

FRIENDS IN DEED *



Dear Friend,

Let me introduce you to a wonderful lady who got a new start to life this week.

Donna first contacted Friends In Deed by phone and the message was passed on to the Street Outreach team, who made an appointment to do an intake. But, when they met Donna, her needs turned out to be so immediate that they took her straight to The Women's Room for a meal and a shower. Donna's exhaustion and anxiety from nine years of homelessness were so great that she really struggled to trust us enough to let herself be looked after, but she is very glad she did - after just a little TLC she came out again "feeling like a million dollars."

The outreach team was able to get Donna into our motel program, which gave her some space to work on long-term issues of depression, made worse by homelessness and many family bereavements. She says that she had to learn that her depression was a real thing that had to be addressed, rather than just hoping it would go away. She also says that it helped that there were people at FID who "believed in her."

Now Donna says she takes one day at a time, and deals with the setbacks as they arrive. One time her card was refused in a grocery store, but a kind stranger paid for her groceries himself, saying he was "paying it forward," and asking her to do the same. Donna took this to heart, and has asked us to donate her train passes to other clients of the Street Outreach Program!

Thanks to Najwa's diligent case management, Donna has now just moved into permanent housing, and one of the first things she is most looking forward to is being able to look after her hair properly after so many years of not being able to care for it.

One soul at a time, FID is making a difference in Pasadena. This is a win for all of us, all of you, who believe that people are more than their experience - so much more. On behalf of Donna, and the hundreds of other people we served this week, thank you so much!



In the Jewish calendar, today is the holiday of Purim, where we read the Book of Esther, wear masks and costumes, engage in hilarity and poking fun, send food gifts to friends, give charity to the poor, and many people drink a lot. It is the story of the Jews overcoming the evil villain's plot to exterminate us, a tale where things are not what they seem; one moment we are being destroyed, the next moment, a twist of fate has us turning the tables and surviving. In thinking about our work, while there is nothing funny about it, there are certainly folks who experience being safe and secure one moment, and, with a twist of fate, find themselves on the brink of homelessness or on the streets. Life is fragile and none of us are immune to uncontrollable forces in life.

Finally, Purim is actually a great day to start the official excitement about our upcoming virtual comedy night for a cause, [Funny In Deed!](#) See the flier below, register, donate, enter to win fun prizes and support FID.

Blessings, have a safe and lovely weekend,

Rabbi Joshua



We can only operate with your help!

DONATE

LEARN ABOUT PLANNED GIVING



**THURSDAY
MARCH 18TH**

AT 7PM

FREE FOR ALL!

**REGISTER TO RECEIVE
ZOOM VIDEO LINK**

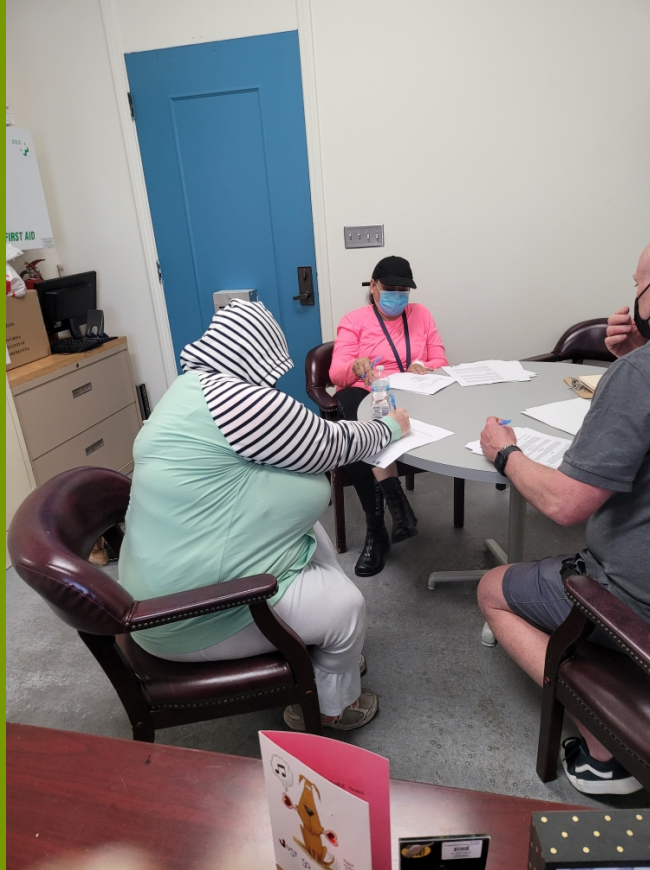


FUNNY IN DEED

A VIRTUAL COMEDY NIGHT FOR A CAUSE

*DOING TOGETHER WHAT WE CANNOT DO ALONE

Registration is now open for our FREE virtual comedy night! Sign up now for this funny-raiser, with all proceeds benefiting Friends In Deed. And everyone who registers by Monday, March 15th gets entered into a raffle! [Register today!](#)



Linda (from last week's story) and Donna complete the paperwork for their new homes!



With the help of a furry friend!



Thank you to daughter and mother pair, Kayla (L) and her mom, Katie! They volunteer together every Saturday, answering the door, accepting donations and sorting and stocking them.



Abby and Zoe saw one of our social media posts post about FID being open for donations. So they and their dad went to the market and bought a lot of good food for our pantry! Thank you, Abby and Zoe, for being so thoughtful. We appreciate it.



**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**