

# FRIENDS IN DEED \*



Dear Friend,

As the pandemic continues, we have ongoing requests for support from community members still struggling to make ends meet. Ryan Greer, our Director of Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance, regularly meets with clients. In many cases, folks are looking for more than just financial assistance, they are looking for reassurance that they are not alone and that help is on the way.

One such client is George, who called Friends In Deed this past week. George is a long time Pasadena resident who has spent the last decade working at the Staples Center. When the facility shut down at the beginning of last year, George was furloughed from his work and went on unemployment. Now, on top of his regular expenses, George is dealing with a cancer diagnosis and the additional costs of treatment. When he called Friends In Deed he said, "I don't consider myself to be a prideful person, and I don't want my ego to get in the way, but it is hard to watch my savings dwindle away and to feel like there is nothing I can do but continue to wait and pray."

Ryan was able to listen to George and connect him to additional resources, like the newly opened **California Emergency Rental Assistance Program** to help California renters who have unpaid rent or utilities incurred in the past year (<https://housing.ca.gov/>). George left the conversation saying, "I feel like a huge weight has been lifted off my back." Now that he has some options, he's feeling more prepared to outlast this crisis and looks forward to getting back to work!

Of course, it is only [with your support and donations](#) that we can help folks like George, and the hundreds of others that come through our doors each week in all of our programs. Thank you for your ongoing generosity, we are so grateful!



Finally, tomorrow night begins the holiday of Passover, when the Jewish community is meant to gather around the table with family and friends for the Seder, the ritual meal that recounts the exodus from Egypt, and the liberation from slavery to freedom, from darkness to light. This will be the second Passover during COVID, for which most people will still need to be on Zoom, as we all still suffer from the pandemic. At least this year we are closer to the light than the darkness.

As we tell the story, and, as my friend Rabbi Susan Goldberg recently taught, "as we eat the story," embodying it, many of us, including my family, will also invoke the modern slavery that still exists today. There are estimates of over 40 million people, including 400,000 in the United States, enslaved through trafficking, indentured servitude and forced labor. Learn more here: <https://www.castla.org>.

We will talk about inequalities in our country, including of course, the scourge of homelessness and extreme poverty that engulfs us, with LA County and California having the most people living on the streets. Watch the LAHSA 'State of Homelessness' video event from last week for an in-depth view. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cu1WqTwBUiU>.

And we will end, as we do each year, with the hope of freedom and the strength to stand up to oppression of all kinds, and in all corners. All while eating matzah, gefilte fish, horseradish and other ritual foods. And then seven days of matzah, the unleavened cracker-style staple, which does wonders on the intestines! :)

I wish all those celebrating a Happy Passover!

Blessings, have a safe and lovely weekend,

Rabbi Joshua



We can only operate with your help!

DONATE

LEARN ABOUT PLANNED GIVING



Melissa Levy, Director of Congregational Development for [Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center](#), brought over leftover vegetables from their youth group's matzah ball soup project!



Stacey, Food Pantry Manager at Friends In Deed, with Javier, a [City of Pasadena - Public Agency](#) employee, who has been volunteering with us on Thursdays throughout the pandemic. The City of Pasadena provides us with other staff for volunteering during our distributions.



Everything our Women's Room guests need for showers and laundry!



A power team of [Pasadena Jaycees](#) make bags of self-stable items every other Saturday for next week's food distribution at The Food Pantry.





Thank you to [TJ Maxx, La Canada](#) for a generous donation of masks and hand sanitizers for the children of our Pantry families!

Ten Thousand Villages Pasadena presents  
**International Women's Day**  
**SOAP DRIVE**  
 Buy a bar of soap to donate to  
 The Women's Room in Pasadena  
 run by Friends In Deed.

**All month long at Villages Pasadena**

 **FRIENDS  
IN  
DEED**

567 South Lake Ave. Pasadena  
[www.villagespasadena.com](http://www.villagespasadena.com)

There's still time to visit [Ten Thousand Villages Pasadena](#) before the end of the month and, while you're there, buy a soap for their soap drive for our ladies in The Women's Room!

STOP  
AAPI  
HATE

**BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER**