

Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

John is 66 years old, living alone in Pasadena. For over a decade, he has called the same small apartment home, managing to pay the rent each month with his modest Social Security retirement benefits. But lately, the math just doesn't add up. Despite the rent being below market rate, rising costs of living have made it nearly impossible for John to cover the essentials, let alone any unexpected expenses.

A series of medical issues began to eat away at his already limited income. With gaps in his insurance coverage, John was forced to pay out of pocket for treatments, leaving him behind on rent. It wasn't for lack of effort; John has been searching for part-time work to supplement his income but, with each passing year, the job market feels more distant. At 66, his age has become a barrier to employment opportunities.

To get by, John spends his early mornings collecting recyclables on trash days in Pasadena, hoping to earn a few extra dollars. For food, he relies on local food pantries. He's applied for senior housing, but the waitlist is painfully long; it could take years before a unit becomes available.

John's situation grew more desperate as his debts accumulated. He knew that, without help, he might lose the home he's worked so hard to keep. That's when Friends In Deed stepped in. Through our Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance (EPRA) program, John received the help he so desperately needed. The program covered his past-due rent and three months' worth of future rent, buying John time until his Medicare Plan B could begin to alleviate his medical costs. With a temporary safety net in place, John could breathe a little easier, knowing that his home - and his dignity - are intact, at least for now.

While John continues to navigate the uncertainties of aging and the job market, he knows he's not alone. Friends In Deed is there, fighting alongside him, offering hope and a lifeline for the future.



As always, we can only help folks like John, and the thousands of others who seek assistance from our programs, without your generosity and support. A great way to support us is to attend *Stories from the Street* tomorrow night! There are still seats available, so please join us, even if you haven't RSVP'd - and don't miss out on an evening of food, drinks, opportunity drawings, the honoring of some wonderful people, and, of course, seeing the film 'The Public.' It is one of our mission-driven events, raising funds while also raising awareness and conversation around the critical issue of homelessness. Join us!

To learn more about how libraries are an integral part of our community, and a resource for our neighbors experiencing homelessness, listen to my recent <u>podcast</u>, an interview with Pasadena Library Director, Tim McDonald.

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

Annual Impact Report



The FY 2024 Annual Impact Report is now available

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Get Social

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Hunger Action Month may be coming to an end, but there's still time to participate!

Director of the Food Pantry, Tim, shares some great ways to get involved in this important campaign...<u>Learn more.</u>

Check it out!

Friends In Deed received front page coverage in a recent edition of the Outlook newspaper. We feel so blessed to have the opportunity to spread the word about the incredible



work of our Street Outreach and Housing team...<u>Read more.</u>



Four Flintridge Sacred Heart 9th and 10th graders volunteer in the Food Pantry

Four 9th and 10th graders, with their chaperones, spent their Day of Service in the Food Pantry helping our Pantry Community as they came for food...<u>Read more.</u>

News and Events

The 2nd Annual Stories from the Street is on Saturday, September 28th

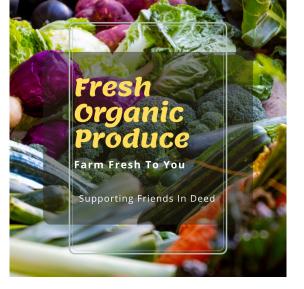
Experience an unforgettable night under the stars at Friends In Deed's outdoor movie night fundraiser...<u>Learn more.</u>



Farm Fresh to You

Revitalize your plate with organic goodness! Our partnership with Farm Fresh To You lets you enjoy fresh, organic produce delivered to your door, and 10% goes back to supporting Friends In Deed. It's a win-win for healthy living and community support! Just visit Farm Fresh to You to sign up.

If you are a current customer, use this link to automatically add the fundraising code: FRIENDSINDEED





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 US

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