



Rabbi Joshua's Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

J began coming to The Women's Room (TWR) in January 2021. She had been experiencing homelessness since 2017, and had been all over Southern California looking for services that could house her. Even with excellent programs, J found herself falling through the cracks. J came to TWR, as many guests do, shy and hesitant to put their faith in yet another program. By this time in her journey, J had received a cancer diagnosis, and was more in need than ever. After a month of trust building at TWR, J opened up and asked to meet with our Program Director to discuss what resources we could give her. J immediately showed herself to be brilliant, capable, and incredibly proactive. She was the epitome of advocating for herself and going through every step she needed to. Unfortunately, the housing in which we thought she would be placed fell through.

J found a shelter in another city but stayed in touch. Being homeless, living with cancer, and being in the middle of a global pandemic is not something that most of us can imagine. When she returned to TWR she immediately began work with Jane, our TWR Associate, and Najwa, our Street Outreach Specialist. We were able to put her up in a motel after securing a referral for a bridge housing location in Whittier. In a mere two weeks, J was placed, and, as of this past Tuesday, she was officially housed. TWR is still in touch with J, via email, and cannot wait to see what good things are in store for her.



We are so grateful that we can help people like J, and the many others that come through our doors each week. And one of the main reasons we are able to do this blessed work is because we have supporters, donors, volunteers, and people dedicated to our mission, like YOU! I am so thrilled to share that, as our Jazz on the Screen 2.0 wrapped up, we raised over \$230,000 - the most ever for an FID fundraiser! Thank you, thank you, thank you. All of the sponsors are listed below in a beautiful ad put together by our friends at the Outlook Newspaper, which will run next week.

This Monday night begins Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. It is a time for introspection, taking stock of our lives, celebrating life, and beginning to ask for and offer forgiveness. Each day that I come to work, I feel blessed to know that we are making a difference in the lives of individuals. While I will be grateful for that during prayer (lots of it!), I also focus on how much more needs to be done, and look for the strength and faith to keep up the work. We will sound the shofar, the ram's horn, a call to awaken our souls and awaken our hearts and minds. The phrase of this holiday is traditionally "*Shana tovah u'metukah*, may it be a happy and sweet new year." And of course, with our battle against COVID still in full force, fires raging, floods ravaging, and storms destroying, we pray it is a year of health and recovery for all.

Finally, as it is Labor Day, let us be grateful and go out of our way to say thank you to all those who labor in our society, most of whom will not have the long weekend off.

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,
Rabbi Joshua



PS. Jazz on the Screen 2.0 auction winners! Auction items are available for pickup tomorrow, Saturday 9/4, 10am-12pm at 444 E Washington Blvd. If you are unable to pick up your item, please contact Helen at office@friendsindeedpas.org or 626 797 2402 ext. 201 to make alternative arrangements.

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JAZZ on the SCREEN 2.0

"All Jazzed Up to Serve"

Congratulations to our honorees

Vroman's Bookstore
Pasadena Presbyterian Church
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Special Volunteer Recognition

Kellie-Bea Cooper
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Cathy McCormick

THANK YOU to All of Our Sponsors and Supporters!

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Senator Anthony Portantino
Lynn Rabin
Albert Sabo and Susan
Tucker Sabo
Bret and Peggy Schaefer
Michael and Tamara Silver
Kim Tran
Louise Yount

Special thanks to all those who donated to and supported our silent auction and wine pull!

See You Next Year! www.friendsindeedpas.org

We can only operate with your help!

Donate today

Join the Legacy Society

Get Involved

Labor Day

Labor Day weekend schedule: The Food Pantry and The Women's Room programs will be closed Saturday 9/4 through Monday 9/6. **Please do not bring grocery and toiletry donations over the Labor Day weekend.**



URGENT!

The Food Pantry is facing a serious shortage of shelf-stable foods! Find a list of our most-needed foods [here](#) (scroll down). Items must be within their sell-by dates and in unopened packages, and can be dropped off at 444 E. Washington Blvd. on Fridays and Saturdays (**closed September 4**), 9am - 3pm. Thank you!



Get Social



Farewell to Pantry Volunteers

The Food Pantry gave a bon voyage to two amazing and long-standing volunteers: Leon is off for his first year of college and Brandon goes back to high school next week. We are going to miss their good spirits but



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know they're off to do more great things!



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Bear Hugs!

The Bear Hugs program provides huggable teddy bears to abused, neglected, or otherwise traumatized children. This year, Assistance League of Pasadena also brought Bear Hugs to The Women's Room! These cute bears will definitely provide comfort when needed, and we are so grateful to the Assistance League for thinking of our guests.



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Crafting Joy

Volunteer Susan brought a fun arts and crafts project for The Women's Room guests to enjoy: candle decorating with pins and beads!

2021 Nonprofit of the Year!

Friends In Deed was chosen as a 2021 California Nonprofit of the Year!



[Read more about this prestigious award](#)

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.

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