



Quarterly Newsletter

From the Board President

Dear Friend,

Happy New Year, and thank you for continuing to partner with Friends In Deed in 2023!

Art is known to have transformative powers, and this can be especially true for many of our clients who are going through difficult periods in their lives. Our staff, volunteers, and clients are full of talented people who use creative expression to enhance the emotional wellbeing of community members. We applaud this creativity in putting individual talents to use in ways that enable Friends In Deed to serve our clients even better.

In service,

Bret Schaefer
Board President, Friends In Deed



**It is through your generosity that we are able to
provide these programs and services**

Donate today

Stories from Our Programs

Joe and Lorenzo's Story - Old Friends

Lorenzo had realized his old friend Joe - a man in his nineties - was no longer mobile. He began picking him up and taking him to Friends In Deed's Food Pantry to get food. It was here that our then pantry manager, Stacey, made the acquaintance of Lorenzo and Joe, and discovered their connection and history.

As well as being a highly regarded aerospace and mechanical systems engineer, Lorenzo Hernandez is a passionate collector and dealer of art. [Read more...](#)



Photo credit - Frank Styduhar. From the collection of Lorenzo Hernandez



Merl's Story - A Good Samaritan

Gentle and soft spoken, Merl is a long-term and very much loved guest of The Women's Room. She has continued to visit and get support from Friends In Deed during many years of housing insecurity and serious illness.

Merl particularly enjoys the art activities that TWR provides. We have often said that art is as much therapy as it is recreation for our guests, and we think this is especially true for Merl. The image detail shown here is painted from a real-life event (click the link to see the full picture). [Read more...](#)

Stories from Our Community

Carolie's Story - Inspired by Trash

Friends In Deed has been lucky enough to count many artists among its volunteers, but what has been a first for us is for an artist to use materials from the pantry with which to create art!

Along with her volunteering at Friends In Deed, Carolie was teaching a sculpture class with Art Division, a non-profit organization dedicated to training and supporting underserved youth who are committed to studying the visual arts. [Read more...](#)



Jeff's Story - Ongoing Commitment

Local realtor Jeff Salcido was initially introduced to FID through the Friends In Deed/Pasadena Jaycees Operation Gobbler Thanksgiving events - something he says he found very rewarding, especially when they were able to provide a full Thanksgiving meal to a family who likely would not have been able to have one otherwise. We are grateful for his help in collecting and distributing food for this project over several years. [Read more...](#)

Lisa's Story - Encouraging Self-Expression

Before volunteering at Friends In Deed, Lisa worked in public relations at the Huntington Library. After she retired, she felt that her ability with words could find a use at Friends In Deed - and they did! Lisa runs workshops with our guests in The Women's Room in which she uses the mediums of art, writing, and crafts to foster self-

expression.

The picture shows Lisa with some of the pieces created by our ladies - you can see how beautiful their work is! [Read more...](#)



Our Staff - Stories from Then and Now



Stacey's Story - Photography and Food

One of the wonderful things about Friends In Deed is the varied paths that members of our staff have followed before becoming part of the FID community. Stacey McCarroll Cutshaw, Director of Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance, is no exception! [Read more...](#)

In Memoriam

Anna Louise Lund, November 7, 1935 - May 16, 2022

Anna (Lu) was an Interior Designer, and with her impeccable taste would make any room worthy of Architectural Digest. Lu's incredible aesthetic ability carried through to her style in clothing and always looked glamorous even sitting on the bleachers.

She and her husband Gary raised their three children in Eagle

Rock, and moved to Pasadena in later years. Lu will be remembered for the full and happy life she had and the love she gave to her family. We are grateful that they chose to honor her memory by requesting donations to Friends In Deed.



Catherine Babcock, March 23, 1954 - June 27, 2022

Catherine believed in Friends In Deed and wanted to offer her support for our organization, and we are honored that her family requested donations to Friends In Deed in lieu of flowers.

Catherine's professional roles included Community Coordinator and Director at Huntington Library and Director of Marketing and Communications for Walt Disney Concert Hall. Throughout all her professional positions, and beyond, she fostered and maintained meaningful relationships with her community.

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

Our Staff

Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater
Executive Director

Marty Campolo
Deputy Director and Grants Officer

Ryan Greer
Senior Director of Programs

Merria Velasco
Director of Development

Helen Angove
Operations Manager

Tim Nistler
Director of The Food Pantry

Tish Strickland
Director of Street Outreach and Housing

Stacey McCarroll Cutshaw
Director of EPRA

Lindsey Reed
Director of TWR

Marlene Martinez
Assistant Director of EPRA

William Shelby
Senior Intensive Case Management Specialist

Najwa Payton Jones
Housing Navigator and Outreach Liaison

Elyse Reed
Development Associate

Our Board

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Food Pantry Associate

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Peer Specialist

Michael Jaimes
Family Specialist

Miguel Rodriguez
Harm Reduction Specialist

Doug Haught
Security and Grounds

Coty Dietel
Food Pantry Aide

Stephanie Hernandez
*MSW Intern/Mental Health
Specialist*

Melissa Bergstrom
*MSW Intern/Family Housing
Navigation*

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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