



Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

Happy New Year! As we begin 2025, I want to start by sharing a story that actually began in the early months of 2024. It is an example of the commitment and perseverance of those who seek our help, and the staff that provide it.

In February 2024, in desperation, Susan reached out to Friends In Deed. After being laid off from her long-standing career in higher education, she found herself struggling to make ends meet. Despite her diligent efforts—in her late 50s—to secure a new job, age discrimination and qualification barriers left her with no income and mounting rent debt. For the first time in her 38-year working life, Susan faced the unimaginable: potential eviction.

Her heartfelt application detailed 18 years of stability in the same Pasadena apartment and a deep desire to regain her footing. Stacey, Director of Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance (EPRAs), felt an immediate connection to Susan's story.

We paid Susan's rental arrears and provided three months of assistance to help her stabilize. Stacey encouraged Susan to expand her job search beyond her field and consider options she might not have otherwise. However, with her parents' health declining in Northern California, Susan faced an even harder decision: staying in Los Angeles, the place she called home for over two decades, or moving to care for her family.

By late October, family responsibilities became urgent, and Susan made the difficult choice to leave Los Angeles to care for her aging parents full-time. Though the path was far from easy, she reached out months later with heartfelt gratitude: "Friends In Deed gave me hope during my lowest point, and I'll forever be thankful for the stability and compassion I received. One day, I hope to help someone in need just as you helped me."



Susan's journey may not fit the traditional narrative of success, but for the EPRA team, it exemplifies the true impact of their work. By relieving her immediate financial stress, they offered Susan the breathing room to make critical decisions and find a path forward outside of crisis mode. It's a reminder that sometimes, success is simply helping someone find the courage to take the next step forward.

While we are sad that Susan ultimately had to leave her home, we are grateful that she is able to be with her parents in their time of need.

Now, I want to thank everyone who contributed to our year-end

winter appeal—your generosity helped us to not only reach our goal of \$380,000, but exceed it! The ability to do our work in the community is only possible through your support, and you came through big time. This allows us to start 2025 with the confidence to advance our strategic initiatives and continue to provide the much needed support to our most vulnerable neighbors. This was truly an effort that exemplifies our 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 to be part of our story!

Forever Friends Legacy Society

Get Social



Field Elementary School food drive

They collected an amazing 1,270 pounds of food for our Food Pantry! Your generosity helps us feed hundreds of families each week...[Read more.](#)



The Rose Parade Tournament of Roses Queen and Court joined TWR guests for a Royal Tea Party

The Sweet Teas served hot tea, finger sandwiches, salad, and dessert while the Court and The Women's Room guests exchanged stories and talked about...[See more.](#)



Shoutout to Cub Scouts Pack 515 for their amazing Food Pantry Drive Scavenger Hunt

Pack 515 continued their yearly tradition, going back many years, to support the FID Food Pantry, showing the power of community and generosity in action...[Read more.](#)



Plushies with Purpose Club from Westridge School

This incredible group brought over 350 plushies to share with the families who attended, spreading extra warmth and joy this holiday season...[Read more.](#)



Celebrating the sweet generosity of The Women's Room volunteer, Celia!

Every Thursday, Celia brightens our TWR guests' days with her delicious desserts, and the week before the holidays, she baked an extra-special Christmas cake...[Read more.](#)

Eva Lin Realty Group provides 15



bicycles for FID Christmas for the Kids event

Her team has given away 1,000 bicycles to kids in the Pasadena community over the last 10 years...[Read more.](#)

News and Events

Bad Weather Shelter

The Bad Weather Shelter is open at Trinity Lutheran Church on a weather-activated basis from January 9th through April 30th.

[View more information on our website.](#)



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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Friends In Deed | 444 E. Washington Blvd. | Pasadena, CA 91104 US

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