



 Doing together what we cannot do alone

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# INTRODUCTION

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT

2021 provided both challenges and opportunities for Friends In Deed (FID), as we continued to navigate the coronavirus pandemic. For the past two years, we've not only survived, but thrived, as we garnered the support of our community to provide increased services to a greater number of people than ever before.

We were honored and humbled that State Senator Anthony Portantino named Friends In Deed the 2021 Nonprofit of the Year for his 25th District, which encompasses portions of the San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys. We truly appreciate this award and are driven to work even harder for those we serve.

Over the past year, the Friends In Deed Board has focused many hours on strategic planning, shining light on FID's long term goals and reaffirming our mission to provide supportive services to meet basic human needs, so our homeless and at-risk neighbors can re-build their lives.

There are big things ahead for Friends In Deed in 2022, including staff development and new hires to support our strategic goals, major improvements to our 444 E. Washington Boulevard property, and an FID podcast hosted by Rabbi Grater, that features guests ranging from folks living on our streets to long time community leaders. This opportunity for growth is thanks to you, our generous donors and committed supporters. Your partnership is why we stand out as a fundamental leader of supportive services in Pasadena and the surrounding area.

Read on for poignant stories of the impact we are having in our community.



**BRET SCHAEFER**  
BOARD PRESIDENT



**RABBI JOSHUA LEVINE GRATER**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

 **Doing together what we cannot do alone**





## BAD WEATHER SHELTER SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTION

The Bad Weather Shelter (BWS) is a Friends In Deed program that provides shelter in Pasadena for individuals experiencing homelessness during the winter season. Due to COVID-19 precautions, the Bad Weather Shelter was modified to a Supplies Distribution.



### BY THE NUMBERS

**245**

INDIVIDUALS SERVED

**28**

NIGHTS OPEN (BETWEEN  
JANUARY 7 AND APRIL 11)

**337**

MOTEL ROOM NIGHTS  
PROVIDED FOR **33** CLIENTS






Howie is a longtime client of Friends In Deed. Due to a history of family abuse and being attacked many times in the street, he has always kept his distance and is very distrusting and guarded with people.

Our APU student nursing team sat with and cared for Howie each week at our Bad Weather Supplies Distribution. Our FID staff and volunteers spent hours with him throwing a football in the courtyard and learning his story, struggles, and hopes. By the end of the season, Howie was the first in line hours before we opened and the last client to leave. He couldn't wait to talk to our team each week as he had grown to trust them and he knew he was loved and cared for.

While Howie still remains unhoused,



**FID HAS BEEN  
ABLE TO GIVE  
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TO SEE FAMILIAR  
FACES AND  
RECEIVE CARE  
EACH WEEK.**

FID has been able to give him a sense of community and a safe place to see familiar faces and receive care each week. He continues to decline being placed in a motel or exploring other housing options for fear of being found and taken advantage of by his family.

We are proud that this program allowed us to live out our commitment of treating clients with compassion, connection, and dignity.



## EVICTON PREVENTION AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Friends In Deed's Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance program provides short-term and medium-term rental support, as well as move-in assistance, to individuals and families on the brink of becoming homeless.

**KATIE WAS ABLE TO USE RENTAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING TO ENSURE SHE AND HER KIDS CAN REMAIN IN THEIR HOME UNTIL SHE IS ABLE TO GO BACK TO WORK.**



Katie had a one-year-old daughter and was eight-and-a-half months pregnant with a baby boy. She got COVID-19 earlier in 2021, and between caring for her kids and getting better, she ended up taking a leave from her nursing job downtown. Her doctor then placed her on bedrest, and she fell behind on her rental payments for the year. Her landlord was very understanding and helped ensure that Katie completed her rental assistance application through Housing Is Key, but also informed her that once the eviction moratorium ended in October, the owner would be issuing eviction notices to anyone who wasn't fully

caught up with their rent.

Without knowing when rental assistance would be available from the federal government, Katie was fairly certain she would have to find a new home for her and her babies, which is incredibly stressful, and significantly challenging while on bedrest. Thankfully, Katie found Friends In Deed. She got in touch with Ryan, our Director of Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance, who was able to use rental assistance funding to ensure she and her kids can remain in their home until she is able to go back to work.





