



## Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

Susan was a full-time graduate student working on a professional degree when she reached out to Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance (EPRA) earlier this year. She lived in her Pasadena apartment for several years and had been steadily employed after graduating from college almost ten years ago. But she was struggling to find work and pay her rent following COVID. She was also trying to complete her courses and prepare for a professional exam that would allow her to obtain better future employment. Having maxed out her student loans and exhausted all assistance from family and friends, she reached out to our EPRA program.

Stacey, our Director of EPRA, worked with Susan and the landlord to pay her rent for a few months. During that time, she passed her professional exam and secured a full-time job offer that would allow her to become financially independent. Here is some of what Susan shared about her experience with EPRA:

*When I first reached out to Friends In Deed I was very hesitant as my ability to remain housed in Pasadena was becoming more uncertain by the day.*

*I still remember the call that changed it all. It was my first screening call with Stacey when I started to find some relief. Stacey has a great ability to understand difficult situations and problem solve quickly. In getting to know each other through the application process, I felt as if I had a mentor that both listened and guided, something that I truly respected. Stacey is compassionate, and in every conversation that we had, I always felt very safe and her professionalism was something unique, and truly represented the ethos of the community at Friends In Deed. I will forever be grateful for everyone that was able to help me through these challenging times.*

We are so glad to be able to help folks like Susan stay afloat, stay housed, and meet their goals in life. Kudos to Stacey for her leadership of our EPRA program!

[Here is the link](#) to the 2023 Pasadena Homeless Count report. I encourage you to read it and discuss it with family and friends.

Thanks for being a part of helping FID fulfill its mission of providing compassion, connection, and dignity to our most vulnerable neighbors.

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,  
Rabbi Joshua

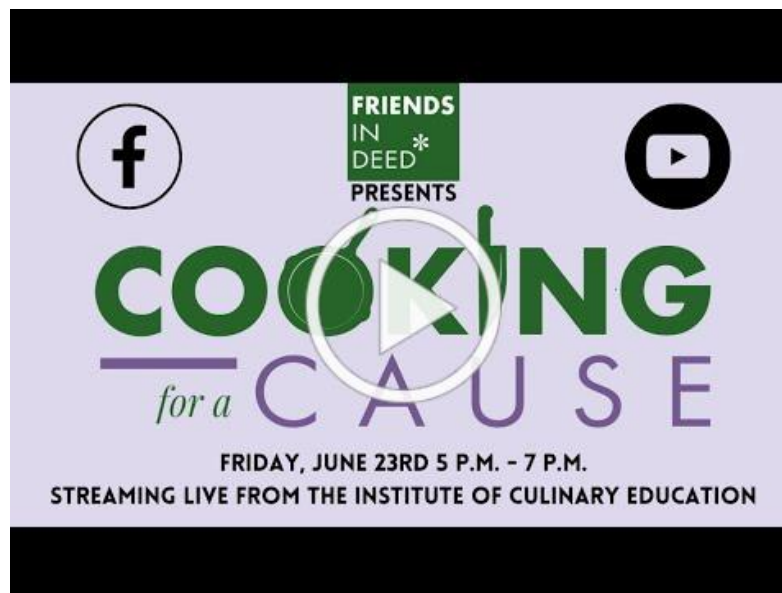


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**[Click here](#) to view the Cooking for a Cause recorded livestream.**

**Get Social**



### SB567 Press Conference

Executive Director Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater participated in a press conference with Assemblymember Chris Holden and other faith leaders to support SB567, which is a Homelessness Prevention/Renter protection bill moving its way through the legislative process...

[Read more.](#)



### 4th of July at the Food Pantry

Thank you to our incredible volunteers who dedicated their 4th of July to serve our community at the Food Pantry. Your dedication shines bright and truly embodies the spirit of service. Thank you for being the driving force behind our mission. Despite it being a holiday, we were able to support approximately 120 households...

[Read more.](#)

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## News and Events

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### Back to School Drive

As this current school year ends and summer begins, we are already looking forward to the upcoming school year and making sure the young students in our Food Pantry community can start the year on an equal footing with their classmates. Each year we come to you, our Friends In Deed community, to

help us make the Back-to-School Backpack & School Supply Drive a success. We have set up an Amazon "[FID School Supply Drive Wish List](#)" if you prefer to order online and have purchases sent directly to Friends In Deed. You can also click the photo here for a PDF list to take shopping. Thank you!



**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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