



## **Weekly Message**

Dear Friend,

For my final email of the year, I wanted to share one more story of an individual who has been able to find his way back from very difficult circumstances thanks to the work of our Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance (EPRA) team.

After overcoming a substance abuse issue and navigating a recent divorce, Jacob moved into a sober living facility, motivated to stay on the road to recovery, clean up his debt, and create a better life for his two children. Within just a couple of months, unexpected expenses developed after his son was involved in an accident, causing Jacob to fall behind on his rent.

Highly motivated to stay on track, Jacob reached out to Friends In Deed's EPRA program. Our staff recognized his commitment to recovery and rebuilding his life. We provided him with the funding to catch up on his rent, as well as assisting with a couple more months of support to help him regain financial stability.

Jacob embraced the opportunity to work with the EPRA team. We connected him with the Flintridge Center for job placement and resources, and Stacey, Director of EPRA, worked closely with him to develop a manageable debt repayment plan. Jacob made the effort to contact his creditors and negotiate with each one for a payment plan or debt reduction. He also enrolled in training in order to become certified as a substance abuse counselor. Grateful for EPRA's support and feeling more confident about his future, Jacob looks forward to landing a job and developing a new career path, and is excited for the new beginnings that await him.



This past Sunday, we had one of our most heart-warming events of the year, Christmas for the Kids. Thanks to the amazing generosity of so many people, and our long-standing partnership with Vroman's Bookstore, we supported 141 families, totaling 314 kids, with gifts to be shared this holiday season. The smiles on their faces, and the gratitude expressed, is always a beautiful way to end our year. Huge shout out to Tim, Eva, Kristina, and all of the volunteers who make this day possible!

Finally, if you haven't already given to our Winter Appeal, I sincerely hope that you will consider a [gift](#) before the end of year. We are just over 50% toward our goal of \$380,000! It is only with your [support](#) that we can provide our services to the most vulnerable in our community—of which saw record numbers this year. Thank you for helping us to fulfill our motto, "doing together what we cannot do alone."

On behalf of the staff and board of Friends In Deed, we wish you a joyous and meaningful holiday season, and a Happy New Year. We will be closed until January 2nd. See you in 2025!

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,



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

**Donate today to be part of our story!**

**Forever Friends Legacy Society**

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## Get Social



**A big thank you to Luisa Rengifo for organizing her very first food drive for the Friends In Deed Food Pantry!**

Luisa rallied her community to make a difference, and we're so grateful for her generosity and effort. Every donation helps us serve nearly 600 households each week...[Read More.](#)

**The Ethel J. Scantland Foundation has faithfully supported The Women's Room for more than ten years**

We are profoundly grateful for this year's grant of \$10,000 and for their ongoing trust in us as we support vulnerable women in their efforts to improve their lives...[Read More.](#)



**Thank you to all the incredible volunteers who showed up to help us beautify the FID House campus**

Your hard work and collaboration with our landscaper have transformed our front patio—no more tripping hazards!...[Read More.](#)

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## News and Events

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### Happy Holidays!

To give our hardworking staff a chance to enjoy time with their loved ones, Friends In Deed will be closed from **Saturday, December 21st** through **Wednesday, January 1st**...[Learn More.](#)



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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