



Dear Friend,

Brandon and his fiancée, Natalie, are in Los Angeles in pursuit of a dream. A former foster youth, Brandon was a ballet student in his home city of Detroit when his scholarship ended and he lost his dormitory spot. Making an opportunity out of a setback, he travelled to Los Angeles to audition for America's Got Talent. Thus far, his story could be that of any young person with a dream, but for Brandon it took particular courage, because he is legally blind. Dance, he says, is the "one thing I can do well," despite his eyesight.

After living in hotels and sleeping on the streets Brandon contacted Friends In Deed and we were able to put him and Natalie in a motel in our new pilot program. On Wednesday of this week, the couple moved into bridge housing, where Brandon says he is grateful for the safety and peace of mind, but also for the space in which to practice and rehearse. Brandon performs under the stage name "Magnus the Performer" - see more of his story in the video below!



And now....our Jazz on the Screen 2.0 fundraiser is open and ready for your sponsorships and donations! Thanks to people's generosity already, we are well on our way to meeting our goal of \$160K--if you haven't joined in the fun, please [visit the website](#) and contribute what you can...and maybe even a little more.

Today I want to tell you about one of our honorees:[Pasadena Presbyterian Church.](#)



As the oldest church in Pasadena, they have been serving the community since 1875 (even longer than us!). A staunch supporter of FID, the church has been financially very generous, been a regular participant at the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, contributed to our back-to-school drive, and volunteered at the Bad Weather Shelter. This past winter, they went even further - we joined their regular Thursday and Sunday dinners for our homeless community, and they offered us space and partnership to operate our Cold Weather Supply Distribution program. It was an awesome collaboration, and we had such a good time with their staff and volunteers. Thank you to Pastor Steve and his whole crew. It is our pleasure to be honoring them this year!

Stay tuned next week to learn more about another honoree, Anat Bruck.

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,
Rabbi Joshua



PS. Pantry volunteers needed!

The Food Pantry is currently recruiting volunteers to help with client check in. This position has the most contact with our clients and involves entering client visits in our database system. Our community is diverse and the ability to communicate in Spanish, Mandarin, or Armenian is a plus. Volunteers are typically scheduled in 2-3 hour shifts on distribution days (Tuesday & Wednesday, 9am-3pm; Thursday, 9am-1pm). We are really looking for volunteers who can give us a regular weekly commitment for the next several months. If you are interested, please contact the Director of the Food Pantry,

Tim (pantry@friendsindeedpas.org), or the the Food Pantry Manager, Stacey (staceyc@friendsindeedpas.org)

We can only operate with your help!

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From earlier in the year, Cold Weather Supply Distribution at Pasadena Presbyterian Church, one of this year's Jazz on the Screen honorees.



Street Outreach clients Brandon and Natalie, as they move into Bridge Housing!



Our friends over at [MonteCedro](#) answered the call for school supplies! The staff has gathered donations from dozens of residents and has had multiple deliveries of backpacks and other school necessities for Friends In Deed to distribute to local families. Thank you, MonteCedro!



Debbie of [Warm Heart Mission](#) brought 3,600 (!!!) KN95 masks to keep our staff and volunteers safe, and to hand out to those our Street Outreach team are connecting with. Thank you so much Warm Heart Mission for sharing these with Friends In Deed!



[Historic First Lutheran](#) has been a HUGE supporter of all of FID's programs. Every month, Pastor Chris and his congregation collect food, mainly our Gold Items, for the pantry. This month it was 1,200 pounds!



Digital Air Strike answered the call for water! Last Saturday, Gary dropped off 5 cases of bottled water for our programs. Now that we are well into the heat of summer, our programs are hoping for water bottle donations to hand out to our most at-risk clients on the Street. The Women's Room, Street Outreach team, and Food Pantry could all use water bottles to give out. Headed to the store? Consider buying a case of water and dropping it at FID house Friday or Saturday between 9am and 3pm. Much appreciated!!



Friends In Deed staff member Doug, helps prepare our Food Pantry bag distribution - shared with over 400 households each week!



Friends In Deed was chosen as a 2021 California Nonprofit of the Year. [Read the full story here!](#)

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.