



Rabbi Joshua's Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

I am thrilled to share this week that Friends In Deed has received a transformational gift of \$250,000! This is by far the largest single gift in our history, and we are blown away; so full of gratitude. The couple wishes to remain anonymous, but I can share that they visited FID, saw the programs and talked with Merria and myself for about ninety minutes. While we were sharing our hopes and dreams for the future, the main thing that moved them was how we are helping people right here, right now. When I started to talk about offering a woman a pair of shoes or a shower, giving an elderly person a week's worth of healthy and nutritious food, moving a person closer to being housed through building trust and connection - after all of these examples, they were nodding and saying that this is so powerful. With this gift, which they designated as unrestricted, we will be able to continue this daily work, and so much more. Thank you so much!



In a totally different vein, we received another gift this week. The remarkable thing is that it is from a client who we helped in our EPRA program with rental assistance. Here is some of her story.

Arlene was sent to the United States, when she was 17, by her controlling father in order to look after her brothers who were in university. Her father didn't allow her to take classes herself so, at 19, she ran away with a boy she met and got married. He ended up

being very abusive and she was forced to flee for her life. She moved to California, went to university and became part of the faculty at the very college her father didn't let her attend.

Fast forward 30 years. Back in California, she has a Section 8 voucher and needs to move. She was searching for housing in Pasadena, but even if she could find a place, she needed a security deposit because Section 8 doesn't cover moving costs. She got in touch with Marlene in TWR, as well as Helen, and both put her in touch with Ryan, our Director of EPRA. He was able to help her with the security deposit so she could safely move into new housing, with only days to spare before her voucher was set to expire.

A few weeks after moving into her new place, she sent a card with a \$10 check. She said it was important to give back to her community to help those who were even less fortunate than herself. She wrote to Ryan, "I have moved into an apartment all because of you and your wonderful organization. You helped me when no one else would. Grateful forever."

Obviously these are two completely different kinds of gifts, but the beautiful piece is that both of them came from the heart, giving of their precious treasure to help others. We are humbled, and grateful, that FID can be a place that inspires both kinds of giving.

With that, I hope that everyone has received a Winter Appeal letter, which contains even more stories of folks we have been privileged to help. We are so grateful for all your support and appreciate [any gift you can share](#).

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,
Rabbi Joshua



PS: The Food Pantry is in need of can openers to distribute to our clients. Donations can be dropped off on Fridays and Saturdays, from 9am-3pm, through December 18th and then beginning again after January 7th. Please contact Stacey, Food Pantry Manager, with any questions: staceyc@friendsindeedpas.org

We can only operate with your help!

Donate today

Join the Legacy Society

Get Social



Will Hike for Food!

Before starting their hike, the "Will Hike for Food" group collected non-perishable food items to donate to our FID Food Pantry. [Read more...](#)



EPRA Presents to Montecedro

We visited our friends over at MonteCedro last week to have a conversation around eviction prevention and rental assistance. [Read more...](#)



Hanukkah Celebrations

Rabbi Joshua gave the guests of The Women's Room a lovely presentation about Hanukkah last week. [Read more...](#)

News and Events

Garage Sale!

Our friends at Boston Court are having a Garage Sale and Food Drive on Saturday, December 18th from 9am-2pm.

They will be selling office supplies, books, kitchenware, clothing, and more. They will also be collecting food for the Friends in Deed Food Pantry. They would love to see you at this outdoors, in-person event at 70 N Mentor Ave, Pasadena.



BOSTON COURT PASADENA GARAGE SALE & HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 18th, 9AM-2PM
70 N Mentor Ave, Pasadena CA 91106**

Swing by Boston Court Pasadena Performing Arts Center on Saturday, December 18th to browse our garage sale! **Make sure to bring cash!**

We will be selling:

- office supplies
- kitchenware
- clothing
- books and more!

Bring a non-perishable food item with you to donate to our holiday food drive for the Friends in Deed Food Pantry. They are particularly looking for the following items:

- Canned Tuna & Chicken
- V8
- Hearty Soups & Stews
- Rice
- Flour
- Sugar
- Pasta & Sauce
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Fruit Juice

Hope to see you there! Visit bostoncourtpasadena.org/community for more info!



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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