



## **The Weekly Message**

Dear Friend,

Carlos was a talented, university-educated man with a bright future ahead of him until the Salvadoran Civil War forced him to flee to the United States in the 1980s. He found the opportunities that were open to him were limited, and he ended up working a huge variety of low-paid jobs just to keep his head above water.

Sometimes, when work was scarce, he'd fall behind on his child support payments. Then, when he did get work, his earnings would be garnished - leaving him with a take-home pay of almost nothing. As someone who prioritized supporting his family, Carlos found the stigma of being labeled an irresponsible father very painful. The lowest point came when his backpack containing all his documentation was stolen and he found it impossible to get it replaced.

Now homeless, Carlos started figuring out how to survive on the streets, taking work where he could, and getting connected with resources. One resource he found in 2021 was the Friends In Deed Bad Weather Supplies Distribution, and we were able to put him in a motel during the worst of the bad weather that winter.

Carlos built up a strong connection with BWS staff members Lindsey and James that season, and they were delighted to make contact with him again in 2022. Once again, we discovered the value of building a long-term relationship with a client - because Carlos now trusted the FID staff enough to consider allowing us to move him toward permanent housing.



It was especially hard for Carlos to consider moving into a shared room because he had previously been assaulted for snoring too loudly. Najwa, our Outreach Specialist and Housing Navigator, contacted a housing facility that provides single-occupancy rooms - a new experimental facility in downtown Los Angeles that has been constructed from shipping containers - and was able to get him into one of their much-sought-after units.

Carlos says he is "just trying to be normal." He sees this opportunity as a turning point in his life and he is looking forward to the peace and security it will bring.

We feel so grateful that we could help Carlos and I give a huge shout out to our whole team for making this happen. Whether with staff or volunteers, we are all "doing together what we cannot do alone!"

See below for some exciting upcoming events. We are grateful to Agnes, a wonderful local restaurant, for hosting a special event on April 25th with other chefs, to benefit FID. [Tickets are limited so get yours today.](#) And, on May 5th, we will once again gather for the Pasadena Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast. [Sponsorships and tickets are on sale now!](#)

And, as the war in Ukraine rages on, with more civilians being killed and gruesome crimes being committed, let us keep them in our prayers and continue to speak out for an end to this horror. As Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote, "The opposite of good is not evil; the opposite of good is indifference. In a free society, some are guilty but all are responsible."

Blessings, stay cool, and have a lovely weekend,

Rabbi Joshua



**We can only operate with your help!**

**Donate today**

**Join the Legacy Society**

## Get Social



### Echo Factory Food Drive

Thank you to Bell Blankenship and her Echo Factory colleagues for holding a food drive for our Food Pantry. [Read more...](#)



### Lent Project

For their Lenten project this year, Gooden School is holding a drive for supplies for The Women's Room. [Read more...](#)

### Volunteer Love!

Our amazing team of regular Saturday volunteers managed a hefty produce box delivery from

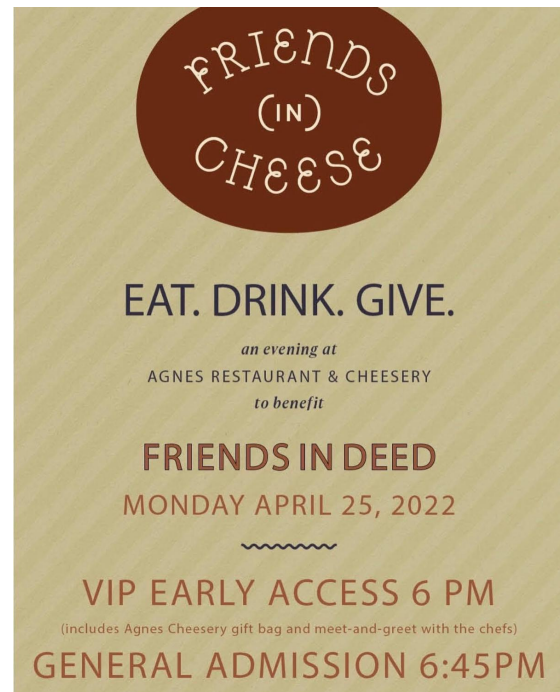


the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank last Saturday. [Read more...](#)

## News and Events

### Friends In Cheese!

We are so excited for Friends In Cheese: An evening at Agnes Restaurant & Cheesery to benefit Friends In Deed on April 25th. Join them for an evening with tasty creations by local chefs, wine, cocktails, and raffles. Tickets are limited, [so reserve yours now.](#)



### Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

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 May 5th. [Tickets now available!](#)



Join Mayor Victor M. Gordo, Community Members, Pasadena Residents, Civic, Business, Student, and Educational Leaders, and the Interfaith Community

49TH ANNUAL PASADENA MAYOR'S

# Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

HOSTED BY FRIENDS IN DEED

THURSDAY  
**May 5**

DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 AM  
7:30-9:00 AM

**PASADENA CONVENTION CENTER**

**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!**  
GET TICKET AND SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION BY  
SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW OR VISITING FRIENDSINDEEDPAS.ORG/MIPB

**We Are Stronger Together!**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
**REYNA GRANDE**

BESTSELLING AUTHOR  
& PCC ALUMNA

PRESENTING SPONSOR:  
**WESCOM**

**FRIENDS IN DEED**



**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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