



Quarterly Newsletter

From the Board President

Dear Friend,

I hope you were able to enjoy the holiday season and end of 2021 with full hearts. We are sincerely grateful to all who donated to Friends In Deed, helping us achieve our biggest fundraising year to date! This allows FID to stay flexible as we continue to navigate the pandemic and make strategic plans for our programs well into the future.

As COVID-19's Omicron variant has been running through our communities, Friends In Deed has kept our programs and services as socially distanced and safe as possible. Our Bad Weather Supplies Distribution kicked off the first week of January, and all our other programs remain open as our staff and volunteers work to help those in our community who need us most.

Read on for some stories of folks we have helped, as well as stories of people behind the scenes doing this life-changing work.

In service,

Bret Schaefer
Board President, Friends In Deed



It is through your generosity that we are able to

provide these programs and services

Donate today

Join the Legacy Society

Stories from Our Programs

Kyneisha's Story - Struggling with a Rent Increase

Kyneisha was first referred to Friends In Deed from Elizabeth House where she had spent time as a soon-to-be mother. After having her baby boy and graduating their program, Kyneisha moved out to Monrovia and began working a steady job at a local hardware store. [Read more...](#)



Chamaine's Story - Remembered Kindness

Ten years ago Chamaine and her then six-year-old daughter were homeless in Pasadena. Ultimately they were able to receive services through Union Station that led to permanent housing, but during that difficult time Chamaine remembers meeting staff members from Friends In Deed and thinking how kind they were to her and her daughter. [Read more...](#)

Robert's Story - Living in a Garage

It took a long time and a lot of money before Robert was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. He was refused

disability and by the time he finally got a diagnosis he had been made homeless and worn out the hospitality of all the friends and family who had been letting him couch surf. [Read more...](#)



A Pantry Client's Story - Christmas Cheer

A week before Christmas, one of our clients had picked up food from the FID Food Pantry. On Christmas Day, she noticed a homeless gentleman on her porch, leaving and then returning. This happened throughout the day. [Read more...](#)

Our Staff - Stories from Then and Now

Erik's Story - Family Legacy

Erik (pictured in his kindergarten days!) was thrown right in at the deep end in his role as Senior Director of Programs - during his first two months in the job, nearly every member of program staff had to take time off work for one reason or another, and Erik found himself on a steep learning curve as he covered roles as diverse as helping run The Women's Room to making sure our Eviction Prevention clients got their rent checks! [Read more...](#)



Stories from Our Team



Vicki's Story - Bitten by the Volunteering Bug!

Vicki has a long history of volunteering. She has served on the boards of local nonprofits, and she and her girl scout troop have compiled hygiene kits for Friends In Deed's Street Outreach Team. But it was helping with FID's Back to School event that really gave Vicki the Friends In Deed bug! She says it is the hands-on aspect of the work that makes it so fulfilling. [Read more...](#)

Barbara's Story - From Receiving Services to Giving Service

Barbara was living in a homeless shelter in 2007 when she first saw a flyer for The Women's Room. She says the encouragement, acceptance, and understanding that she found there were things she really needed at the time. [Read more...](#)



Programs

Bad Weather Shelter (BWS)

Providing cold-weather support for our neighbors experiencing homelessness

Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance (EPRA)

Short- and medium-term rental support to prevent eviction

Food Pantry

Dignified grocery shopping experience for 400+ households weekly

Street Outreach & Housing

Team of workers on the streets engaging with our neighbors experiencing homelessness and connecting them to services

The Women's Room (TWR)

Daytime shelter for homeless and at-risk women

Our Staff

Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater
Executive Director

Marty Campolo
Deputy Director and Grants Officer

Erik Osugi
Senior Director of Programs

Merria Velasco
Director of Development

Helen Angove
Operations Manager

Marlene Martinez
Director of TWR

Tim Nistler
Director of The Food Pantry

William Shelby
Director of Street Outreach and Housing

Ryan Greer
Director of EPRA

Lindsey Reed
Senior Manager of Programs and Director of BWS

Stacey Cutshaw
Food Pantry Manager

Najwa Payton Jones
Housing Navigator and Outreach Specialist

Jane Armbruster
TWR Program Associate

Angel Maxwell
Street Outreach Worker

Michael Jaimes
Street Outreach Worker

Eva Rivera
Administrative Assistant

Our Board

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Jonathan Webster
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Christopher Pelch
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Debby Singer
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Ervin Galvan

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Nishanthi Kurukulasuriya

Pamela Marx

Stacy Santeramo

Kathy Simpson

Ed Vidimos

Doug Haught
Security and Grounds

Coty Dietel
Food Pantry Aide



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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