandemic started. Marlene told her she could take a nap; when she woke up, I spoke to her and made a referral for her to enter the Pasadena Project RoomKey Program. Later I received a confirmation that a room would be available for her tomorrow - she was so very grateful! And she was excited to know that she will have a safe

place to sleep and shower.”

After being closed for the past two months, we are so happy to share this story. Ms. Sharpe was one of the six ladies that came this week. Thanks to Marlene and Jane for preparing and making this happen, providing a space with safety protocols and well-thought out plans. We can accommodate five to six ladies daily, so we will see how that unfolds in the next few weeks.

I want to thank you for your support and generosity during these challenging times. It is because of you that we can make this impact on Ms. Sharpe’s life. We are grateful that so many people, including hundreds of first-time donors, have believed in us, and trusted us, with the work of caring for our most vulnerable neighbors. We are certainly “doing together what we cannot do alone.”

Blessings and have a lovely, safe weekend,
Rabbi Joshua



Click on the image below to see a video update about the Pantry!



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Our thanks to Pasadena Community Foundation for a generous emergency grant of \$20,000 for the Food Pantry!



Curves Gym have still managed to run a food drive even though it was disrupted by the COVID-19 outbreak! Thank you!



They have collected 550lbs of food!