



## Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

A day in the life of Olivia, our FID Substance Abuse Specialist ...

One of Olivia's clients - let's call her Rose - hadn't been picking up her phone since before the weekend. This was worrying for three reasons: Rose is a high-acuity client and can quickly spiral downhill; she had missed a healthcare appointment and Olivia was afraid she wasn't taking her medication; and time was tight for getting all of Rose's paperwork together to make a housing application.

### **Tuesday:**

**9:00am:** Rose turns up at the FID office on Lake with frantic stories of a lost ID and her phone being run over by a car. Olivia is in the middle of an appointment with another client. But, Rose is *there*, and Olivia does not let an opportunity go to waste. She finds something to keep Rose occupied while she finishes working with the other client, then scoops her up and sweeps her off to the Social Security office.

**10:30am:** Rose and Olivia have a counter ticket at the Social Security office. Rose is holding together remarkably well and is prepared to wait. Olivia works on her phone, handling calls, de-escalating another client who is in crisis, and performing a client intake to a motel for the Street Outreach Pathways Program.

**12:30pm:** Their ticket number is called. But the photocopy they have of Rose's ID is not good enough, and they have to go to the DMV to get an ID verification.

**1:00pm:** Olivia and Rose successfully get an ID verification at the DMV, in a surprisingly short space of time.

**1:30pm:** Back at the Social Security office, Olivia and Rose settle in for another wait.

**2:15pm:** The lifetime limit number of Social Security cards a person

can have is 10. Rose has had 15. But with the help of a formal letter from Friends In Deed explaining the extenuating circumstances, and with the ID verification from the DMV, Rose's application for a new card is successful.

**3:00pm:** Rose and Olivia are now at the UPS store, trying to get Rose's application for a replacement birth certificate notarized. But the ID verification - which had been perfectly acceptable at the Social Security office - is not good enough for the notary. Their only chance is to find another person willing to vouch for Rose's identity. Olivia calls FID colleague William, who has known Rose for years, and he agrees to drop everything and drive straight to the UPS store.

**3:15pm:** William arrives, the notary accepts Rose's identity, and the birth certificate application is duly notarized. Olivia drives Rose to The Women's Room for some food and a rest.

Once we receive the birth certificate, Olivia has high hopes of getting Rose into housing for the first time in decades. This may be Rose's chance to start to extricate herself from the lifestyle of mental illness, substance abuse, and prostitution she has been locked into for the last 20 years.

I can't say enough about the dedication of our staff ... and the complexity of the issues facing our clients. This is just one day, one client. Each of our Street Outreach and Housing staff has 15-20 clients on their caseload. I am so proud of them, and honored to be a witness to their hard work.

Now, if you want to support Friends In Deed to help people like Rose, and the hundreds of others that we serve each week, do we have something awesome to help you do just that! If you have ever wanted to be an Executive Chef or a Chef De Cuisine, or test out your home cooking skills, stay tuned next week for the full unveiling of ***Cooking for a Cause***, our new, exciting and 'tasteful' fundraising event. It will be taking place on June 23rd at the Institute for Culinary Education, right here in Pasadena.

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,

Rabbi Joshua



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

**Donate today**

**Join the Legacy Society**

## Get Social



### 554 Pounds of Groceries

Thank you to the Sylvia Vega Real Estate Team - Keller Williams Realty - DRE# 01879957 for their support in hosting a second food drive. Their donation of 554 pounds of food to our Food Pantry will help provide nourishment to over 500 individuals and families in need, who are served weekly... [Read more.](#)



### Home is Sacred

Friends In Deed Executive Director, Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater, led a faith reflection and prayer for 'Home is Sacred' at the #SB567 rally. He shared about FID's Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance efforts and the impact our programs have made in the community... [Read more.](#)

### A Van Load of Food

A huge thank you to Isaac Huerta and the awesome team at Ekballo Pasadena for their generous donation! They brought a whole van load of staple items to the Food Pantry from their

food drive.... [Read more.](#)



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## News and Events

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### 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.

Full details will be shared next week, but in the meantime save the date: **Friday, June 23rd from 5-7pm!**

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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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