



## Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

Leila had been homeless since she was 15. She was addicted to crystal meth (which she couldn't even try to fight, because she was afraid to go to sleep without it), she had severe untreated schizophrenia, and she was seriously malnourished.

She arrived at The Women's Room during the course of a psychotic episode so bad that she could no longer distinguish between reality and delusion. Fortunately, The Women's Room was able to call Street Outreach, and Tish and Olivia got there quickly to deescalate the situation. Olivia tried to get Leila into a mental health facility, but it was too late in the day, so she contacted PORT (Pasadena Outreach Response Team), which was able to get her admitted to Huntington Hospital.

Olivia then referred Leila to FSP (Full Service Partnership - a comprehensive and intensive mental health program for adults with severe and persistent mental illness) and was lucky enough to get her accepted to their program. At the time of this writing, Leila has been stable and clean for two weeks! She is now going to live with her godmother, and we hope that this new stability will enable her to continue to manage her medication and regulate her life.

Our ability to participate in such a far-reaching intervention is due in part to some fantastic inter-agency collaboration (TWR, the Street Outreach team, PORT, Huntington Hospital, and FSP), but also owes a lot to the growth in skills and professionalization of the Street Outreach team. A couple of years ago a situation like Leila's would have been beyond our skill set to address. We are so grateful that the Pasadena community's [support of Friends In Deed](#) has empowered us to make a difference in lives like Leila's!



Mayor Victor Gordo speaking at the 50th Annual  
Pasadena Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast



Urban Voices Project performing at the 50th Annual  
Pasadena Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

Speaking of empowering, and powerful, the 50th annual Pasadena Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast yesterday was incredible! We had nearly 500 people including community leaders, dignitaries, faith leaders, and a wide array of Pasadenans. The Urban Voices Project inspired us with their music, energy, passion, and powerful stories – truly a blessing! Thank you to Mayor Gordo and his staff, particularly Vannia and Araceli; Wescom Credit Union, our presenting sponsor; all the table sponsors; Pasadena Media; Pasadena Convention Center; Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center's Sisterhood for underwriting Urban Voices; Trader Joe's for the flowers; and The Women's Room guests who arranged the centerpieces so beautifully. And a huge shout-out of gratitude to the breakfast committee: Richard Cheung, Stacy Santeramo, Debby Singer, and Rev. Marlene Pomeroy. And to FID staff members Merria Velasco, Elyse Reed, and Helen Angove for all of the hard work and attention to detail. It was truly a team effort, and we are so heartened to hear how the event moved and uplifted people.

Finally, as we enter May, we acknowledge Mental Health Awareness month. I encourage you to listen to [this week's Friends In Deed Podcast](#), where I talk with Tish Strickland, LCSW, our Director of Street Outreach and Housing, about mental illness and its relationship to those experiencing homelessness. She shares her knowledge, providing facts and debunking myths.

Blessings, Happy Cinco de Mayo, and have a lovely weekend,  
Rabbi Joshua



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

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## Podcast

### **2023-7 "Don't Call Me Crazy!" Mental Health and Homelessness, Myths and Facts**

May is Mental Health Awareness month, so Rabbi Joshua is talking with Tish Strickland, Program Director of FID's Street Outreach and Housing. Tish is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a speciality in mental health. The conversation covers mental health stigmas, trauma-informed care, street medicine opportunities and how we best care for, and offer treatment to, those suffering on the street...

[Listen now.](#)



## Get Social



### **Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Floral Centerpieces**

We want to extend a huge thank you to Trader Joe's for donating boxes of flowers and to the guests of The Women's Room who assembled beautiful floral centerpieces for this year's Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. Their creativity and dedication made a real difference in brightening up the event and spreading joy to everyone who attended...

[Read more.](#)

**St. Philip the Apostle**



## Resource Fair

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth at the St. Philip the Apostle Parish! It was a great opportunity to connect with our community and share information about our programs and services... [Read more.](#)



## Cynthia Cohn Spring Friendraiser

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Cynthia Cohn & Associates, who always supports FID's local efforts, for hosting an amazing Spring Friendraiser last month. Cynthia hosted a salon at her house to spread the news about the work being done at FID and to introduce us to new community members. Thank you again to Cynthia, Mary, Kal, and everyone who made this event possible... [Read more.](#)

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**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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