



Quarterly Newsletter

From the Board President

Dear Friend,

As we celebrate another vibrant week here at Friends In Deed, we're thrilled to recognize Volunteer Appreciation Week with a heartfelt salute to our incredible volunteers who bring their diverse backgrounds and talents to the Greater Pasadena area. Each volunteer adds to our community in a special way, enriching our programs and services with passion, dedication, and unwavering commitment to service. Thank you, volunteers, for all of your hard work!

This newsletter, we are shining a spotlight on the diverse tapestry of community members that make up our Friends In Deed family. From various backgrounds and corners of the globe, our community comes together, united by a shared goal: to uplift and support our neighbors in need. Whether you're a newcomer to Pasadena or a lifelong resident, your presence and contributions make a world of difference in the lives of those we serve.

Bret Schaefer
Board President, Friends In Deed



It is through your generosity that we are able to

provide these programs and services

Donate today

Join the Legacy Society

Stories from Our Programs



A Story of Building Community

The Program Associate on the staff of The Women's Room, Jenny, is bilingual in English and Spanish - a great benefit to the smooth operation of that program. And, with her consistent presence, we are finding the Hispanic cohort among our TWR guests is growing and blossoming into a supportive sub-community that brightens the program by being there. [Read more...](#)

A Story of Enabling Dignity

Our Food Pantry team did an amazing job of adapting the way the pantry ran during the pandemic - pivoting to offering safe services outside. But there's no getting around the fact that the temporary system offered our clients less in the way of choice and flexibility than we like to be able to give.

One older Asian lady found this particularly difficult. She obviously took pride in what she fed her family, and she preferred fresh food. [Read more...](#)



Stories from Our Community

John's Story - Perspective and Empathy



John has a long and distinguished history as a Friends In Deed volunteer. He started helping out as a grant writer in 2009, but soon found a more permanent home in our Food Pantry. For a while, when he was between jobs, he was volunteering full time! These days, he carves out time for us on Wednesdays, taking a regular pantry shift. [Read more...](#)

Kanchi's Story - Profound Connection

By profession, Kanchi is a screenwriter with film production and set skills, but she lost her work during the writer's strike and that, plus going through a divorce, put her at risk of homelessness. Fortunately her life is now reasonably stable, but this experience has left her with a profound connection to the guests we welcome to The Women's Room. [Read more...](#)



Ursula's Story - Hope for the Future

As a one-time president of the Assistance League of Pasadena, Ursula Hyman knew of Friends In Deed through working with us on a number of projects. She feels that, in a developed country like the US, homelessness and hunger are a tragedy - and it is this belief that led to her becoming further involved and eventually joining the board just over two years ago. [Read more...](#)

