



## Quarterly Newsletter

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### ***From the Board President***

Dear Friend,

The power of community is especially meaningful for us at Friends In Deed. Our slogan of "doing together what we cannot do alone" speaks to our core value of working together to make a bigger impact on the lives of those we serve, versus what we'd be able to do if acting as individuals. You, our FID community of supporters, are the reason we are able to rise to the occasion. With our year end quickly approaching, we hope you will give what you can for our neighbors who need our help most.

To celebrate our community, we are throwing our first ever FID Sunday Funday on November 6th at Farnsworth Park from 1-4pm. You can now RSVP online for an afternoon filled with activities, food, and - you guessed it - community. All are welcome.

Read on for inspiring stories that demonstrate what we can accomplish when we come together.

In service,

Bret Schaefer  
Board President, Friends In Deed



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**It is through your generosity that we are able to**

**provide these programs and services**

**Donate today**

**Join the Legacy Society**

## ***Stories from Our Community***

### **Pasadena Community Gardens' Story - Abundance!**

Pasadena Community Gardens originated as one person's dream. She had moved into a condo but desperately missed her garden. Her husband refused to consider moving again, so she had to think creatively – and a community garden was the result! The community shares knowledge, helps each other, and experimentally grows produce you'd never find in a grocery store! Have a look at [this YouTube video](#) to find out more.

But the Pasadena Community Gardens doesn't just look inwards towards its own community, it also looks outwards towards the wider community. Two of the raised beds form the "Abundance Plot," which is dedicated to Friends In Deed, and all the produce from those beds goes to the Food Pantry. [Read more...](#)



### **Stacy's Story - Past and Future Commitment to the Community**

Stacy was invited to a Friends In Deed board meeting in 2016 to be introduced to and get to know the organization, and she must



have liked what she saw, because by the end of the meeting she had volunteered to take on the role of board secretary! She continued in that role until 2020, and then more recently took on the role of vice president.

Her work behind the scenes has always been informed by her understanding of the way FID is rooted in the community it serves - she has volunteered at the Bad Weather Shelter many times, and seen all the programs in action. In fact, Stacy values the work that FID does in the community so highly that she has made a personal commitment to support it in the future, through joining our [Legacy Society](#). [Read more...](#)

## Stories from Our Programs

### Friends Western School's Story - Community Connections

Tim (Director of the Food Pantry) says:

"One of the great things about the work I do is getting to help young people learn about hunger, poverty, and what Friends In Deed does every day.

Over the ten years I've been in charge of the Food Pantry program, I've had countless opportunities to speak with kids. Most recently, I hosted a group of 4th and 5th graders from Friends Western School. [Read](#)

09/19/2022  
Dear Tim, Thank you for the tour. I really liked the part where you took us outside, and we saw the tree that had a sweater on. I also liked the pantry item place, because there was a lot of food there.  
Sincerely, Evan  
9.19.2022  
Friend in deed  
I really enjoyed the tour. It was so fun seeing all of the rooms. Especially the women's room. But thank you so much for letting us take a tour!  
Sincerely, Beatriz!!!

[more...](#)



### **Ransome's Story - Being Community Minded**

With a good job as a probation officer, Ransome had a stable life. Unfortunately, after taking sabbatical leave, he had problems getting his job back. Without an income, the challenges posed by the bureaucracy of the system became insurmountable and the inevitable homelessness that followed only made things worse.

Ransome tried multiple agencies to try and get back on his feet, but had no luck. [Read more...](#)

### **A Pantry Story - Diversity and Community**

We have a very diverse pantry community. The three main languages spoken by our pantry community are English, Spanish, and Mandarin. We will also regularly hear Armenian, Korean, and Arabic to list a few more.

