

FRIENDS IN DEED *



Dear Friend,

One of the more difficult aspects of this pandemic for us here at Friends In Deed is that many of our regular volunteers haven't been able to come. The volunteer community is the engine of our services and without them it has been really challenging to continue to provide everything that we do here. The majority of our volunteers are seniors and we know how difficult and sad this has been. For most, volunteering is a truly critical part of their lives and something they look forward to each and every week. And we know that the volunteers are themselves a family within our community, and so there has been a longing to see their friends each week. We have even had a few zoom gatherings so the volunteers in our different programs can see one another and check in.



So, with people getting vaccinated, and the numbers declining on an ongoing basis here in Pasadena, we are thrilled that we're starting to see some of our long-term regular volunteers able to return to service. They come in with huge smiles, and sometimes tears, as they begin to re-enter our space, and to re-engage with the staff and the clients that they so missed over the past year. We are very grateful to all of our volunteers and we are thrilled to continue welcoming more and more of them back! And, of course, we celebrate all of the dedicated volunteers who have been coming throughout the pandemic, working above and beyond their usual weekly time. Thank you!



Finally, this week began the Islamic observance of Ramadan, a time of fasting, prayer, and contemplation that hundreds of millions of Muslims participate in every year. It is a month-long, sunrise-to-sunset fast, ending each night with an iftar, a festive meal. I have attended prayer and participated in several of these meals, which are very meaningful. My good friend, Salam Al-Marayati, Executive Director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council, shared these two teachings with me that highlight the importance of feeding the hungry - especially poignant in a time of fasting.

'True piety...is giving from the wealth you love, and for the love of God, for the poor, the orphans, the refugees and homeless, those who ask, and for liberating people from bondage.' 2:177

'Also, the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, reportedly said that even if you are down to one date, only take half and find someone more needy than you to give the other half.'

May it be a blessed Ramadan season for our Muslim neighbors and friends.

Blessings, have a safe and lovely weekend!

Rabbi Joshua



We can only operate with your help!

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**FRIENDS
IN
DEED** *



Join us for a
**NETWORKING VIRTUAL
FRIENDRAISER** supporting
The Women's Room at
Friends In Deed

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

5:15 PM Zoom Room Opens

5:30 PM Networking Begins

6:10 PM Presentation

Zoom Event

(link provided upon registration).

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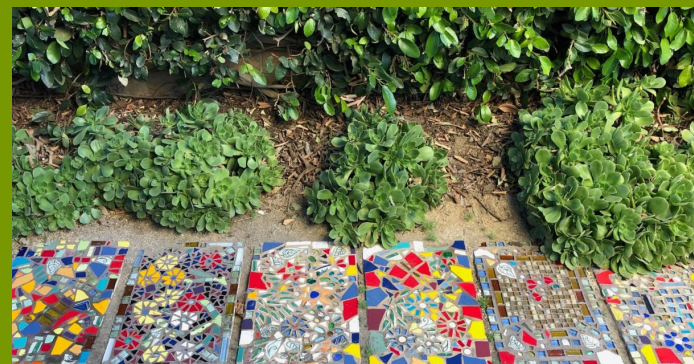
Looking to network? [Cynthia Cohn](#) is holding a virtual networking "friendraiser," with sponsorships by Hahn & Hahn and Ameriprise, on Thursday, April 22nd at 5:30pm. If you're interested in jumping in and learning more about The Women's Room while networking, head over to <https://bit.ly/3rSvVU8> to register to attend and receive the Zoom link.



Rain or shine, the Food Pantry offers food every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday!



Beautiful bougainvillea brightens our parking lot!



Mosaics made by guests and volunteers at the entrance to The Women's Room.



We are so grateful for our refrigerated van! It makes it possible to collect some of the large donations of food we need to keep the pantry running.

