



Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

Happy New Year! As we begin 2024, it is a big year for Friends In Deed – we are celebrating our 130th year of service to the community! Since 1894, we have been providing compassion and dignity to our neighbors, whether they are experiencing homelessness or other vulnerable situations. We are so proud of our longevity and the continuity with which we have been able to provide our services. So be on the lookout for fun and exciting events and activities throughout the year!



To start this year, we have a very special story to share. This is a unique situation, one that has some difficult aspects, but ultimately ends well.

Tacoby, one of our Street Outreach and Housing clients, has been working with Najwa, one of our Housing Navigators, to get a place in housing. He had been matched with a unit in the Salvation Army's Hope Center, and he had received an invitation for an interview with the housing authority to get his Section 8 voucher.

Najwa was surprised when she was not invited to join Tacoby for his interview. She was even more surprised when the interviewer and Tacoby came back out of the office looking somber. Tacoby explained that he had been told he was ineligible for a housing voucher because he is a registered sex offender - but he vehemently denied this. "It's my brother," he said. "He uses my name."

It's the kind of excuse our Street Outreach and Housing team hears often, and Najwa might easily have left it there. But years of working with people has honed her instincts, and she had a feeling Tacoby was telling the truth. She looked up his name on the Megan's Law website, and found that the search led to a photo that was not of Tacoby. Just as Tacoby had suggested, his name was listed as a known alias of a different man altogether.

Najwa met with Tacoby at the courthouse, and presented the facts convincingly enough that one of the public defenders was prepared to write an official letter stating there was no evidence that Tacoby had any sex-offense conviction. Najwa then arranged for a Live Scan test, and when the results came back confirming Tacoby's identity, she was able to get his housing process back on track. Tacoby moved into his new apartment this morning! We are so glad that Najwa trusted her instincts and went the extra mile to clear her client's name.



Tacoby entering his new apartment.



Street Outreach and Housing staff William and Najwa assisting with Tacoby's move in.

We are so happy for Tacoby, not only for his new apartment, but more importantly, for having his good name returned to him. The smile on his face in the photo says it all.

Thank you so much for being a part of our 130-year motto: "doing together what we cannot do alone."

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,
Rabbi Joshua



We can only operate with your help!

Donate today

Forever Friends Legacy Society

Get Social



Grace's Move In

Grace is our first client to move in to her new home in 2024, thanks to the dedicated efforts of our Street Outreach and Housing team. Here's to new beginnings and brighter days ahead! ☐
☐...[Read more.](#)

Tournament of Roses Water Donation

A big thank you to Desma and the Pasadena Tournament of Roses for their thoughtful



donation of 22 cases of water bottles left over from the Rose Parade! These waters are now quenching the thirst of those we serve in our programs. Your support means a lot...[Read more.](#)

News and Events

Volunteers Needed for the 2024 Bad Weather Shelter Season

We are proud to be able to operate the Bad Weather Shelter once again this season. With generous funding from the City of Pasadena, and thanks to our new partnership with Trinity Lutheran Church, we have a new location that can accommodate up to 50 individuals on cold or rainy nights. Please consider contacting Laura Van Alstine, Director of the Bad Weather Shelter, at laurav@friendsindeedpas.org or 626-797-2402 x120 to sign up for volunteer opportunities this year.



ACTS Thrift Store Partnership

If you wish to donate non-grocery items, bring your gently used items to ACTS Thrift Store (1311 N Altadena Dr, Pasadena, CA 91104).

Accepted donations include: clothing, shoes, hats, bags, books, household goods, and

accessories. **Please tell them you are making your donation on behalf of Friends In Deed**, and we will receive store credit that allows our clients to shop for themselves, which is a wonderful and empowering solution.

CLOSET CLEAN OUT?

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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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