



## **Weekly Message**

Dear Friend,

Our Food Pantry receives weekly food donations from Trader Joe's. About once a week, a few bags of flowers can be found among these donations. Director of The Women's Room (TWR) Lindsey Reed started bringing some flowers up to display around TWR. After a few weeks of consistently arranging and displaying flowers, guests started showing interest in being involved. Flower arranging has now become a part of the weekly rhythm. Two of the guests who have jumped into this activity have really blossomed.

There's Julia, who's shy and reserved and doesn't talk to many other guests. Once we started flower arranging and putting them around the room, Julia started to take ownership of decorating the space with fresh flowers. She had never worked with flowers before and now she has become so talented at creating beautiful arrangements! Each week, she makes sure that old flowers are removed and replaced with a fresh bouquet. The dining room table and TWR restroom are now never without an arrangement. From this, friendships have also bloomed. Julia now has two close friends at TWR that she brings into the fun each week. She participates in more activities and has become open and talkative with our volunteers and other guests.



Lindsey, Director of TWR, and Dana, a TWR guest.

Dana has been a guest of TWR for five years, ever since she became homeless and began living in her car with her two dogs. She used to stop in at TWR, eat, shower, and leave; never spending time in community with other ladies or sharing her story with TWR staff. Since we've started arranging flowers, Dana has begun spending more time at TWR. She now takes part in more workshops and activities and has opened up to share her situation and needs with staff. Now that we understand how to help Dana, we have been able to offer her motel vouchers for the weather-activated motels, make referrals to her for classes and necessary resources, and connect her with our Street Outreach and Housing team, which was able to match her to a bridge housing program! Through something as simple as arranging flowers, someone's life was changed and she is on her way to being housed and stable.

As we continue to work on strategy and our future direction, I feel strongly that our core values and purpose revolve around stories like these, where we provide compassion and a space to be loved and seen, and offer someone an opportunity to grow as a person. Sometimes the outcomes are tangible, like food or housing or rental assistance, and this is amazing. But sometimes the outcomes are intangible, and they cannot be quantified on metrics charts or measures-of-success reports. And these are amazing too! One of our reasons for being is to bring light and hope into people's lives; this can happen in any number of ways each and every day.

This is a long weekend, Memorial Day, so I want to wish comfort and strength to all those remembering loved ones who served our country. In last year's homeless count, 28 veterans were experiencing homelessness in Pasadena. We know that veterans are experiencing much higher rates of PTSD, addiction, and (most

tragically) suicide than ever before. As we honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, let us commit to supporting those veterans who are still with us, but struggling mightily.

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,  
Rabbi Joshua



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

**Donate today**

**Join the Legacy Society**



**Get Social**



**Gina Placed in Bridge Housing**

Celebrating a journey of



resilience and hope! Gina is the 30th client our Street Outreach and Housing team has helped place this year. We are thrilled to share that she is no longer riding the train or bus all night for shelter. She has transitioned into bridge housing, where she has a safe and peaceful place to sleep and is working with a case manager to secure permanent housing... [Read more.](#)



### San Marino Community Church

A heartfelt thank you to Janet and San Marino Community Church for assembling and delivering care packages for our Street Outreach and Housing team to give to clients. The supply bags will be put to good use... [Read more.](#)



### Pasadena Business Networking Association

The Food Pantry has groceries coming its way! Pasadena Business Networking Association held a Spring mixer and invited FID to be the beneficiary of the get together. Thanks to FID board member Ervin Galvan from We Olive for helping to coordinate, and board member Richard Cheung for attending as well... [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. 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!\*\*](#)

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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