



Rabbi Joshua's Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

At our Bad Weather distribution program this week, we met an 89-year-old man who is living on our streets. He was born and raised in Alhambra and is a veteran. I also met a 63-year-old woman named Grace, in The Women's Room, who has been living in her car for the past eight months after losing the room she was renting. She is also from Pasadena, with a college degree. [Please listen to this week's Friends In Deed podcast](#) to hear an interview with Grace.

In meeting Grace and the 89-year-old man, I was again reminded of the utter lack of transitional housing in Pasadena. I think about this daily, even though I don't always write about it. I was also reminded again this week of the great work that Hope of the Valley and the City of LA are doing in continuing to open transitional shelter locations in creative ways. The following are direct quotes from Hope of the Valley's website about their latest project, as reported by their CEO, Ken Craft, a man who is so inspiring in his leadership.

"Hello, is this Ken Craft? This is Alex Trebek. I hear you're building a shelter in North Hollywood and I'd like to come see it." Little did I know that that brief introduction and conversation would lead to a friendship with Alex Trebek, the Host of Jeopardy! ... a friendship that unfortunately ended way too soon.

In the days and months that followed our initial conversation, Alex visited two of our homeless shelters and our Navigation Center [...] Alex and his lovely wife, Jean, gave generous gifts to the Mission which enabled us to purchase Skateland, the 23,000 sq. ft. Northridge Roller Rink; this iconic building is now being converted into the NEW 107-Bedroom Trebek Center.



In response to the humanitarian homeless crisis in Los Angeles, and more specifically, the lack of Interim Housing beds in the northwest San Fernando Valley [...] Hope of the Valley reached out to local LA City Council member John Lee for support on the project. After evaluating the opportunity, Councilman Lee said he would fully support the project and ask that the project become part of the Mayor's "A Bridge Home" initiative, thus securing a major portion of funding for the renovation." [www.hopeofthevalley.org]

There must be a way that Pasadena can follow the leads of both Hope of the Valley and the Los Angeles city council leadership, to create something like this in our city. Even if not on this scope and size, we could create a pallet shelter village like the new ones in Eagle Rock and Highland Park. If you want to see Grace and our 89-year-old friend have a place to stay while permanent housing is found, [please contact your city council representative and Mayor Gordo - let your voice be heard.](#)

Finally, unrelated to any of this, let us pray for the people of Ukraine as they are under the siege of war. And may the words of the prophet once again enter our hearts: "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,

Rabbi Joshua



We can only operate with your help!

Donate today

Join the Legacy Society

Podcast

2022-8 Stories from the

Street: 89 and 63 Years Old

This week we learn about a man who is 89 years old and living on our streets. And, Rabbi Joshua has a conversation with Grace, a 63 year old woman who is living in her car. She has been working with several of our teams to get services, support and hopefully a new place to live. Just two of the many seniors experiencing homelessness.



Get Social



High School Help

This group of La Salle High School, Pasadena, California students came and unloaded a food drive. [Read more...](#)



Via Our Savior Food Bank

Awesome donation of shampoo & conditioner, body wash, deodorant, and cream cleanser! [Read more...](#)

The Point Spot!

Shout out to Wende from The Point Spot for awesome Food



Pantry donations! [Read more...](#)



Generous Supporters!

It was great to have the Altadena Rotary and Grocery Outlet come for a tour of our FID Food Pantry! [Read more...](#)

News and Events

Friends In Deed Giving Day

Ready to come together as a community? So are we! Save the date - 3-23-2022 - for our first ever Friends In Deed Giving Day. Stay tuned for more information coming soon.



* Friends In Deed Giving Day

Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

Save the date! Friends In Deed is once again hosting the annual City of Pasadena Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast. The

event will be held at 7:30 am on 5-5-22. We are proud to announce that this year's keynote speaker is Reyna Grande, author of the bestselling memoir, The Distance Between Us.



Volunteering is Beautiful!

Are you a licensed nail tech? Or an artist (amateur or professional)? We want you! The Women's Room is searching for two talented individuals to play a role in helping to restore dignity through compassion, connection, and the gift of your skills. We are looking to have regular art workshops, and also manicures once a month. We ask that our volunteers be vaccinated and wear masks while inside our facility. If you are interested in joining our family please email our program director, Marlene Martinez, at twr@friendsindeedpas.org.





BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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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