



## Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

At Friends In Deed, the essence of our existence, the “why” of what we do, is the belief that every human being deserves dignity, respect, compassion and love. In each of our programs, we achieve this mission by hiring staff and recruiting volunteers that embody these attributes and values. As I share my last email of 2022, I end by appreciating, thanking, and celebrating the amazing people I have the pleasure and honor of working with each and every day: the staff of FID. Each one of them, without a doubt, exemplifies the mission of what we do, and it shows in their dedication, commitment and passion for each of our clients and guests. I am so proud and humbled to be the leader of such an incredible group of people, and I certainly learn from them as much as I may teach or guide. I could tell you something about each one of them, and I wish I could, but for the sake of brevity, I will just name them, and invite you to look [at our website](#), read their bios, and get to know the 22 people that make up the staff of Friends In Deed. This is how we are listed on the website!

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 Outreach and Housing  
Stacey McCarroll Cutshaw, Director of Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance  
Lindsey Reed, Director of The Women’s Room  
Marlene Martinez, Assistant Director of Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance  
William Shelby, Housing Navigator and Locator  
Najwa Payton Jones, Housing Navigator and Outreach Liaison  
Rion Waller, Food Pantry Manager  
Elyse Reed, Development Associate  
Jane Armbruster, TWR Program Associate and Case Counselor  
Emelin Arriaga, Food Pantry Associate  
Angel Maxwell, Street Outreach Peer Specialist

Michael Jaimes, Street Outreach Specialist  
Miguel Rodriguez, Harm Reduction Specialist  
Eva Rivera, Administrative Assistant  
Doug Haught, Security and Grounds  
Coty Dietel, Food Pantry Aide



Pictured, left to right, at the staff holiday party: Doug Haught, Tim Nistler, Helen Angove, Eva Rivera, Miguel Rodriguez, Najwa Payton Jones, Stacey McCarroll Cutshaw, Coty Dietel, Michael Jaimes, William Shelby, Ryan Greer, Angel Maxwell, Lindsey Reed, Joshua Levine Grater, Marlene Martinez, Jane Armbruster, Tish Strickland.

As we do each year, to give our staff a well-deserved rest, renewal, and recharge, all FID offices and programs will be closed from 12/23-1/2.

We are currently at \$180,000 for our Winter Appeal, so thank you to everyone who has already contributed! We need \$170,000 more to reach our goal by 12/31—please [donate today](#) to be a part of our success!

May the lights of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa shine bright into the darkness, bringing hope, peace, and resolve to lift up more justice and righteousness in 2023.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa to all celebrating!

Blessings, have a lovely weekend and Happy New Year,  
Rabbi Joshua



**We can only operate with your help!**

**Donate today**

**Join the Legacy Society**

## Get Social



### Christmas for the Kids!

The Food Pantry had its annual "Christmas for the Kids" event this past weekend, distributing gifts to 235 children in 95 families. Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped with this lovely event!



### Distribution Preparation

This is a typical Monday in the Food Pantry when our team packs shelf-stable food into bags for distribution Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

[Read more...](#)

### Busking for the Food Pantry!

Young music students played for shoppers and raised money for Friends In Deed! [Read more...](#)





## Assistance League of Pasadena

Irene and Terry, from the Assistance League of Pasadena, came by with toys collected from their toy drive to distribute at our Christmas for the Kids event. [Read more...](#)



**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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