



## Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

Imagine that you only have one eye, and that eye has lost most of its sight. You are 91 years old. You were never married, have no children and no family living any longer. Life is pretty challenging to say the least. And now add this: you are unsheltered, living in your van that you can't drive. This scenario describes a gentleman that has been working with our Street Outreach and Housing team for quite some time. I want to share a few of the details about him and what has happened in the time since we started working together.

R. was Isaac's client before he came to FID. When Isaac was hired as our Harm Reduction Specialist, he called Tish and shared about R. because he was concerned about him and wanted to continue providing services to him. Tish and Olivia went to meet R. where he was parked off of Colorado. They enrolled him in Street Outreach so he would be able to continue working with Isaac when he started at FID. Isaac and Olivia went to visit R. on a number of occasions to prepare him for a transfer to Housing Navigation. The majority of his life he lived pretty much as a nomad, staying in his van. After losing his sight, he became "stuck," and unable to be as self-sufficient on the streets as he had been most of his life. His limited eyesight and age has made him especially vulnerable. Olivia had the privilege of learning about R.'s life while working with him. R. was born to Italian immigrants, was never married, and never had any children. All of R.'s family has passed away. He worked for a short while at Lockheed Martin, and then collected and sold antiques at the Rose Bowl flea market. R. receives \$417 monthly social security and retirement from working at Lockheed, and does not spend his money so he built up quite a savings.

The team faced many challenges working with R. In Olivia's words, R. is very "old school," making it hard to offer support, since it is a real adjustment for him to ask for help. Olivia and Isaac worked hard, spending many afternoons with R. taking him to get groceries, and lunch to ease him into obtaining additional supportive services. They visited with the housing matchers, and went to get him assessed for Access transportation. R. eventually had housing

options presented to him for two different permanent supportive housing sites, and chose the unit that was more immediately available. R. got his keys for an ADA unit and moved into his apartment at the end of January.

R.'s transition into housing has been a slow one. He was apprehensive about leaving his van. For the first couple of weeks, Olivia visited him almost daily because he was not sleeping in his apartment. He visited his unit but was choosing to sleep in his van. On one of the recent rainy days, Olivia took R. to go get lunch and set the table for him at his apartment. They sat and talked about what he needed in his new home to want to sleep here. He wanted his coffee. R. and Olivia went to his van and got his coffee supplies, some food and he went back to his unit. The next day when she called, R. shared that he slept in his place. R. shared that being inside has not been easy for him. He still hangs out at his van but has been sleeping indoors. 91 years old, mostly blind, alone save for the support our team has been providing. We are grateful for the fact that he is off the street, and pray that he is able to adjust.

There is not much commentary or additional words I can add to this story. Huge thanks to Olivia, Isaac and the whole team for sticking with R. and helping him get to this new place.

Blessings and have a lovely weekend (and Happy Saint Patrick's Day to those celebrating!)

Rabbi Joshua



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

**Donate today**

**Forever Friends Legacy Society**

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**Get Social**





## Herstory 2024

The Women's Room Program Manager Jane represented Friends In Deed at Herstory 2024! ☐ Hosted by the Commission on the Status of Women, this year's theme celebrated the journeys of women overcoming barriers in the workplace. FID and The Women's Room are proud to be part of this important conversation....[Read more.](#)



## World Buddhism Association Headquarters Donation

We're grateful for the generosity of the World Buddhism Association Headquarters. Their recent donation of over 2500 lbs of shelf-stable food, including a whopping 1100 lbs of rice, will make a huge difference in our community. ☐ They toured our Food Pantry and are eager to explore further ways to support our mission in the future...[Read more.](#)



## First Congregational Church

Thank you to First Congregational Church of Pasadena, United Church of Christ for inviting Rabbi Joshua to come speak last weekend and for your continued support of our Street Outreach and Housing program.

If your congregation would like to invite Rabbi Joshua to come speak about the wonderful work happening at Friends In Deed, please reach out...[Read more.](#)



# News and Events

## TWR Art at Vroman's Bookstore

We are excited to announce that The Women's Room's art is currently displayed at Vroman's Bookstore (695 E Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91101).

Stop by for a look and please join us on March 23rd at 4pm for an artist reception to celebrate FLOURISH.



## Golfing for Good

Golfing for Good is taking place on Friday, April 5, 2024 at Brookside Golf Club. [Registration is now open!](#)



## Warm Clothing Needed

BWS is in need of warm clothing for clients at the shelter. Donations are only accepted on weather-activated nights, from 6-7:30pm. Drop off at Trinity Lutheran Church (984 Locust Street, Pasadena, 91106). Please park in the lot on the east side of the building, and look for BWS security.

Members of the community can call 888-915-8111 at any time to find out if the shelter is activated.





CELEBRATING

130

Years of Service

\* EST. 1894

**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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