

DearFriend

While we tend to focus on the people we see on the streets, our homeless and chronically homeless neighbors (an issue that is critical, of course), the much larger and often invisible population is that at risk of eviction. In our Homelessness Prevention Program, we seek to provide rental assistance and case management to those on the edge of becoming homeless. Our Program Director, Debbie Turner, shared a few stories with me from clients she worked with this past week.

- One of our previous participants, who has been doing well and was on track with rent, hit a speed bump due to COVID-19. Unfortunately, she lost her income and is in need of back rent. We re-certified her, and thankfully we are going to be able to help her with rental assistance.
- One of our current participants has been on medical leave due to a difficult pregnancy and birth. This, combined with complications with an insurance payout, means she is in need of rental assistance. Although she was aware that we would most likely not be able to help her this month, due to the running out of the government funding for which she was eligible, we were able to connect her to another organization that put \$1,000 towards her rent. Next month, with the renewed funding, we will be able to assist her and her family again.

These are just two of the many people that Debbie works with, and there are plenty more that we are not able to help for a variety of different reasons. On a call this morning with <u>Making Housing and Community Happen</u>, a local non-profit working on affordable housing, we reviewed some stunning statistics about our city:

- 56% of residents are renters.
- 47% spend more than 50% of their income on housing,
- there has been a 50% increase in chronically homeless people on our streets since last year,
- there has been a 27% increase in homeless seniors on our streets since last year.

For more information follow this link to this year's Pasadena Homeless

Count report.

There is a homeless crisis; there is an affordable housing crisis; there is a permanent supportive housing crisis. These are all interconnected and need to be addressed as a collective whole, even as each one requires different housing solutions.

Friends In Deed is trying to help as many people as possible from being evicted, but our funds are primarily from government grants, which have numerous restrictions. Unrestricted funds for homeless prevention are crucial to helping as many people as possible.

Please consider giving for this urgent need. Only together can we help our most vulnerable neighbors. Thank you!

Blessings, and have a lovely, safe weekend,

Rabbi Joshua



We can only operate with your help!

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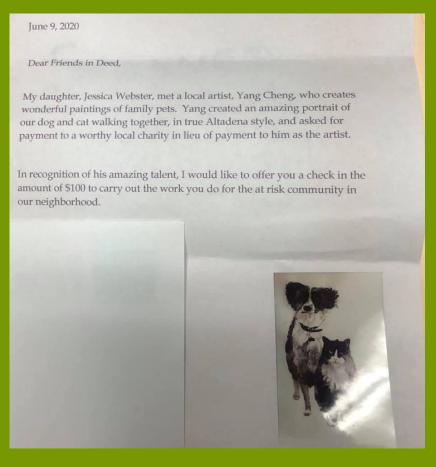


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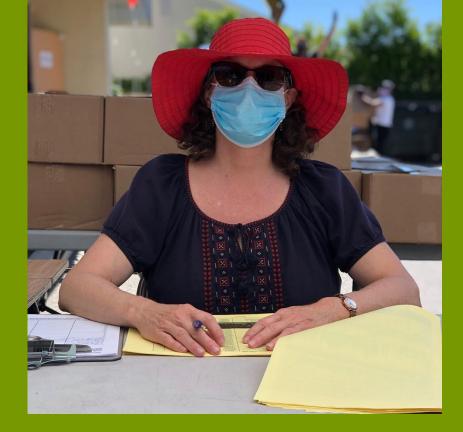
Thank you to our new friends at <u>Crack Shack Pasadena</u> for organizing this fundraiser!



Our thanks to Chef Rae for this delicious hot lunch for The Women's Room



A lovely letter!



Pantry Associate Stacey manages check-ins

BLACK LIVES MATTER