Our Staff - Stories from Then and Now

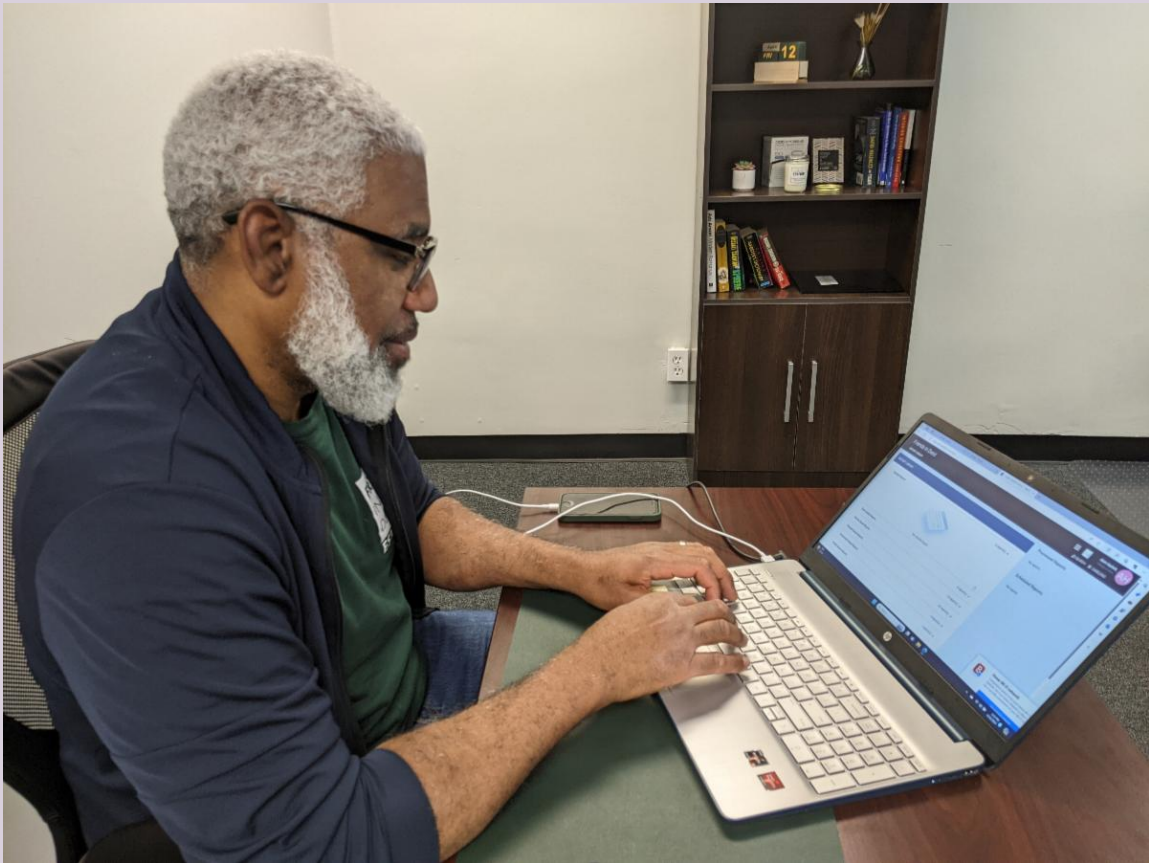
Ryan's Story - Helping the

"Others"

During the pandemic lockdown, Ryan (pictured here, as a child, with his mom) and his wife found themselves taking walks through the neighborhood to get a break from being cooped up in their apartment. Friends In Deed House was on their regular route, and they became intrigued enough to check us out. From there it wasn't long before Ryan started volunteering in the Food Pantry. [Read more...](#)



Stories from Our Archives



Street Outreach Team Member Al Uses HMIS Clarity

The HMIS Story - Worth Its Weight in Gold

It's easy to forget how far we've come in the information age. These days, almost all the information held by Friends In Deed is in electronic form, and we take for granted being able to collaborate digitally with the other agencies who work in our field.

This was not the case in 2003, according to an article in the Pasadena Star News. Back then, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) was still at the planning stages of developing a

database that could be used to track services provided to the unhoused population and to monitor the effectiveness of those services. The concept was ambitious - a single system that would link service providers in all of Los Angeles and Orange counties, whilst maintaining strict confidentiality for their clients. Pasadena organizations were already expressing interest, with Friends In Deed lobbying for the database to be both user-friendly and free to the service providers who would be using it.

Over twenty years later, at FID we could not imagine doing what we do without HMIS Clarity (as the platform is now known). For example: A client might lose their ID but, if their ID was previously uploaded to the system, it can be used to secure a housing opportunity the client would otherwise have missed out on. If we lose contact with a client, and a housing match comes up for them, we can put out an alert and service providers throughout the community will let us know if they make contact. If a client moves on to another city, another service provider can look up their record, and carry on where the previous provider left off in the process of getting that client into housing. Street Outreach team member Al (pictured here using the database) says it's "absolutely worth its weight in gold."

Programs

Bad Weather Shelter (BWS)

Providing cold-weather support for our neighbors experiencing homelessness

Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance (EPRA)

Short- and medium-term rental support to prevent eviction

Food Pantry

Dignified grocery shopping experience for 600+ households weekly

Street Outreach and Housing

Team of workers on the streets engaging with our neighbors experiencing homelessness and connecting them to services

The Women's Room (TWR)

Daytime shelter for homeless and at-risk women

Our Staff

Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater
Executive Director

Marty Campolo
Deputy Director and Grants Officer

Our Board

Bret Schaefer
President

Stacy Santeramo
Vice President

Ryan Greer
Senior Director of Programs

Merria Velasco
Senior Director of Development

Kenyetta Wilson
Controller

Helen Angove
Director of Operations

Tim Nistler
Director of The Food Pantry

Tish Inong
Director of Street Outreach and Housing

Stacey McCarroll
Director of EPRA

Lindsey Reed
Director of TWR

Laura Van Alstine
Director of BWS

Marlene Martinez
Assistant Director of EPRA

Eva Rivera
Food Pantry Manager

Virginia Valencia
Outreach Program Manager & Mental Health Specialist

William Shelby
Senior Intensive Case Management Specialist

Najwa Payton Jones
Housing Navigator and Outreach Liaison

Olivia Esteb
Housing Navigation Program Manager and Substance Abuse Specialist

Isaac Arreola
Harm Reduction Specialist

Christopher Pelch
Treasurer

Leslie White
Secretary

Richard Cheung
Immediate Past President

Debby Singer

Kevin Bourland

Ervin Galvan

Tim Howett

Ursula Hyman

Nishanthi Kurukulasuriya

Jeff Salcido

Lana Slavitt

and;

Pam Marx
Board President Emeritus

Al Hackett
Outreach Specialist

Jane Armbruster
*TWR Program Manager and
Case Counselor*

Kristina Martin
Food Pantry Program Associate

Elyse Reed
Development Associate

Jenny Juarez
TWR Program Associate

Doug Haught
Security and Grounds

Coty Dietel
Food Pantry Aide

Miriam Amador
*MSW Intern, Street
Outreach/Food Pantry*

Nora Mathison
*MSW Intern, The Women's
Room*

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.

[Having trouble seeing this message? View as Webpage](#)

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

[Unsubscribe development@friendsindeedpas.org](mailto:unsubscribe.development@friendsindeedpas.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by development@friendsindeedpas.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!