



## Quarterly Newsletter

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### From the Board President

Dear Friend,

As we settle into fall, Friends In Deed is feeling the seasonal shift as we make arrangements for upcoming colder weather, work with community members navigating the end of the pandemic eviction moratorium, and strive to make a bigger impact on our community through strategic planning.

With the season of giving just around the corner, we hope your generosity will find room for Friends In Deed and support the many programs we have in place to keep those most at risk taken care of and safe. I am pleased to introduce our FID Fall Newsletter, which brings you stories and inspiring community members. Read on and enjoy your fall!

In service,

Bret Schaefer  
Board President, Friends In Deed



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**It is through your generosity that we are able to  
provide these programs and services**

**Donate today**

## Stories from Our Programs

### Lyndee's Story - Resilience

As a person living with disability (in her case, deafness), Lyndee is probably more vulnerable to being taken advantage of than most. An exploitative relationship left her on the streets, but fortunately she was able to get a place in a supportive housing program in Pasadena. [Read more...](#)



### Jeff's Story - A Journey of Self Discovery

Jeff was referred to Friends In Deed from the Pasadena Housing Department. As a recent transplant from Orange County, he was still learning about what community resources were available to him in the area. When Ryan and Jeff were able to meet in person it was immediately clear to Ryan that Jeff was a man in the middle of a long journey of self discovery. He had lost his job and nearly his life to alcoholism, and was now in recovery at a sober living home in Pasadena.

[Read more...](#)



### Tracy's Story - Escaping Violence

Tracy first reached out to Friends In Deed out of desperation. In

her early twenties and just starting new work, she had been living with her older sister's family while getting on her feet. Unfortunately her sister's husband was dealing with serious anger issues. [Read more...](#)



### **Sandy's Story - Referred by a Friend**

Sandy was first introduced to Friends In Deed through her friend, Eloise. The month before, Ryan had been able to help Eloise, who is a property manager, get rental assistance for one of her tenants in desperate need and Eloise had said, "thank you so much for all your help, would it be okay if I told one of my friends about you guys?" [Read more...](#)

## ***Stories from Our Volunteers***

### **Matt's Story - Invaluable Help**

Matt is a swim instructor and, when his job was put on hold due to the pandemic, he needed something to put his time and energy into. He was seeing people volunteering on TV and knew he wanted to make his own contribution. [Read more...](#)



### **Nathan's Story - Honoring his Grandma's Memory**

Nathan (left) is the grandson of Janet Wood, a volunteer in The Women's Room who passed last fall. Janet was a dearly loved member of the Friends In Deed community. During her volunteer





shifts she oversaw the laundry area and was always accompanied by her dog, Toby. [Read more...](#)

## **The PJTC Sisterhood Story - Repairing the World**

The Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center Sisterhood exists to support not only the synagogue and the local Jewish Community but also the wider community. At Friends In Deed we have been privileged to have a partnership with the Sisterhood for several years now, through which they express that care and support for the Pasadena community as a whole. [Read more...](#)



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## **Programs**

### **Bad Weather Shelter (BWS)**

Providing cold-weather support for our neighbors experiencing homelessness

### **Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance (EPRA)**

Short- and medium-term rental support to prevent eviction

### **Food Pantry**

Dignified grocery shopping experience for 400+ households weekly

### **Street Outreach & Housing**

Team of workers on the streets engaging with our neighbors experiencing homelessness and connecting them to services

### **The Women's Room (TWR)**

Daytime shelter for homeless and at-risk women

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## Our Staff

Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater  
*Executive Director*

Marty Campolo  
*Deputy Director & Grants  
Officer*

Erik Osugi  
*Senior Director of Programs*

Merria Velasco  
*Director of Development*

Helen Angove  
*Operations Manager*

Marlene Martinez  
*Director of TWR*

Tim Nistler  
*Director of The Food Pantry*

William Shelby  
*Director of Street Outreach and  
Housing*

Ryan Greer  
*Director of EPRA*

Stacey Cutshaw  
*Food Pantry Manager*

Najwa Payton Jones  
*Housing Navigator and  
Outreach Specialist*

Jane Armbruster  
*TWR Program Associate*

Angel Maxwell  
*Street Outreach Worker*

Michael Jaimes  
*Street Outreach Worker*

Al Hackett  
*Director of BWS*

Lindsey Reed  
*Assistant Director of BWS*

## Our Board

Bret Schaefer  
*President*

Jonathan Webster  
*Vice President*

Christopher Pelch  
*Treasurer*

Debby Singer  
*Secretary*

Richard Cheung  
*Immediate Past President*

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Barbara Dangerfield

Ervin Galvan

Rev. George Hines

Tim Howett

Nishanthi Kurukulasuriya

Pamela Marx

Stacy Santeramo

Kathy Simpson

Ed Vidimos

Doug Haught  
*Security & Grounds*

Eva Rivera  
*Administrative Assistant*

Coty Dietel  
*Food Pantry Aide*



## **2021 Nonprofit of the Year!**

Friends In Deed was chosen as a 2021 California Nonprofit of the Year!

[Read more about this prestigious award](#)

**Friends In Deed** is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion. We embrace and celebrate the spectrum of our employees', volunteers', and clients' ages, color, ability or disability, ethnicity, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, language, national origin, physical and mental ability, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, veteran status, neurodiversity, and other characteristics that make our employees, volunteers, and clients unique.

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