

**FRIENDS
IN
DEED***



Dear Friend,

Alert: this will be a little longer than usual.

We are just about at the end of the year, and I can't thank you all enough for how much you have done to support Friends In Deed in 2020. Obviously this was not the year we expected when we last turned the calendar over, so there's been a lot of change and adaptation, as well as fear and uncertainty. However, one thing we have come to learn here at FID is that we can be certain that our volunteers, supporters, and donors will be there for the most vulnerable, the people we serve. And don't forget [it's not too late to make your end-of-year gift!](#)

I want to share one story, which will be filled in more in our next newsletter. Gwen is a regular TWR guest. She's a lovely woman, albeit quiet and somewhat private. She lives in a shelter, but she has been spending the last two years taking classes at Pasadena City College, and she just completed her AA degree. While this would be amazing enough for a woman experiencing homelessness, it is not enough for Gwen. This week she informed us that she has been accepted to UCLA and USC for a BA in journalism. This is unbelievable news and we are so proud of her! She told us her brother is currently on active duty and as such he has access to a \$50K military grant that he or anyone in his family can use. He has generously given this money to pay for Gwen's first year at USC, which is where she has chosen to attend. She plans to get a job so she can start to save up for the second year. Her resilience and commitment are awe-inspiring.

This is the last weekly email from me for the year, and I want to take a moment to thank our amazing FID staff. They have worked tirelessly and under difficult conditions to serve our guests and clients. I couldn't be more proud to work alongside them. All kudos to Tim, Stacey, Marlene, Jane, Coty, Doug, William, Najwa, Fabian, Ryan, Lindsey, Helen and Marty. Friends In Deed is in great hands with these folks.

And, of course, we couldn't do anything without all of our volunteers, including our hard-working Board of Directors. I want to thank Richard Cheung for his seven years of service as Board Chair. It has been an absolute pleasure and honor to work with him. His charisma, dedication, and tireless work to support FID has been a

driving factor in our success. More about the transition from Richard himself is coming in the next week.



Finally, our plans for distributing winter emergency supplies and motel support this season are ready to launch on January 4th. We will be at Pasadena Presbyterian Church on Sundays and Thursdays from 4pm-6:30pm, rain or shine. On weather-activated nights, we will have a small mobile unit on the streets from 5pm-9pm, looking for folks to whom to distribute supplies and offer 3-Night motel stays. FID will focus primarily on women, seniors and those with disabilities. If you want to donate supplies, all the information is in the flier below.

I am humbled everyday by the work we do at FID, and I'm incredibly grateful to be the Executive Director.

Blessings, have a safe and lovely weekend,

Rabbi Joshua



We can only operate with your help!

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HELP PROTECT YOUR NEIGHBORS WITH A DONATION TO

FRIENDS IN DEED'S
**BAD
WEATHER**

Supplies

CLOTHING:

gloves
hats
jackets/sweatshirts
socks
waterproof clothing
shoes

PPE:

masks
hand sanitizer

SUPPLIES:

ponchos
hand & foot warmers
umbrellas
blankets
tarps
backpacks/suitcases



INTERESTED IN DONATING?

Email Lindsey at bws2@friendsindeedpas.org.



Thanks to sisters Stephanie and Connie from the [Philoptochos Society at St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church](#), who donated several bags of wonderful gifts for the "Christmas for the Kids" event. We are so grateful!



These beautiful rocks were hand crafted by our very own TWR volunteer, Marcie Ambrose. Thank you for these lovely holiday gifts for our TWR guests!



Thank you to our friends at [Saiful Bouquet Structural Engineers](#) for holding another food drive. And thank you Michelle for going to the office to help us with the pickup.



Our friends at [New Horizon School Pasadena](#) have been longtime supporters of our programs...



...and even more so during the pandemic. Thank you to everyone in the New Horizon community!



Rabbi Grater shared some Hanukkah spirit in The Women's Room this week, and our awesome TWR volunteer, Anat Bruck, brought traditional homemade latkes and jelly donuts!



Our new friends from [Carver Elementary School](#) in San Marino held a whole-school food drive for our Food Pantry. It was a huge success!



Thank you, Carver Elementary community, for your support!



Our thanks to Friends In Deed supporter Cary Belling who is holding another front porch concert to support us! On Saturday December 19, 3:00 - 4:00pm, he will be performing Christmas and Hanukkah favorites as well some of his own compositions - and collecting donations of food for our Food Pantry. See the [Facebook Event page](#) to access the live link to the event.

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**