



DearFriend

During this week of protest, pain and unrest, and while we are still living with the COVID-19 pandemic, Friends In Deed was doing its work to care for the most vulnerable in our community. Our Food Pantry, Women's Room and Homeless Prevention program were all active. I want to shine a light this week on our Street Outreach program. In talking to Najwa this morning, I learned about one of the nineteen people for whom she is providing case management as part of Project RoomKey. Here is a little bit about her.

Ms. Vaughn is 62 years old and has been living in her car for the past year. She was located in one of our parks when she called Najwa to ask for help. Thankfully, Najwa was able to get Ms. Vaughn into one of the motel rooms. This is even more important because Ms. Vaughn has stage 4 cancer and is receiving chemotherapy. She had a lung biopsy last week and is awaiting the results. She was not the only client this week to say that Najwa is "a blessing and a guardian angel." Amen!

Another positive moment happened this morning when Tim, Helen and I were on a Zoom call with New Horizon's Head of School, Amira Al-Sarraf, and several members of her staff. In the past, their students have done a Ramadan food drive for Friends In Deed. With COVID-19 this year, they weren't able to do that. So, they agreed to donate 15% of their Ramadan giving campaign to us. We are receiving a check for over \$5,000! We are so grateful for our friendship with the school and the local Muslim community— thank you!

This has been a draining and an emotionally taxing week for many. I was honored to be a part of the prayer protest for George Floyd on Sunday at Pasadena City Hall, with over 1,000 in attendance. A car caravan happened on Tuesday, which my family attended, with another several thousand people. On Wednesday, over 200 students, organized by a Marshall Fundamental graduating senior, had a rally and march. Yesterday, Black Lives Matter Pasadena had a large rally and march into Old Town. All of these were peaceful, with a sense of communal grief and strong desire for action. I am proud of Pasadena, and I stand with my fellow clergy, members of the Black community, and citizens who want a dismantling of

systemic racism in all of the places it rears its ugly head.

May the coming days bring us more peace, reconciliation, health and healing of mind, body and spirit. May the voices crying out be heard, and the words of the prophet Amos ring true: 'Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.'

Blessings and have a lovely, safe weekend,
Rabbi Joshua



Rabbi Grater was honored to be a part of a Pasadena Media show, Arroyo Live, discussing homelessness and COVID-19. He joined Union Station CEO Anne Miskey and Salvation Army Captain, Pastor Terry Masango.



We can only operate with your help!

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Zoom meeting with Horizon School Pasadena



And the virtual check they presented to us. We are very grateful!



Bridge Church Pasadena dropped off the results of a fabulous food drive



Safe donation drop off!



Many thanks to Bridge Church for 1350 lbs of food



A fantastic selection of much-needed pantry staples



And another food drive drop off, this time from Gooden School



Thank you!

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**