



Quarterly Newsletter

From the Board President

Dear Friend,

With the winter season, and weather, well underway, we are thrilled to announce the reopening of our Friends In Deed Bad Weather Shelter. During the pandemic and its aftermath, we shifted to a Bad Weather Supplies distribution and Emergency Motel Program, which sustained our vulnerable neighbors during the winter months. We are grateful to now be able to re-open our congregate shelter, and look forward to sheltering up to 50 people on wet or cold nights for the rest of the cold weather season at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pasadena.

Thank you for your support towards sheltering those experiencing homelessness during the cold and wet winter months. If you are interested in joining me and dozens of others in volunteering at the Bad Weather Shelter, please email Laurav@friendsindeedpas.org. Read on for stories about the Bad Weather Shelter and the many staff members and volunteers involved in operating this critical needs program, a beautiful example of **doing together what we cannot do alone*.

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



George and Alicia's Story - Giving Back

After having lived at George's father's ranch about a decade ago George and Alicia made the choice to move south to be closer to Alicia's family in Pasadena. They had savings, and were confident that George - an experienced construction worker - would soon find a job to support their young family.

Unfortunately it didn't work out like that. The cost of motels burned through their savings, and George was only able to find short-term jobs that paid far less than they needed. [Read more...](#)

The Bennett Family's Story - Clawing Tooth and Nail

Street Outreach team members Angel and Olivia were out on the streets when they came across the Bennett family in their packed car near the Lincoln motel. Olivia offered them some of the sack lunches that are so kindly provided for us by Throop Unitarian Universalist Church, and got talking. She discovered that the family of four were Pasadena natives, living in their car.

The family had been

experiencing problems for some time. [Read more...](#)



Rose's Story - Made to Feel at Home

We've talked before about "Rose" a high-acuity client who has been living on the streets for 20 years. Some years ago she was walking down the street when she ran into Friends In Deed's pantry director, Tim, who happened to be an old acquaintance of hers. Tim told her about Friends In Deed, and Rose has been using our services ever since. [Read more...](#)

Stories from Our Community

Liz's Story - A Grass-Roots Initiative

Liz is not typical of the volunteers we feature in this newsletter. For one thing, she has never actually volunteered at Friends In Deed! In fact, she works at Union Station Homeless Services, and is married to Friends In Deed staffer William Shelby - so she is practically one of the family. But back when the Bad Weather shelter first began,

before FID was even involved, Liz was one of the first volunteers helping to run the new program.

At that point, BWS was just a bunch of cots and scratchy army surplus blankets in the Salvation Army gymnasium. There was no meal provided for the clients.

[Read more...](#)



JP's Story - Public Service

Following a career as a deputy sheriff in the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department, it turned out that JP wasn't done with public service. Through his involvement with Pasadena First United Methodist Church he began volunteering with Friends In Deed's Bad Weather Shelter many years ago – setting up cots and cooking and serving dinner – and has been part of the FID community ever since!

Partly because of his professional background, JP finds he is very comfortable around the folks who use our Bad Weather Shelter. [Read more...](#)

Richard's Story - Put to Work

About a decade ago, one of chiropractor Dr. Richard

Cheung's patients talked to him about a nonprofit he was involved in. Richard was interested in this nonprofit, particularly in its Bad Weather Shelter program, which was hosted by a church very close to his practice. So his patient invited him along on one of the nights it was operational.

Richard says he was put to work immediately - setting up cots, organizing bags of client belongings, and cooking dinner. He says he was "moved and touched" by the clients he met that night. So much so, that he met with the then executive director of Friends In Deed, Pat O'Reilly, only a week later and offered his services. [Read more...](#)



Richard pictured with housing navigator Najwa at the Bad Weather Shelter

Our Staff - Stories from Then and Now

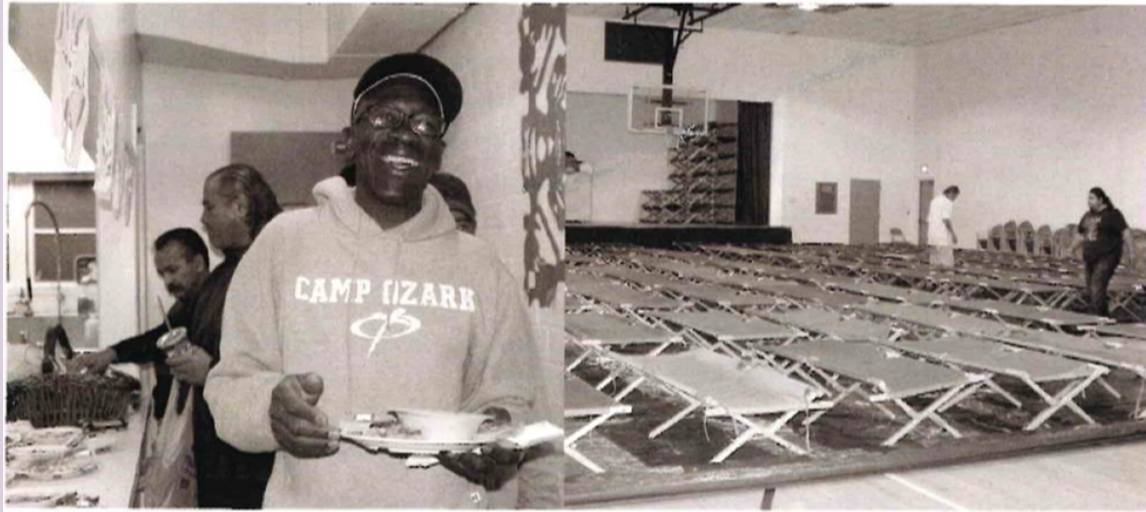
Laura's Story - Bringing the Shelter Back to Life

