



## Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

Joshua is away this week and so I have the privilege of writing this week's newsletter. As the Senior Director of Programs here at FID I spend much of my time, as my title would suggest, focused internally on our programs, working to maximize our impact, reach more households in need, steward the resources with which we've been entrusted, and ultimately help our teams achieve their goals for the year – all while showing compassion, connection, and dignity to those we serve. One of the best parts of my job is celebrating the numbers: over 750,000 pounds of food distributed at the Food Pantry last year, over 3,000 motel nights provided through our Bad Weather Supplies program, 31 clients successfully placed into new permanent or bridge housing through Street Outreach and Housing this year already, and over \$150,000 in rental assistance provided to low-income families in the past five months through our Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance program (EPRAs). These figures are incredible, and in many ways represent herculean efforts to do more with less. But numbers aren't everything and our brains aren't all wired the same, which is why we also celebrate the stories, like those of Dana and Julia from The Women's Room last week.

While these successes should be celebrated at every opportunity, perhaps there are those reading this blessed with a touch of healthy skepticism. Perhaps there are those, like me, who might feel disingenuous at the implication that every success ends with "happily ever after." How can we know if the work we are doing today will really end up benefiting others tomorrow? My short answer is, "We don't, but we should do it anyway."



Ryan, Senior Director of Programs, with an EPRA client.

I'm reminded of that Taoist parable of the farmer whose horse escapes one night and his neighbors all call him unlucky. "Maybe" he says and, sure enough, a few days later the horse returns bringing three wild horses back with it. "Oh, how lucky you are!" say his neighbors. "Maybe" is his response. The next day as his son is trying to break in one of the wild horses he's thrown from its back and breaks his leg. "Oof, what bad luck you have," say the neighbors. And again, "maybe" is his response. A week later some of the king's men come to enlist young men to fight in the war, seeing the son's broken leg they pass him over. "Wow, what good luck you have!" cry the neighbors, but by now we know the farmer's response. Maybe.

We know that our numbers and stories don't always tell the whole story: some of our clients will leverage the support we provide and launch into brighter futures for themselves and their families, while others might continue to struggle year over year, seemingly never able to catch a break. To me, however, regardless of how any of these stories might end, the beginning and end of this work is the act of participation, the effort put forth, the collaboration to make something better. Together all these numbers and stories slowly paint the landscape of the world we continue to hope for and build, with your help, day to day and week to week. Friends In Deed exists, along with our hundreds of volunteers, thousands of donors, and countless clients, partners, advocates, and community members, to respond with care to those in need now, today, and to trust that the story we continue to build together will lead us into a brighter future for all.

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,

Ryan Greer



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

**Donate today**

**Join the Legacy Society**

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## Get Social



### **Philoptochos Society blanket donation**

Thank you to the Philoptochos Society from St. Anthony Pasadena for the hand-knitted and crocheted blankets and caps! Our clients will be wrapped in comfort and warmth... [Read more.](#)

### **Pride Month**

Proud to celebrate love, diversity, and inclusivity this Pride Month! We stand with the LGBTQ+ community, recognizing their courage, achievements, and the ongoing fight for equality... [Read more.](#)





### Boy Scout Troop 111

Shout out to Joshua Chae and Boy Scout Troop 111 for this awesome haul for our Food Pantry! We are so grateful for your generous support... [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. Taking place on **Friday, June 23rd from 5-7pm**, this fun, lively, and *tasteful* evening will highlight the very real problem of food insecurity in our local community, while raising vital funding for all FID programs that

**COOKING**  
for a **CAUSE**

serve greater Pasadena.

[Full details here](#)

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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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Friends In Deed | 444 E. Washington Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91104

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