

Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

I am thrilled to share that we have expanded our Street Outreach and Housing team. Allow me to introduce the two newest members of the FID staff: Dione Nelson is our Substance Abuse Specialist, and Miguel Rodriguez is our Harm Reduction Specialist. Together, they add expertise in engaging clients that previously we did not feel as comfortable approaching, due to either mental health episodes or behavior stemming from drugs or alcohol use. Please read below to learn more about Dione and Miguel.

Miguel Rodriguez is the new Harm Reduction Specialist for the Friends In Deed Street Outreach Program. Previous to FID, Miguel used to be an Inpatient Pharmacy Technician for close to 16 years, and helped prepare and admixture medication under the supervision of a Registered Pharmacist. He started out at FID volunteering with the Bad Weather Shelter in March 2022, and fell in love with everything we do for individuals experiencing homelessness. During his volunteering he was presented an opportunity for a Summer Internship with the Street Outreach Team, before joining the team full-time.

Miguel studied at Azusa Pacific University, and has a bachelor's in Applied Health. He is working on his master's of Public Health from Azusa Pacific University in Monrovia, and is expected to finish mid-December 2022. In his free time he likes to go on nature hikes, dancing, exploring various cultures' cuisines through cooking, and spending time with his wife and their doggie, Gigi.



Miguel Rodriguez

Dione Nelson is the new Substance Abuse Specialist for the Street Outreach Team. He is a certified alcohol and drug counselor II with California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP). He received his bachelor's in Sociology back in February 2021 from the University of Arizona, Global Campus. Prior to joining Friends In Deed, Dione worked at Volunteers of America for just over a year.

Originally from Waldorf, Maryland, Dione moved to California in 2011 and resides full-time in Burbank. When away from work, he enjoys reading and walks outdoors amongst nature. Other hobbies include cooking, and of course spending time with his spouse.



Dione Nelson

Obviously, the heat is overwhelming and I hope everyone is staying safe, hydrated and as cool as possible. We all know that our most vulnerable neighbors are deeply suffering in this extreme weather. This includes not only folks experiencing homelessness on the street, but also people living in their cars, and folks without air conditioning in their homes, particularly the elderly. So, please be on the lookout for people and offer them water or other cold beverages and checkin on neighbors to ensure their safety.

Thankfully, the city has established a cooling center which was opened on Wednesday and will continue until Sunday, at Robinson Park Rec Center. FID jumped into action to prepare snack bags - and The Women's Room guests took part in assembling them! We could not be more proud of our own clients helping us to help others! That right there is *doing together what we cannot do alone!



If you or someone you know might need a chance to get inside to airconditioning, Pasadena is recommending use of the libraries, or the cooling center: Robinson Park Recreation Center, 1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave. this weekend, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

And, for all those that labor in our nation, particularly people that won't have any time-off this weekend, thank you on this Labor Day weekend.

Blessings, and have a lovely weekend, Rabbi Joshua



We can only operate with your help!

Donate today

Join the Legacy Society



Get Social

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TWR: September Calendar

The Women's Room is ready for September! Check out the full list of activities we plan to provide over the next month. Read More...

Throop Unitarian Universalist Church

Rabbi Joshua continues to speak at congregations in the area. Last weekend, he visited Throop Unitarian Universalist Church and spoke about the theology of interupption. Want him to visit



your place of worship? Email info@friendsindeedpas.org

News and Events

Help Stock the Food Pantry!

Our shelves are looking quite empty these days and we could really use your help to re-stock and meet the need in our local community. We are open Fridays and Saturdays from 9am to 3pm for donation drop-offs, or you can also purchase and send to us directly from our Amazon wish list: <u>Amazon Wish List</u> Thank you for the support!

Water Donations Needed!

This heat wave is especially dangerous for people experiencing homelessness. Please consider purchasing an extra case of water bottles next time you are at the market. Onsite donations are appreciated Friday & Saturday from 9am to 3pm. You can also order a case from our Amazon wish list that will get delivered directly to us: <u>Amazon Wish List</u>



Help our clients stay hydrated

Accepting donations! Consider buying a case of water bottles and bringing it to FID





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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