



Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

As I have shared many times, the best solution to solving homelessness is to not let people become homeless in the first place. Contrary to popular belief, mental illness, addiction, poverty or local politics are not the main reason cities have higher or lower rates of homelessness. Rather, the high cost of housing, and lack of available affordable housing, is the main driver (see the book [*Homelessness is a Housing Problem*](#)). And yet, sometimes, even if a family has stable housing, there are moments that can cause a spiral leading toward eviction. Here is just one family, among the hundreds that have called for assistance so far this year, that we have been able to help.

Danielle contacted EPRA (our Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance program) at the end of January, seeking rental support. She and her husband Oscar were a young couple with two small children. Oscar was the only income earner at the time. He had been suffering from severe depression and had used up all his sick leave with his employer. He ended up taking an additional two months of unpaid leave to get healthy. As a result, the family fell behind on two months rent.

EPRA was able to pay off the arrears and provided two additional months of current rent to give the family an opportunity to get back on their feet. Since the children were now old enough to attend school, Danielle was able to look for work during the time that EPRA provided rental assistance. She recently called Marlene, our EPRA Assistant Director, with an update that she had secured employment. Friends In Deed's rental assistance offered this young family a way to manage their employment, and family life, so that both spouses can contribute income.

If you want to help us assist families like Danielle's, and dozens of other households that call us each week, please [consider a donation](#), as financial assistance is the primary way in which our community can support this program.

Speaking of supporting us, we are super excited to announce our newest event: Cooking for a Cause! Hopefully you received the save-the-date email; see below if you missed it. This first-of-its-kind event is not to be missed, and will be livestreamed free for all to watch!

Blessings, have a lovely weekend, and for all the moms out there: Happy Mother's Day!

Rabbi Joshua



We can only operate with your help!

Donate today

Join the Legacy Society

Get Social



Street Outreach in the field

Meet Olivia, one of our incredible Street Outreach and Housing team members. Here she is conducting a client intake in the field, assessing the client's service and housing needs. She took the time to connect with him, listened to his story, and provided the support he deserves... [Read more.](#)

Girl Scout Troop 7881 visits



the Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry had a very nice first-time visit from Girl Scout Troop 7881. They brought donations, took a tour with Tim, asked some great questions, and got to work stocking shelves. Thank you, Troop 7881. We hope to see you again soon...

[Read more.](#)

News and Events

Cooking for a Cause

We're creating a culinary competition and keeping it local by partnering with the renowned [Institute of Culinary Education \(ICE\)](#) located on Green Street in Pasadena. On Friday, June 23rd this fun, lively, and, dare we say, *tasteful* evening will highlight the very real problem of food insecurity in our local community, while raising vital funding for all FID programs that serve greater Pasadena.

Stay tuned for full details, and save the date: **Friday, June 23rd from 5-7pm!**

SAVE THE DATE!

COOKING
for a **CAUSE**

JUNE 23, 2023



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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