Laura (pictured here one Christmas at the Bad Weather Shelter) is both one of our newest staff members, and one of our longest serving! As Director of the Bad Weather Shelter she has been with us only a matter of weeks, but as a Bad Weather Shelter worker she has been helping to cover the winter season for over 20 years! She was the ideal person to take on the role of Director of the Bad Weather Shelter as we pivot back to running a congregate shelter. [Read more...](#)



Stories from Our Archives

The Pasadena **Bad Weather Shelter**



An image from the cover of a Bad Weather Shelter information leaflet from 10 years ago

The Bad Weather Shelter's Story - Nearly Four Decades of Care

During a particularly severe winter in the mid 1980s, Dennis Pettigrew, a regular patron of Union Station Homeless Services, died of exposure while sleeping on a bus bench. Determined to prevent such a tragedy from ever happening again, Union Station, the Red Cross, and the Salvation Army, together with several downtown Pasadena congregations (including All Saints, Pasadena Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church of Pasadena, First Congregational Church of Pasadena, and St Andrew Catholic Church) opened a 22-bed shelter located in the Salvation Army gymnasium in 1986. It was run almost completely by volunteers, with Union Station, the Red Cross, and the Salvation Army taking it in turns to provide a paid staff member for each night it was open.

In 1989 the shelter became a program of Friends In Deed (at that time still known as the Ecumenical Council of Pasadena Area Churches) and moved to the gymnasium of Pasadena Covenant Church, which continued to host it for an impressive 30 years!

During the 2020 COVID Pandemic, congregate shelters became unsafe and, with the support of Pasadena City Council, FID's Bad Weather program was able to provide shelter in motels. We are grateful to many of the city's motels for opening their doors to this

population.

Obviously, the expense of motels limited the number of people we were able to help, and we are glad to be able to reopen this year as a congregate emergency shelter once again, this time with our new hosts at Trinity Lutheran Church. And, while we hope that we will now be able to provide these services for many years to come, our even greater hope would be to find other solutions to homelessness so that the services of BWS are never needed again.

In Memoriam

Dorothy Edwards

After having experienced homelessness herself, Dorothy became a fierce and indefatigable activist and advocate for those who live on the streets, traveling all over the country to speak out on their behalf. She worked at Housing Works in Los Angeles (the same organization that helped her when she was unhoused) as an Enrichment Services Coordinator.

Dorothy lived close to Friends In Deed House, and, in the early days of her recovery from addiction, she used to say she would come out of her home and know that she could turn left and go down the hill to buy drugs, or turn right and go to The Women's Room. We are grateful that she always chose to turn right; she was a charismatic and



inspiring presence who will be greatly missed by many of our staff and clients. Dorothy continued to make occasional visits to The Women's Room for the rest of her life.

Stephanie Zanglis Soewers

Stephanie was a vibrant and compassionate person who was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Monterey Park. She put herself through college and established her own business as a court reporter before marrying Randy and adopting a son, Alexander. She loved to travel, and Brazil and Greece were countries close to her heart.



As a member of the Philoptochos Society at her church, and as a long-time supporter of Friends In Deed, Stephanie was responsible for forging strong connections between the two organizations. We would like to thank Stephanie's family for suggesting donations to the Friends In Deed Food Pantry in lieu of flowers.

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 400+ 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

Our Board

Bret Schaefer
President

Marty Campolo
*Deputy Director and Grants
Officer*

Ryan Greer
Senior Director of Programs

Merria Velasco
Senior Director of Development

Kenyetta Wilson
Controller

Helen Angove
Operations Manager

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
*Team Lead and Mental Health
Specialist*

William Shelby
*Senior Intensive Case
Management Specialist*

Najwa Payton Jones
*Housing Navigator and
Outreach Liaison*

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Housing Navigator

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Peer Specialist

Seth Reid
*Emergency Motel Program
Manager*

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

Nora Mathison
MSW Intern, TWR

Rae Wiederhoedt
MSW Intern, Street Outreach

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

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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