## BY THE NUMBERS

# 107

INDIVIDUALS  
PREVENTED FROM  
BECOMING HOMELESS  
(INCLUDING 33 CHILDREN)

# 133

MONTHS OF RENTAL  
ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

# \$215,548.13

SPENT ON RENTAL  
AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE

# 222

HOUSEHOLDS PROVIDED  
WITH TECHNICAL ADVICE  
& RENTAL AID RESOURCES







## THE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry provides food assistance to low-income and no-income families in the greater Pasadena and Altadena areas.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

# 338

BACKPACKS WITH SCHOOL  
SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED

# 215

CHILDREN RECEIVED GIFTS  
AT CHRISTMAS

# 350+

TURKEYS DISTRIBUTED BEFORE  
THANKSGIVING IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH PASADENA JAYCEES

### BY THE NUMBERS



# 629,000

LBS. OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

# 216,450

LBS. OF FRESH PRODUCE DISTRIBUTED

# 524,170

MEALS

# 2,300

UNIQUE HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

# 20,150

CLIENT VISITS





Susan is a 78-year-old woman who lives with her husband and grandson. Susan had done all the right and responsible things all her life. Then her husband started experiencing serious health issues. Even though she is her husband's primary caregiver and developed some of her own health issues, she always has pleasant greetings and kind words for everyone.

Living on a fixed income, Susan started coming to our Food Pantry about 10 years ago. We supplement her food budget by providing her family fresh fruits and vegetables, meat or fish, dairy, and some of the critical staples they need. Given the high prices of food these days,

**GIVEN THE HIGH  
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HUNGER AND  
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it often makes the critical difference between hunger and health.

Susan is a great example of who our Food Pantry community is. She is someone who has worked hard and still, through no fault of her own, has to work hard to take care of family. We are able to help her, in a small way, and that makes all the difference.



## STREET OUTREACH AND HOUSING

The Friends In Deed Street Outreach and Housing Team identifies chronically homeless individuals on the streets of Pasadena and works to build trust and relationships with them. Our Street Outreach and Housing Team's primary goal is to enter these folks into the Coordinated Entry System, which is the pathway to permanent supportive housing.

**WE WERE ABLE TO GET HER INTO AN EMERGENCY MOTEL PROGRAM, AND THEN WORKED TO GET HER INTO PERMANENT HOUSING.**



Linda is a Pasadena native who has been homeless for 17 years, sleeping under bridges or in shelters when she could find one that would take her in. Due to the physical and emotional damage caused by abuse from her family she is on disability, but she always spent her disability checks on motel rooms for as many nights as she could, and relied on panhandling for food. She lost her previous housing when the building was bought by a new property management company, which evicted all the folks on disability. This is not an uncommon story.

During the day, Linda spent her time mostly

in parks, reading, writing, and doing art. She has worked with several different organizations to try and get housed, but nothing has ever quite worked out for her. Finally, a friend gave her Friends In Deed's phone number. We were able to get her into an emergency motel program, and then worked to get her into permanent housing.

Linda said the thing she looked forward to most about having her own home is to no longer have to worry constantly about being attacked. She also hopes to go back to school and finally earn her high school diploma!





## BY THE NUMBERS

**290**

CLIENTS ENGAGED  
ON THE STREET

**\$33,670**

OF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED

**26**

CLIENTS PLACED  
IN HOUSING



## MOTEL STAYS

When Project Roomkey ended in Pasadena, a few generous Friends In Deed donors stepped forward to help us launch our own motel pilot program. From June to December 2021, FID successfully provided motel rooms as temporary shelter for clients while they were awaiting bridge/permanent housing, with funding to provide up to four people with motel rooms each night.

**523** NIGHTS OF  
MOTEL STAYS FOR...

**44** CLIENTS EXPERIENCING  
HOMELESSNESS





## THE WOMEN'S ROOM

Founded in 2007, The Women's Room (TWR) is the only organization in the San Gabriel Valley dedicated to serving women who are alone, at-risk, or experiencing homelessness.



### BY THE NUMBERS



**1,965**  
GUEST VISITS

**1,817**  
WARM MEALS SERVED

**742**  
PRIVATE SHOWERS

**600**  
LOADS OF LAUNDRY







Maribel has been coming to The Women's Room for years. She has learning disabilities, doesn't speak English very well, and lacks any family support. In 2020, when we were forced to close during the pandemic, Maribel's situation became dire very quickly. She nearly became homeless because she wasn't paying her rent in full. Because of some confusion over the phone, Maribel lost her regular doctor and access to health care. Maribel doesn't know how to prepare meals for herself, so she became indebted to a local street vendor who started pressuring her to pay her debt. Swirling in confusion and worrying health conditions, Maribel started to doubt she could take it longer and confessed suicidal thoughts.

After a seeming eternity of waiting, The Women's Room finally reopened and helped Maribel get back on track. With unconditional caring and support, the Friends In Deed staff spent weeks

**WITH ITS DAILY  
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LEND A HELPING  
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WOMEN UP.**

remedying her housing situation with payments for arrears; hours and hours of phone calls reestablishing her health care and getting her back on her medications; helping her set monthly budgets to pay her rent and debts on time; teaching her how to prepare simple meals for herself; and even helping her get her COVID-19 vaccine shots.

