



Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

With Rabbi Joshua traveling, it is my pleasure to bring you this Friday's weekly message from Friends In Deed.

I want to start by sharing Robert's story. Robert hit hard times after his divorce. Rent prices were skyrocketing, and even when sharing with a roommate he just couldn't make it work. Being an independently-minded person, he decided to rough it and spent the next few years living out of his van and relying on a health club membership to keep himself clean and healthy.

At first he parked his van in parking lots to get some sleep, but eventually his cousin allowed him to park - and live - in his driveway in Altadena. It was when he was living in Pasadena that Robert first found out about Friends In Deed, from driving past our building on Washington Boulevard. He started using the Food Pantry, at first only occasionally, but then more regularly.

It wasn't until Robert was using a tax service for senior citizens, however, that someone gave him a list of resources for unhoused people and he saw Friends In Deed on the list. He reached out to the Street Outreach team and met up with Michael, who recognized Robert as a good candidate for our motel program.

After this - in Robert's words - the ball rolled fast! We moved him into a motel and he met with Najwa to discuss his next steps. It wasn't much longer before Najwa was able to get him his own place in a bridge housing complex.

Robert says that being housed has given him a chance to gather himself together. He is hoping he will now have the chance to rekindle his relationship with his teenage son, and maybe even have his son live with him again.



Yesterday saw the in-person return of the Pasadena Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast. The 49th annual Pasadena event was a beautiful morning of togetherness and spirituality. Special thanks to Mayor Gordo and his team, presenting sponsor Wescom Credit Union, FID Board Advancement Co-Chairs Stacy Santeramo and Richard Cheung, FID Board members Rev. Marlene Pomeroy and Debby Singer, and FID staff members Helen and Eva for their tireless work in making this a tremendous event with over 400 community members in attendance. I also want to celebrate keynote speaker and best-selling author, Reyna Grande, who left us with the inspirational charge to open doors for someone else, as she shared moving and personal examples of how a mentor opened doors for her, physically and metaphorically, and completely changed the course of her life. May we all take this to heart and work to open doors for others.



And finally, with political and social tensions running high in our country, I leave you with excerpts from the closing prayer at yesterday morning's Prayer Breakfast. Shared by board member Rev. George Amadi Hines, "During this time of war overseas and political divisions at home, we hold up this truth as a path to peace: respect for others' cultures, ways of living, [and] ways of worshiping," and shared by Rabbi John Carrier, "May each of us, in our own way and according to our own practice, dedicate ourselves to helping create a more peaceful community."

Happy Friday everyone, and to all the moms out there: Happy Mother's Day!

Warmly,
Merria Velasco



**SAT 5/14
WE'RE
CLOSED**

See you next week!

Friends In Deed Food Pantry

We can only operate with your help!

Donate today

Join the Legacy Society

Get Social



Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

FID staff at the check-in table, bright and early, to welcome the first guests.

Pasadena Convention Center



Our 400+ guests enjoy their delicious breakfasts. Thank you to the convention center staff who looked after us so well!



Photo Op with the Mayor!

FID staff pose for a post-breakfast photo with Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo. We are proud to work with the city to put on this wonderful event!



Baxter's Back!

Baxter the volunteer dog was back at The Women's Room providing support for the women there. [Read more...](#)

News and Events

Do You Knit or Crochet?

Join us! Knit or crochet eight inch squares in Friends In Deed's signature dark green or purple. You can also mix colors, as in a granny square! Drop them off at Friends in Deed on Mondays between 8am and 4:30pm or on Wednesdays between 9am and 11am. Last day to drop off will be Monday, May 16th. May 17th, at noon, we will install all our squares on the Washington side

of Friends in Deed's trees to add some signature color and textile fun to our beloved building.

There will be yarn in the women's room if you need it. Tip: large needles make a quick square. Email FID volunteer Patrice at tricieart@aol.com if you have questions.

Friends in Deed
Yarn bombing!



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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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