



## Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

One of the benefits of having a Licensed Clinical Social Worker as our Director of Street Outreach and Housing is that we have the capacity to bring on Master of Social Work students to complete their required internships. For the past two years, Tish has secured several wonderful students, who have provided critical support for all our programs. Allow me to introduce five of them, who have all been with us at some point during the past two years. They have done tremendous work, and we are very grateful to have had them as part of our team. These are snippets of the bios they wrote themselves, something that will be very obvious with one of them!

**Stephanie Hernandez** started at Friends In Deed as an MSW outreach intern in January 2022. Previous to FID, Stephanie used to work in health insurance, enrolling low-income families in healthcare coverage. Stephanie also worked as a case manager for individuals with disabilities in Chicago. Stephanie earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame in IN. She is working on her Master of Social Work from the University of Kentucky. In her free time, she likes to take her dog to the park, watch crime shows, and spend time with family.



**Seth Reid** has been an EPRA intern since mid-2023. He earned his BA in English at UCLA, where he learned to use words like "juxtapose" and "ostensibly" in order to sound, and get, smart. After he left the ivory tower of academia, he spent some time in the

ivory tower of his mom's guest room in Riverside. There he developed a passion for working in public schools and for spotting donkeys on hiking trails. Seeing slightly more potential for employment, he decided to focus on the public-school passion. He is now pursuing becoming a School Social Worker by getting his MSW online at the University of Kentucky. In his free time, he enjoys playing video games, bothering his roommate's cat, drawing comics, and watching TV.



**Nora Mathison** is pursuing her Master of Social Work from California State University, Northridge. In September 2023, she started her MSW internship with Friends In Deed, where she works in The Women's Room. Before starting graduate school, Nora worked as a writer and editor for the Lost Women of Science podcast. She has also worked as a fact checker, canvassed for a union, and conducted therapy for kids. She earned her BA in English from Barnard College in 2018. In her free time, she loves to read, meditate, and perform improv.



**Rae Wiederhoedt** is a Master of Social Work student at California State University, Northridge. She joined the Street Outreach and Housing team in October 2023 as an intern. Rae has also worked as a union camera assistant in the film/television industry, a bicycle mechanic, documentarian, and more. She originally hails from the Midwest but much prefers Southern California winters. In her spare time, Rae gardens, makes ceramics, and entertains her two cats.



**Miriam Amador** is a first year MSW intern who started at Friends in Deed in October 2023, where she supports the Food Pantry and Street Outreach and Housing programs. Miriam currently works for Los Angeles Unified School District as a Student and Family Resources Navigator, supporting the counseling department and linking students and families to resources.

Miriam earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice and her Master of Public Administration from California State University, Los Angeles. She is working on her second master's degree from UMass Global University. Miriam is a passionate soccer mom, who loves spending time with her family.



I want to thank everyone who has already given a gift for our Winter Appeal campaign – we are off to a great start! If you haven't yet, please [donate today](#) and help us reach our end of year goal. Don't underestimate the importance of every dollar, so give what you can and maybe even a little more. Thank you!

To all of those celebrating, Happy Hanukkah!

Blessings and have a lovely weekend (and go Lakers!),  
Rabbi Joshua



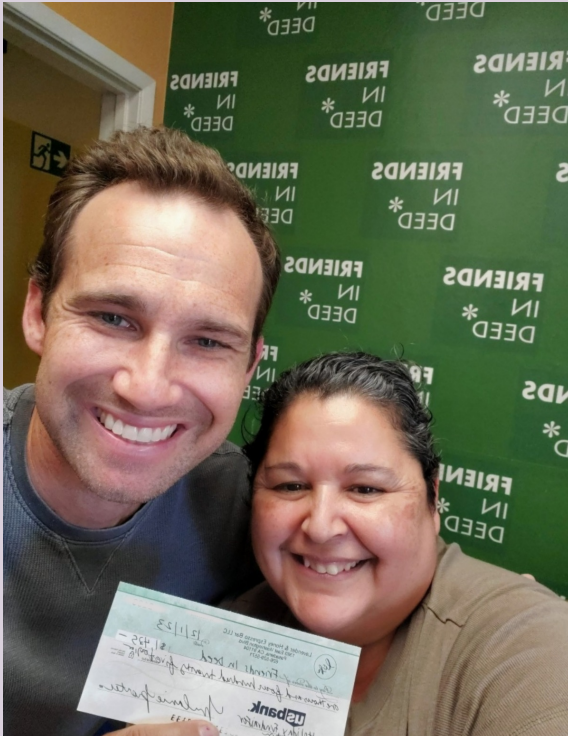
**We can only operate with your help!**



**Donate today**

## **Forever Friends Legacy Society**

### **Get Social**



#### **Lavender and Honey**

Raising our mugs to Lavender and Honey Espresso Bar for the incredible Giving Tuesday support! Their generous donation of \$1,425 will go a long way in making a positive impact through Friends In Deed. Together, we're brewing a community of kindness and compassion...[Read more.](#)



#### **Street Outreach Donation**

A heartfelt thanks to Sven and his daughter for their thoughtful donations of socks, water, snacks, and toilet paper for our Street Outreach and Housing team to hand out. Your kindness is helping us provide essential support to those in need...[Read more.](#)

#### **Omega Psi Phi**

Huge thanks to Omega Psi Phi



Fraternity for their impactful food drive! Thank you for embodying the spirit of giving...[Read more.](#)



## Cub Scouts Food Drive

Cub Scouts' Food Drive Scavenger Hunt 2023 was a success! These young leaders brought five cars filled with essential items for our Food Pantry. Thank you for making a difference in our community...[Read more.](#)

## News and Events

### The Women's Room on CBS/KCAL News!

Thank you to Kara Finnstrom and KCAL News for featuring The Women's Room on their "People Making a Difference" segment. [Watch the story here!](#)



### Vroman's Giving Tree

We're pleased to partner with Vroman's this holiday season. Head to the Children's Department at

either Vroman's location (695 E. Colorado Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91101 \*OR\* 3729 E Foothill Blvd Pasadena, CA 91107) to purchase a gift to donate through December 10th!

**FRIENDS IN DEED**  
*Giving Tree*

Every Giving Tree Purchase  
will receive a 20% discount

the giving tree  
FRIENDS IN DEED

Bring joy to a disadvantaged child this holiday season by visiting our "Giving Trees" located at our Colorado Blvd and Hastings Ranch stores and donating a gift to a child in need.

**NOVEMBER 11 - DECEMBER 10**

## State of FID Address

Thank you to all who attended our State of FID Address. In case you missed it, [the recording is available for viewing on Zoom](#).

State of FID Address

11 15 23

MONTH DAY YEAR

Recording available for viewing on Zoom



**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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