



Rabbi Joshua's Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

I first shared Brandon's story back in July - Brandon is a dancer with a severe vision disability who became homeless after moving to Los Angeles in pursuit of his dreams. At the time he had just been placed in bridge housing. I am delighted to be able to tell you that he has now been placed in permanent independent housing. He has his own place to live, and just in time for the holidays!

Brandon is thrilled to have been placed in an area of Los Angeles he knows well, and where the community he needs is close at hand. It is "almost like coming home," he says. He told us there are two churches, a mental health care provider, and community centers on the street where he lives, and also - very importantly - spaces where he can go to dance.



Now that he has some basic stability in his life, Brandon - aka Magnus the Entertainer - is turning his mind to other important things. As someone who grew up in the foster system and who has always lived in community facilities, he is aware that he is lacking some basic life skills for independent living, and he is determined to

address this. He reached out to Najwa and she is putting him in touch with some useful resources. But it was also very clear, when we spoke with him, that giving back to the community is important to Brandon, and he spoke about wanting to use his craft to “create inspiration and something positive to fill the negative space” in the lives of young people. We wish him all the best with this!

As we wind down the year, it is stories like this, about the work we do each and every day, that warm our hearts and fill our souls. And even when I can't share these kinds of experiences, we are honored to help people in whatever way we can whenever they arrive at our door.

With a few more weeks left in 2021, we hope that you will consider [making a gift to Friends In Deed](#). To those folks that have already given, we thank you so much! Every dollar, large and small, helps us to support people like Brandon and the thousands of others who count on us.

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



Leadership Initiative

Aveson Global Leadership
students brought in food



gathered through the food drive they hosted! [Read more...](#)



Gifts for The Women's Room

The tenants of Villa Gardens Retirement Community got together to donate holiday gifts! [Read more...](#)



A Holiday Treat!

A beautiful holiday-themed cake for The Women's Room made by our awesome volunteer Celia.

And a Holiday Party...

Friends In Deed staff members were treated to a well-deserved holiday party last night to all come together before an upcoming winter break. [First row, L to R: Jane, Stacey, Merria, William, Lindsey. Second row: Doug, Najwa, Eva, Michael, Helen, Erik, Tim. Third row:



Coty, Joshua, Ryan, Angel.]
[Read more...](#)



...And a Holiday Meal!

The Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center Sisterhood provided the holiday meal for The Women's Room guests during this week's holiday party. They also brought beautiful throws for each guest to take with them so they can keep warm during these chilly nights.

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!

Shopping Event at Lather!

Shopping just got more meaningful! Shop at Lather, Pasadena Dec. 17th-31st, and 20% of your purchase price goes back to FID. Just mention Friends In Deed at checkout, AND you will also receive a gift with purchase as a thank you for your contribution. Shop locally, and feel extra good about it! Head over to 17 E. Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena CA 91105, or shop online at lather.com and enter code FRIENDSINDEED at checkout. Happy shopping!



Shop for a Cause!
LATHER®

A charity shopping event Dec. 17th-31st, with 20% of your purchase price going back to FID. Just mention Friends In Deed at checkout from their Pasadena store, AND you will also receive a gift with purchase as a thank you for your contribution.

17 E Colorado Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91105

FRIENDS IN DEED*



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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