[Read more...](#)



### **Julius's Story - Able to Contribute Again**

As happened with so many people during the stay-at-home order at the beginning of the pandemic, Julius found his primary relationships came under great strain. His girlfriend continued to work as a cosmetologist, and this meant a steady stream of clients visiting their home. Not only did the risk make Julius uncomfortable, but he also felt he was an unwelcome presence in his partner's business. [Read more...](#)

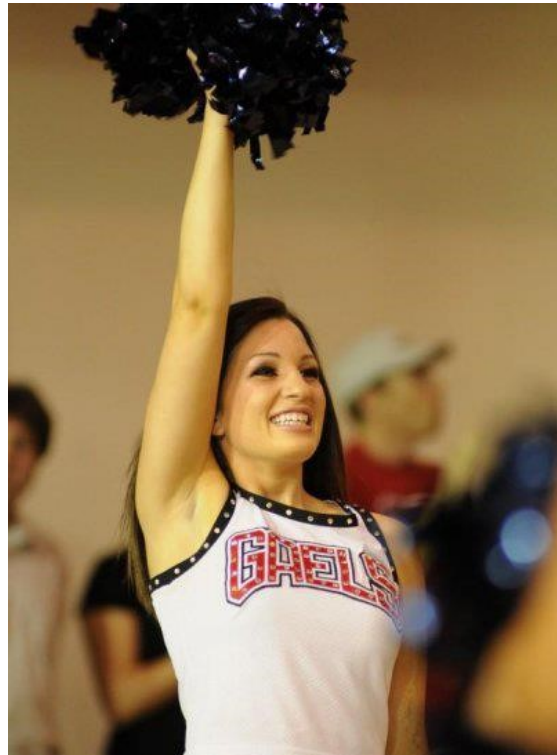


# ***Our Staff - Stories from Then and Now***

## **Merria's Story - Always a Cheerleader!**

Merria is the youngest of seven children in an athletic family and much of her childhood was spent going from one sporting event to another, cheering on her older siblings. She decided she wanted a more official role - and Merria the cheerleader came into being!

The spirit of cheerleading has never left her. In her current position as Director of Development, Merria sees much of her role as being a cheerleader - in fact, being the biggest cheerleader, not only for FID as an organization, but also for all the members of the FID community. [Read more...](#)



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## **Programs**

### **Bad Weather Shelter (BWS)**

Providing cold-weather support for our neighbors experiencing homelessness

### **Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance (EPRA)**

Short- and medium-term rental support to prevent eviction

### **Food Pantry**

Dignified grocery shopping experience for 400+ households weekly

### **Street Outreach & Housing**

Team of workers on the streets engaging with our neighbors experiencing homelessness and connecting them to services

### **The Women's Room (TWR)**

Daytime shelter for homeless and at-risk women

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### **Our Staff**

Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater  
*Executive Director*

### **Our Board**

Bret Schaefer  
*President*

Marty Campolo  
*Deputy Director and Grants  
Officer*

Ryan Greer  
*Senior Director of Programs*

Merria Velasco  
*Director of Development*

Helen Angove  
*Operations Manager*

Marlene Martinez  
*Director of TWR*

Tim Nistler  
*Director of The Food Pantry*

Tish Strickland  
*Director of Street Outreach and  
Housing*

Stacey Cutshaw  
*Director of EPRA*

Lindsey Reed  
*Senior Manager of Programs  
and Director of BWS*

Rion Waller  
*Food Pantry Manager*

William Shelby  
*Housing Navigator and Locator*

Najwa Payton Jones  
*Housing Navigator and  
Outreach Specialist*

Elyse Reed  
*Development Associate*

Eva Rivera  
*Administrative Assistant*

Jane Armbruster  
*TWR Program Associate and  
Case Counselor*

Emelin Arriaga  
*Food Pantry Associate*

Angel Maxwell

Stacy Santeramo  
*Vice President*

Christopher Pelch  
*Treasurer*

Debby Singer  
*Secretary*

Richard Cheung  
*Immediate Past President*

Kevin Bourland

Barbara Dangerfield

Ervin Galvan

Rev. George Hines

Tim Howett

Nishanthi Kurukulasuriya

Pamela Marx

Jonathan Webster

Kathy Simpson

Ed Vidimos

Ursula Hyman

Rev. Marlene Pomeroy

*Street Outreach Worker*

Michael Jaimes  
*Street Outreach Worker*

Miguel Rodriguez  
*Harm Reduction Specialist*

Doug Haught  
*Security and Grounds*

Coty Dietel  
*Food Pantry Aide*

**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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