



Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

As we all know, fires have been burning here in California and around the globe. The devastation this week in Hawaii is just horrible, and we send our deepest condolences to all those who have lost loved ones, animals, property and livelihood. Please consider one of the many organizations raising funds and supplies to help the victims.

On Monday, through a partner agency, we received a request for help for a local family. Here is their story, as told to us before we met with them on Wednesday.

Due to their landlord increasing their rent to an unmanageable amount, the family had to move out of their Pasadena home. They had been living in their car and in motels for the past 60 days, desperately looking for affordable housing for a working-class family. Both the husband and the wife work in the Pasadena/Altadena area. The husband works at a local business and the wife works at a school. Their children attend P.U.S.D. This family has been going without food, just to pay for gas to get to work each day over the past two months.

They had found a landlord who agreed to lease an apartment to them. They had exhausted their savings, living day-to-day on the streets, and were in desperate need of securing this opportunity to have a roof over their heads. Here is what they needed to move in:

SECURITY DEPOSIT \$2,690

1ST MONTH'S RENT \$2,690

MOVE OUT CLEANING FEE \$250

TOTAL AMOUNT NEEDED TO MOVE IN \$5,630

They could manage the monthly rent amount, but this family urgently needed help with the move-in cost before the landlord decided he could no longer hold the apartment.

We began another collaboration, this time between two of our

programs. Our Street Outreach and Housing team met with the family and gathered information. In the meantime, thankfully, friends of the family offered to host them while they finalized the new lease. Then, our Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance program did an intake and paid the family's move-in costs, and the family secured the apartment!

Sometimes, it can take several meetings and attempts to help an individual or family; sometimes it can take less than a week depending on the circumstances and if everyone works together. We are grateful that the latter was true for this family in need.

While all this was happening: in addition to the regular 530+ households using the Food Pantry, 344 school supplies and backpacks were distributed to students from over 50 schools; The Women's Room had one of its busiest weeks since pre-COVID; and we were awarded Nonprofit of the Year by Congresswoman Judy Chu!

Together, we are "doing together what we cannot do alone." As always, in order to ensure we can continue our work, and perhaps in honor of our award, please consider [a donation to support us](#) in our efforts to help those most in need - with compassion, connection, and dignity.

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,
Rabbi Joshua



We can only operate with your help!

Donate today

Forever Friends Legacy Society

Podcast

**2023-10 The Demographic of the
Forgotten: A Conversation with FID
Substance Abuse Specialist Olivia**

Esteb

On this episode, Rabbi Joshua talks with Olivia Esteb, the Substance Abuse Specialist on our Street Outreach and Housing team, who shares her story of growing up in Pasadena, having health and personal challenges as a kid that led her to a dark place, heroin addiction, homelessness, prison. And how, after many stints in rehab, love from her family and support of therapists and mentors, she has found her way back to a stable, sober life, a wonderful marriage, motherhood, and a career helping those in need - just like she was. It is an inspiring and moving conversation. [Listen now.](#)



Get Social



"Shopping" inside the Food Pantry

We're excited to say that the Food Pantry has reopened for "shopping" for the first time since before the pandemic. Our community can pick their own groceries on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 10am to 3pm. On Thursdays, from 10am to 1pm, we will continue to distribute "pre-packed" bags...[Read more.](#)



School Supply Drive

Backpacks and school supplies were given out on the first of two Saturday distributions to our Food Pantry families. We had donations and support from so many, including FCC, Assistance League of Flintridge, San Marino Community Church, Food Pantry volunteers, and more. Thank you to all of our volunteers and supporters... [Read more.](#)



Nap Room at TWR

Rest and recharge: thanks to the Pasadena Community Foundation, we now have a brand new nap room at The Women's Room! This serene space is equipped with three cozy beds, air purifiers, sound machines, and privacy curtains to provide our guests with a peaceful and rejuvenating rest. We are incredibly grateful for this thoughtful addition... [Read more.](#)

News and Events

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Thank you to those who were able to attend our Leaving a Lasting Legacy event this week! We hope you enjoyed the presentation on planned giving by Certified Financial Planner Juan C. Ros. For those not able to attend live, please click below to listen/watch at your own convenience:

[Recording Available Here!](#)



Water Bottles Needed!

Summertime heat is especially dangerous for people experiencing homelessness. Please consider purchasing an extra case of water bottles next time you are at the market. On-site donations are appreciated Fridays and Saturdays from 9am to 3pm at 444 E. Washington Blvd.





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