



Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

As I fill in for Rabbi Joshua this week, I'd like to start with sharing a story about Lily and Catherine. Lily, a 15-year-old Boston terrier, visits The Women's Room (TWR) with her mom, Catherine, on a daily basis. Lily was born in Southern California but has traveled farther than many humans! Lily has lived in San Francisco, Italy, and Dubai. Catherine defines Lily as "A real adventure pup!"

Catherine shared that, prior to meeting Lily, she had been looking at Boston Terrier rescues for about 10 years - but it was never the right time. When she found Lily she knew she couldn't walk away and it was meant to be. The two have been inseparable ever since.

When Catherine fell into homelessness, Lily remained a constant companion. Catherine never found being unhoused with a pet to be challenging, rather she felt it was a great boon. Aside from being a "comfort wherever she is," Lily also provides a much-needed routine. Catherine says that "Her unconditional love is unbelievable. She cheers other people up wherever she goes." Feeling even a moment of cheer is vital to our unhoused neighbors, and in that way Lily is not only being of service to Catherine, but also to others. For Catherine, Lily has filled the role of family and best friend.

At TWR, both Catherine and Lily get a respite from the elements. Mum is able to wash her clothes as well as Lily's blankets and little dog bed. When Catherine showers, Lily showers. Catherine also informed us that Lily enjoys small bites of TWR leftovers in the evening.

Emotional support animals play a tremendous role in the healing and support of their owners!



I am thrilled to welcome Rion Waller to our Friends In Deed staff team! Rion was participating in the Homeless Count in Pasadena at the Salvation Army when he came across Friends In Deed. When he came to visit "FID House" (444 E. Washington Blvd.) he learned that we were looking for regular volunteers in the Food Pantry. Upon visiting, he felt it was a great place, with a very welcoming environment. Our staff and volunteers try to create an inspiring and motivating place to work. Rion instantly found it very rewarding to be serving the community.

Having a job in which you can actually make a difference is something he had always aspired for. He took a position as our new Food Pantry Program Associate, which he feels is an opportunity to do something more grounded and meaningful.

Rion moved to Los Angeles after growing up in southwest New Jersey. He has worked in recording studios, television and movie production, and as a musician. Welcome to the Friends In Deed staff, Rion!



With this year's **Jazz, Encore!** summer fundraising event coming up

next month, we will be taking time over the next few weeks to tell you a little more about our amazing honorees. First up, we'd like to introduce you to Villa Gardens Retirement Community. Director of The Women's Room Marlene Martinez says this:

Villa Gardens has been a great supporter of The Women's Room for many years. Since 2017, they have been providing hot meals on a regular basis for our guests. After learning about The Women's Room from a former volunteer, Dawneen Lorange, their Director of Marketing, reached out to our FID Executive Director to offer their service to us.

At first, Villa Gardens provided a meal every month, but when the pandemic hit and we lost many of our food providers, Villa Gardens stepped in to help even more! Since the beginning of the pandemic, Villa Gardens has been providing a meal every other week (lunch drop-offs pictured above and below). Guests are ALWAYS looking forward to Villa Gardens meals, from Chicken Cordon Bleu to Chile Rellenos. They even take special requests from our guests, all it takes is one phone call from me and they will have their famous chocolate chip cookies delivered!

In addition to lunches, Irma Gallegos, Catering Manager, has coordinated toiletry drives with the Villa Gardens' residents to benefit the guests of The Women's Room. Villa Gardens has truly blessed us throughout their years of service and we hope to continue this strong relationship for many years to come.



We are so very grateful that Villa Gardens has chosen to partner in the community with Friends In Deed, helping us *do together what we cannot do alone, and we are very proud to honor them during this year's **Jazz, Encore!**

Have a wonderful weekend everyone!

Warmly,

Merria Velasco
Director of Development



We can only operate with your help!

Donate today

Join the Legacy Society

Get Social



Tea Party!

A tea party! The Women's Room guests were treated to a beautiful tea party complete with gorgeous place settings, tasty treats, and (of course) TEA! [Read more...](#)



Thank You, Ahiah and Nancy!

Longtime Friends In Deed supporter, Nancy Johnson, does so much to help with our programs and events on behalf of her church, Ahiah Center For Spiritual Living, especially the Back To School drive. This year her granddaughter, Leila, and friend, Kayla, joined in the fun! [Read more...](#)

Jewelry Making



The Women's Room guests had the chance to make beautiful rings that they can now wear. Aren't they lovely?! [Read more...](#)



Thank You, Grocery Outlet!

Our friends at Altadena Grocery Outlet thought of us during their annual "Independence From Hunger" campaign. We picked up 8 pallets of "gold" item shelf stable foods! [Read more...](#)



Assemblymember Chris Holden's Block Party

Merria (Director of Development) and Tish (Director of Street Outreach & Housing) represent Friends In Deed at Chris Holden's annual block party.

News and Events

Jazz Encore!

Friends In Deed is proud to introduce this year's summer fundraising event: Jazz, Encore! Taking place August 23rd - 25th,

this is annually our largest fundraiser each year. Proceeds support all of our programs and services, and more details can be found at bidpal.net/fidjazz2022



**FRIENDS
IN
DEED**
PRESENTS

JAZZ ENCORE!

"All Jazzed Up to Serve"

**Introducing
Jazz, Encore!**

Tuesday, August 23rd –
Thursday, August 25th, 2022
www.bidpal.net/fidjazz2022

HONOREES
Richard S. Cheung, D.C.
Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center
Villa Gardens Retirement Community

Special Volunteer Recognition
Lisa and Scott Nelson

For information, sponsorship opportunities,
or to make a donation, please email
office@friendsindeedpas.org or call 626.797.2402 ext. 201.
www.friendsindeedpas.org

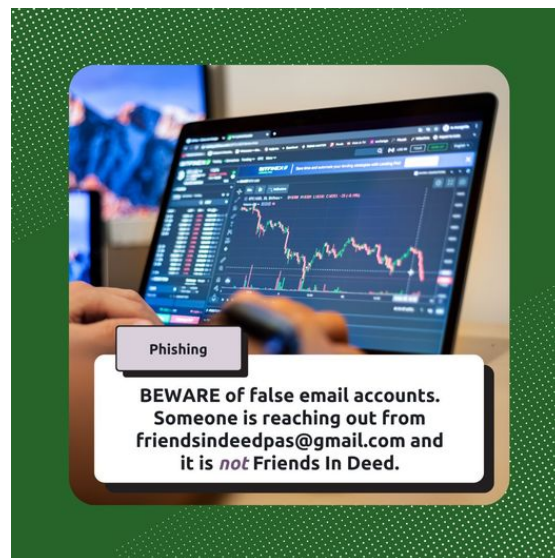
*Doing together what we cannot do alone

Phishing Alert!

Beware of fake emails! Someone has scooped up our old gmail address and sent phishing to one of our community partners recently. If you receive an email from

[friendsindeedpas\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:friendsindeedpas[at]gmail[dot]com), it is NOT official FID business. Please report spam if you receive anything from this account. You can always call/email our FID office if you're not sure if a message is genuine: 626-797-2402 or

info@friendsindeedpas.org





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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