

**Doing together what we cannot do alone*



Quarterly Newsletter

From the Board President

Dear Friend,

The temperatures outside have let us know summer has definitely arrived. This heat is truly life-threatening to many of our clients, so Friends In Deed programs, services, and staff members are staying as busy as ever. We thank them and each of you - our amazing supporters - for enabling us to do this critical work in our local community.

Please read on for stories of inspiration, humility, and good people making a big difference in the lives of others. I hope you enjoy your summer, and stay cool out there!

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

Mark's Story - Help with Arrears

Mark is a single father in his early thirties with a son in fifth grade. Recovering from a death in the immediate family left Mark unemployed for several months and he fell behind on his rent.

[Read more...](#)



Joan's Story - A Catalyst for a New Beginning

Joan, a single woman in her mid-50s, reached out to our Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance (EPRA) program when she entered a local sober living facility in Pasadena. Recovering from substance abuse and mental health issues, Joan was afraid that, with limited income, she risked being kicked out of the facility and becoming homeless again. [Read more...](#)

Shaughna's Story - Rents Too High

Shaughna was living with her son, and it had become a domestic violence situation. Unlike many, Shaughna didn't believe she would have any trouble leaving – she knew she had the skills to get a well-paying job. She walked out of the abusive situation in Las Vegas, and came to Pasadena for a fresh start.

Exactly as she had predicted, Shaughna quickly found a good job. What she hadn't reckoned



with were the rents in Pasadena!
[Read more...](#)

Stories from Our Community



Shereen's Story - An Update

Friends In Deed wants to pass on many congratulations to long-term pantry volunteer Shereen, who starts college at Berkeley in the fall! She is majoring in Society and Environment.

We last featured Shereen in this newsletter back in 2021. She started volunteering when she was just 14 - accompanied at the time by her father, as she was too young to volunteer solo. This summer she has been working all three food distribution days plus every other Saturday. She helps with all aspects of the food pantry and is an extremely hard worker. We wish her all the best for the future!

Emily's Story - Many Roles

Following a career as a computer analyst, Emily wanted to do something useful with her retirement. She saw a message in one of our weekly emails about needing volunteers in the Food Pantry, made contact with Stacey, and joined the team. She says she loves it – the staff and other volunteers made her feel very welcome and she felt the work she was doing was valuable.

Then Stacey moved from the Food Pantry to become director of our Eviction Prevention and rental assistance program, and Emily told her to reach out if she needed help in her new position.
[Read more...](#)





Leslie's Story - A Burning Desire to End Homelessness

Leslie has a long history of volunteering and serving on boards in various organizations in Pasadena. It was when she was volunteering at Jericho Road (a Pasadena organization that specializes in empowering and supporting local nonprofits) that Friends In Deed appeared on her radar – she was looking for new opportunities, and The Women's Room needed new volunteers.

[Read more...](#)

Corine's Story - As Much As She Can Fit in Her Car

On September 11, 2001, in the early morning, Dr. Corine Yee was already up and ready for her day. She had the television on and the screen caught her eye in time to watch in horror as the second plane hit the Twin Towers. She went to church to pray, and emerged with the conviction that she had to do something to make the world a little less awful than it seemed at that moment. [Read more...](#)



Our Staff - Stories from Then and Now



Angel's Story - Living Proof of Hope

Sometimes, calling someone "strong" is an easy way out. It can be easy to think that it matters less, if stressful and difficult things happen to a strong person, because they have the ability to cope with it.

Friends In Deed Peer specialist Angel Maxwell calls this idea out. "Life makes you strong," she says, because you have to find a



way to deal with all the things it throws at you. It doesn't mean you haven't struggled with a lot of pain along the way. [Read more...](#)

Stories from Our Archives

The Fake's Story - Allegations and Litigation

Since its inception in 1894 as the "Pasadena Pastor's Union," Friends In Deed has had a very eventful history, and it seems a shame for it to be hidden away in our archives. For the next several editions we plan to share with you some of the more remarkable stories of our past.

One of the most colorful episodes of our history took place between the years of 1986 and 1988, when a rival agency was set up in Pasadena, not only providing similar services to those provided by Friends In Deed but also using the same name! After being asked to desist from using the already well-established name, the proprietor lashed out with litigation and wild allegations of sexual misconduct, racism, and misappropriation of federal funds.

We can make light of it now, but can only imagine how stressful FID staff must have found it at the time! Finally, in September 1988, Friends In Deed filed for



an injunction against the rival organization and the court found against them, ordering them to desist from using the name, and fining them \$1000. There our records end, and we have to hope that the deception did too.

Programs

Bad Weather Supplies (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

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Lana Slavitt

William Shelby
*Senior Intensive Case
Management Specialist*

Ed Vidimos

Leslie White

Najwa Payton Jones
*Housing Navigator and
Outreach Liaison*

Jane Armbruster
*TWR Program Manager and
Case Counselor*

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Development Associate

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 Program Associate

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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