



Quarterly Newsletter

From the Board President

Dear Friend,

Introductions to Friends In Deed happen through various paths. Some of us drive by and wonder what the lines of people outside FID House might be waiting around for, the FID lawn signs often spark curiosity to go look us up, and of course word of mouth and a friendly introduction from another supporter/board member/volunteer/former client are commonplace.

No matter how you came to find us, we are happy you are following along in this important work taking place every day. Read on for stories that are sure to inspire and educate about the community we serve, and those who take part in the work. Thank you for your support.

In service,

Bret Schaefer
Board President, Friends In Deed



PS - If you would like to display a lawn sign to help spread the word about Friends In Deed, please contact development@friendsindeedpas.org to arrange for pick-up or drop-off at your home. Thank you!

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

Donate today

Join the Legacy Society

Stories from Our Programs

Sonia's Story - The Latest Stage of her Journey

It can take many, many attempts to get a client into a stable housing situation. Sonia is a long-term client who has been through our Pathways program and been placed in bridge housing twice. She's not always the easiest person to have around, and she has been banned from all the nearby shelters and several motels.

With a client like this, it would be easy to wash our hands of them.



Rather than do that, though, we have decided to try a different approach – and now that we have a Substance Abuse Specialist on our team, we have the resources to do that. [Read more...](#)



Tammy's Story - Remarkably Efficient

Tammy was living with her daughter until her daughter got a Section 8 voucher to help with housing costs, which meant that she could no longer have a sub-tenant. Tammy relies on her own earnings to make ends meet – she has been denied Social Security – and those earnings are not enough to pay for housing.

Fortunately Tammy does still have a job, and her son has been allowing her to sleep in his car while he was at work. [Read more...](#)

Kyle's Story - Short-Term Help, Long-Term benefits

Kyle bumped into a member of our Street Outreach team while they were buying a taco, and he recognized our logo on their hoodie. Kyle was helped by our Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance team a while back – we were able to tide him over a difficult period by helping him with a deposit on a new place to live. [Read more...](#)



Stories from Our Community



Claudia's Story - Fighting Hunger

Claudia has been volunteering on and off at the Friends In Deed Food Pantry since 2015! She was living nearby and noticing the buzz of activity around our building, so she googled the address to find out what we do, and the rest is history. Even after moving away to Michigan for a year, she emailed Tim as soon as she returned to Pasadena to get her old shifts back.

When she is working her shifts, Claudia tries to connect with the pantry clients as much as possible. It helps that she is bilingual, so she often helps people to communicate their needs. [Read more...](#)

Bonnie and Rose's Story - Mother-Daughter Teamwork!

Bonnie and Rose are a mother and daughter team who have been volunteering together at Friends In Deed for about four months. They had been looking for a way to give back to the community and had tried a

number of places, but felt that the fit wasn't right and they weren't really needed. Then they came to The Women's Room at Friends In Deed and loved it!.

[Read more...](#)



Rev. Amadi's Story - Spiritual Energy

Rev. Amadi's journey at Friends In Deed began when he met Rev. Donna Byrns (at that time our executive director) and they spoke about his vision for the role of spiritual communities in our changing society. Based on that vision, Rev. Donna felt that Rev. Amadi was a natural fit for Friends In Deed, and introduced him to our then board chair, Richard Cheung. Richard wasted no time in co-opting Rev. Amadi onto our board!

This was eight years ago, and since then Rev. Amadi has been working to mobilize congregations and create and maintain networks of cooperation. [Read more...](#)

Our Staff - Stories from Then and Now

Michael's Story - A Strong Bond

Our Street Outreach Team's Family Specialist, Michael Jaimes, has a strong reason to identify with some of the families he works with - one recent family in particular. The couple

was originally from Columbia and had a baby on the way and no resources to fall back on. Michael was able to get them first into a motel, and then into transitional housing at Door of Hope. As someone whose parents had immigrated from Mexico, Michael felt a bond with the family - not only was his family once in a



similar position, but the couple also told him they plan to name their baby Michael! We honor this bond with this lovely photo of Michael, with his father, when Michael was a small child himself. [Read more...](#)

In Memoriam



Michael Reagan, January 7, 1943 - Feb 23 2023

A Pasadena resident, Librarian Emeritus of CSU Northridge, ham radio operator, railroad enthusiast, and loving family man, Michael Reagan was known for his generous heart, love of learning, compassionate listening, and ability to fix just about anything.

Michael's career spanned social work, union organizing, computer programming, and librarianship, and his time serving in the Navy on a hospital ship in Vietnam made him a pacifist. We are very grateful to his family for inviting those who knew him to make donations to Friends In Deed in his memory.

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 and 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
Senior 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

Eva Rivera
Food Pantry Manager

William Shelby
Senior Intensive Case

Our Board

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Nishanthi Kurukulasuriya

Pamela Marx

Rev. Marlene Pomeroy

Jeff Salcido

Lana Slavitt

Management Specialist

Najwa Payton Jones
*Housing Navigator and
Outreach Liaison*

Elyse Reed
Development Associate

Jane Armbruster
*TWR Program Associate and
Case Counselor*

Emelin Arriaga
Food Pantry Associate

Angel Maxwell
Peer Specialist

Michael Jaimes
Family Specialist

Olivia Esteb
Substance Abuse Specialist

Doug Haught
Security and Grounds

Jenny Juarez
TWR Services Attendant

Coty Dietel
Food Pantry Aide

Stephanie Hernandez
*MSW Intern/Mental Health
Specialist*

Melissa Bergstrom
*MSW Intern/Family Housing
Navigation*

Ed Vidimos

Jon Webster

Leslie White

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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