



Rabbi Joshua's Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

Unfortunately, I have to share some very sad news this week. We mourn the passing of a longtime guest of The Women's Room (TWR). Below is what Jane and Marlene shared with me.

"We would like to take a moment to honor a longtime guest of TWR, Alicia Rodriguez, who passed away this week. Staff, volunteers, and guests alike have been deeply saddened to learn of her passing.

Alicia arrived at TWR homeless, struggling with mental illness, drug addiction, and trapped in an abusive relationship. Our program director offered to help her look for housing but Alicia didn't believe she couldn't give up her destructive lifestyle. However, after regularly coming to TWR for some time, Alicia began to turn a corner and eventually she was housed, stabilized, and happy.

Not all stories are linear climbs to the top. After a while Alicia slipped back into her addiction and ended up in prison, causing her to lose her housing. Alicia returned to us several months ago, hungry, in need of a shower, and in dire need of housing due to a disabling back injury and her high risk of contracting Covid-19. She knew that she would be welcomed back without judgment, saying, 'I always feel welcomed and loved here.'



We know that it sometimes takes several attempts for someone with a traumatic background, like Alicia's, to garner the necessary strength to follow through on the tasks required for a better life. The TWR staff worked with our Street Outreach Team and, together, they placed Alicia in bridge housing. It's very important to us to know that Alicia passed away with a roof over her head.

So often our homeless brothers and sisters pass away and are forgotten. Alicia will not be forgotten, and she will be deeply and sincerely missed. Ana was undeniably funny. She often had the staff and her fellow guests cracking up. She was bold and honest. Her incredible strength and resilience in the face of adversity, trauma, and disease, are an inspiration. Get knocked down, climb back up. Accept help, learn to trust, grow. We love you, Alicia."

I had the pleasure of knowing Alicia and spent time talking with her. She was a sweet woman and, despite her many challenges, she was always warm and had a kind word. I know how much she will be missed. May her memory be for a blessing and may she rest in peace.



For all celebrating, Happy Hanukkah! It is the festival of lights, bringing hope and resilience in the darkness. We all need this energy so much right now.

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,
Rabbi Joshua



GIVING TUESDAY

**67 donors
gave almost
\$9,000!**

*Special thanks to our 42
donors of \$100 or more
who were entered into a
drawing to win these
@craftsmancookies.
Congrats to Ginger Gelber
& Mary McCollum!*



We can only operate with your help!

Donate today

Join the Legacy Society

Get Social



Scavenger Hunt!

For the 4th year, Cub Scout Pack 515 has held a "Scavenger Hunt" to collect food for our Friends In Deed Food Pantry. [Read more...](#)



Generous Community!

We received the fruits of so many Food Drives in time for the Thanksgiving Holiday! Pictured here are members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (with Tim, Director of the Food Pantry), just one group among many. [Read more...](#)

Hot Yoga Pasadena

Val from Hot Yoga Pasadena hosted a fundraiser on behalf of Friends In Deed! [Read more...](#)



News and Events

Drive-Thru Holiday GIVE AWAY

Khalsa Care Foundation Sikh Temple issues an invitation to a Holiday give-away, December 11, 2021, 12pm - 4pm, at 9989 Laurel Canyon BLVD Pacoima, CA 91331.

Give Aways:

Food Bag, Blankets, Jackets, Socks, Gloves, Beanies, Soccer Balls, and toys !!

Instructions for Holiday Give Aways:

NO walk-ins
One family per car
Mandatory mask
Social distance

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

Drive-Thru Holiday GIVE AWAY

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12pm - 4pm

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Friends in Deed Food Pantry.
They would love to see you at
the outdoors, in-person event.

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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