

## **Weekly Message**

Dear Friend,

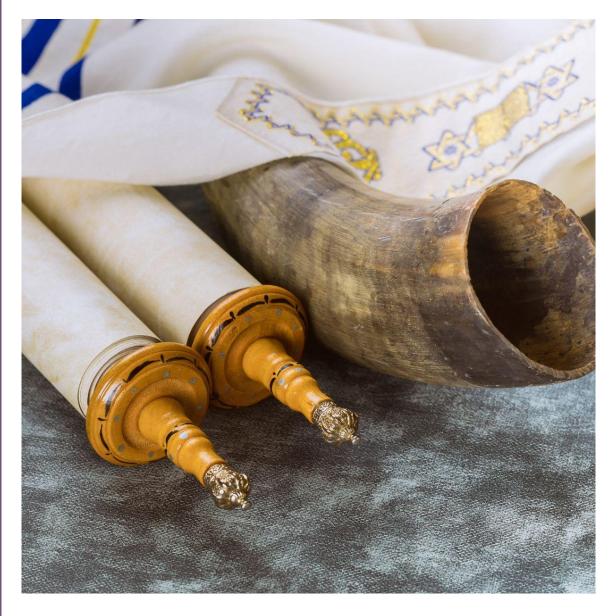
Rose's journey out of homelessness was anything but straightforward. For years, she faced immense challenges, stemming from her time in foster care and juvenile detention, and her severe mental health and substance abuse struggles. These experiences made her one of the hardest people to house — vulnerable in ways most can't imagine. But her vulnerability also opened the door to a rare opportunity: a housing subsidy and emergency voucher from the city of Pasadena, tailored for people like her.

Olivia, our Housing Navigation Program Manager and Substance Abuse Specialist, took on Rose's case with patience and persistence, knowing that securing housing for Rose was going to be far more complex than simply handing over the voucher. Olivia helped her navigate the complex housing process. However, Rose's decisions were unpredictable. She rejected the voucher, asked for it back, and turned down multiple housing options, leaving Olivia racing against time as the voucher's expiration loomed.

Despite the setbacks, Olivia never gave up. Even though Rose's voucher expired, they worked closely with multiple agencies and are now awaiting her placement in permanent supportive housing, where she will receive onsite case management to address her needs.

Rose's story is a powerful reminder that the road to stability is often long and difficult, but with persistence and compassion, even the hardest-to-house individuals can find a place to call home.

One of the ways in which we have been able to help people like Rose during our 130 years of service is through our amazing partnerships with congregations. I want to give a huge shout out to three local churches that are celebrating major milestones this year. First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, and Pasadena Presbyterian Church are both turning 150, and Pasadena New Thought Center (formerly Church of Truth) is turning 100. All three congregations have been strong supporters of Friends In Deed throughout their histories, and we are thrilled to join in their celebration!



Finally, tonight and tomorrow, in the Jewish community, we observe Yom Kippur, the holy Day of Atonement. As the leader of FID, I interact with many people throughout the year: staff, board members, volunteers, donors, funders, elected officials, and members of the public. One of my leadership goals is to give credit for good things to others, and to take responsibility for mistakes that may occur. As a human being, I know that I am not perfect; as none of us are. So, the phrase of the season in Judaism is one that I offer to each of you: if I have hurt you in any way, knowingly or unknowingly, I humbly ask your forgiveness. Thank you for the privilege of leading this amazing organization.

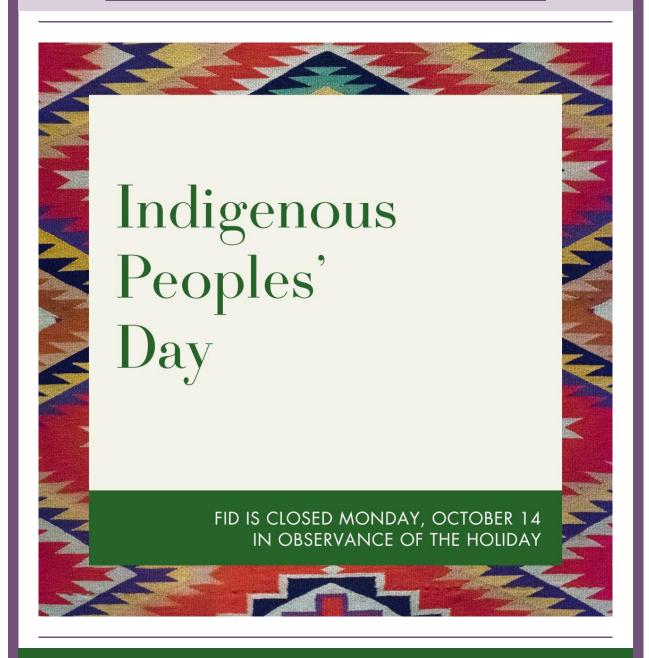
Blessings and have a lovely weekend, Rabbi Joshua



We can only operate with your help!

Donate today to be part of our story!

**Forever Friends Legacy Society** 











# Our Pantry Volunteers = The Real MVPs

Despite the scorching heat last week, our incredible team of Pantry Volunteers showed up, as always, with smiles on their faces and a cando attitude...Read more.



#### \$10 on 10/10

Yesterday, October 10th, was World Homeless Day — a day for raising awareness and taking action to support those experiencing homelessness in our community...Read more.



### **Donor-Advised Funds (DAF) Day**

We invite you to make a lasting impact through your DAF. A Donor-Advised Fund is a tax-efficient, charitable savings account that lets you set aside money and choose which causes or organizations to support. Your generosity can help us provide essential services for our most vulnerable neighbors...Read more.

### **Our Stories from the Street Honorees**

This year, we honored three monumental partners whose support has been crucial to our mission. Each honoree shared a brief video reflecting on their connection to Friends In Deed and the significance of our work together.



#### First United Methodist Church Pasadena

Watch Now



# We Olive Pasadena and owner Ervin Galvan

Watch Now



# The Women's Room Design Angels

Watch Now

### **News and Events**

# The October Calendar for The Women's Room is now available!

Check out the full line-up of activities throughout the month...Learn more.



### October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

1 in 8 women in the United States will develop breast cancer in her lifetime...<u>Learn more</u>.



#### **Hispanic Heritage Month**

September 15 - October 15

This month, we honor the incredible ways people of color enrich the fabric of Pasadena. From local businesses and artists to advocates and leaders, their impact touches every corner of our city. Let's celebrate and uplift the voices, stories, and achievements of our Hispanic and Latinx neighbors.





**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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