With its daily warm meals and safe place to shower and do laundry, The Women's Room provides not only an embracing respite from the harsh realities of daily traumas, but also lends a helping hand to pull women up from seemingly unbearable situations. In this case, it might have even saved a life.





## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the life-force behind our organization. They support our lean staff in assisting our clients, providing services, and helping our organization run smoothly.

Matt is a swim instructor and, when his job was put on hold due to the pandemic, he needed something to put his time and energy into. He was seeing people volunteering on TV and knew he wanted to make his own contribution.

Having often driven past Friends In Deed House, Matt contacted us and asked if we could use him – and his help has been truly invaluable. He has taken on the food pickups from Los Angeles Food Bank on Fridays, freeing up Tim's time to do other things. He is known for his dependability and calm under pressure – things can get hectic fast in the Food Pantry when there's a delivery to unload!

While Matt has mostly been involved in driving the van, he says that the most memorable aspect of his work at Friends In Deed is seeing the actual distribution of the food. It's one thing to have 2,000 pounds of food in the truck and to know that it's going to go "somewhere," but it's quite another, Matt says, to see the whole operation. It "makes it real." He says he's really glad he decided to become part of the Friends In Deed community.



### BY THE NUMBERS

**131**  
VOLUNTEERS

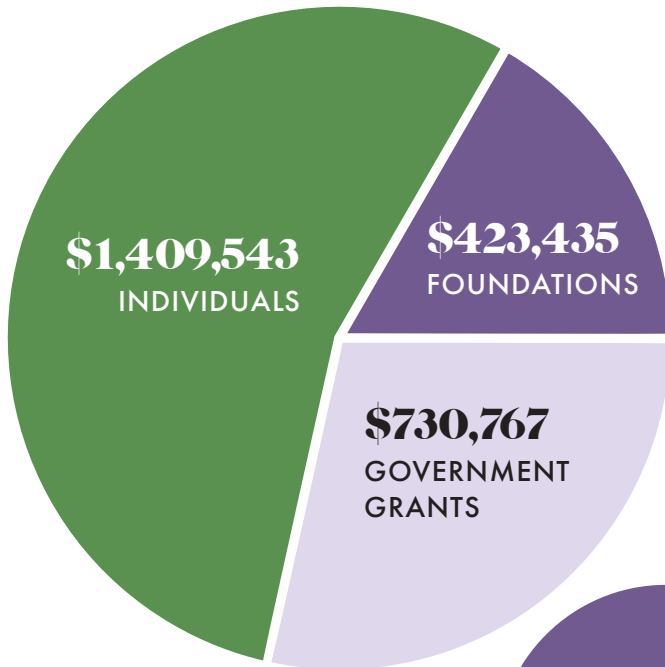
**10,235**  
HOURS WORKED

**\$292,107**  
ESTIMATED VALUE OF  
VOLUNTEER SERVICE



## FUNDRAISING & OUTREACH

**\$2,563,745** TOTAL



### BY THE NUMBERS

**3,763**  
DONATIONS

**\$1,025,535**  
IN-KIND DONATIONS

**1,598**  
DONORS

### OUTREACH

**1,077**   
INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

**2,645**   
FACEBOOK LIKES

**333**   
TWITTER FOLLOWERS

**3,728**   
YOUTUBE VIDEO VIEWS

**4,341**   
EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS



## WHO WE ARE

(CURRENT STAFF AND BOARD AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021)

### 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 The Women's Room

Tim Nistler, Director of the  
Food Pantry

William Shelby, Director  
of Street Outreach and  
Housing and the Bad  
Weather Shelter

Ryan Greer, Director of  
Eviction Prevention and  
Rental Assistance

Stacey McCaroll Cutshaw,  
Food Pantry Manager

Najwa Payton Jones,  
Housing Navigator and  
Outreach Specialist

Jane Armbruster, The  
Women's Room Program  
Associate

Angel Maxwell, Street  
Outreach Worker

Michael Jaimes, Street  
Outreach Worker

Lindsey Reed, Assistant  
Director of the Bad Weather  
Shelter

Doug Haught, TWR Security  
and Grounds

Coty Dietel, Food Pantry  
Aide

Evangeline Rivera,  
Administrative Assistant

### BOARD

Bret Schaefer, President

Jonathan Webster, Vice  
President

Christopher Pelch, Treasurer

Debby Singer, Secretary

Richard Cheung D.C.,  
Immediate Past President

Kevin Bourland

Barbara Dangerfield

Ervin Galvan

Rev. George "Amadi" Hines

Timothy Howett, Esq.

Nishanthi Kurukulasuriya

Pamela Marx

Stacy Santeramo

Kathy Simpson

Ed Vidimos

## CONTACT

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