



Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

We want to extend our prayers and support to all of our donors, volunteers, staff members, and their families who lost their homes in the Eaton fire. There are many, and we are here for you, too.

Amid chaotic and difficult times like we face right now, sometimes small, normal moments are all the more important. Here is one that I experienced this week:



One morning, I stopped by the Bad Weather Shelter to check in on staff and clients. As I walked in, I heard two staff members and an older gentleman, one of the men staying at the shelter, bantering about something with passion. I stopped to listen, and this is what I heard. "No man, the best boxer of all time was Ali," said one of the staff. The younger staff member replied, "No way, Sugar Ray or Holyfield." The older gentleman started talking about boxers I hadn't heard of, and neither had the young guy. "Just Google it and you will see! These guys were the best!" He went on, "Listen, young fella, you got to know your history." They were laughing, enjoying each other's company, taking time to just live and talk about things that they all loved. And once boxing ran its course, they moved on to the NFL playoffs and who the best quarterback was. The bantering and disagreements started again!

For a brief moment, I was transported—there was no fire, there was no destruction and devastation, no loss or chaos. Just a slice of normalcy amongst the weight of grief. I hope we can all have small moments like these where we can begin to give ourselves the space to heal and return to some semblance of balance.



We are beyond grateful to everyone who has already donated, contributed, and volunteered. If you are still looking for ways to help, here are some ways you can get involved:

- To sustain our vital programs and respond to these shifting needs, **[the most impactful way to help is by becoming a monthly recurring donor.](#)** Your steady, ongoing support ensures that we can provide immediate relief and long-term care for those most deeply affected. Even \$5 a month means we can properly plan to support our clients for the long-term.
- If you would like to help spread the word about items we need, **[our Amazon wish lists are located here.](#)** A local congregation has agreed to accept the donation boxes for us so that our staff do not get overwhelmed on-site. (Please note: most donation boxes do not include donor information, so if you would like an in-kind receipt, please email development@friendsindeedpas.org with a PDF of your order and we will get you an acknowledgment note as soon as possible.)
- Want to organize in your community? Arranging a food drive is an amazing way to help support us. We ask you to visit our

Food Pantry list of most needed "gold" items, and plan to bring the non-perishable groceries to FID on a Friday or Saturday in February or March.

- **The Women's Room** needs long-term, consistent volunteers. Commitment includes one day per week, either weekly or biweekly, for a 3-hour shift. TWR is open Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and volunteers are needed during these hours. Duties include welcoming and serving guests, organizing donations, leading activities, and distributing food and toiletries. If you are interested in learning more, please attend our information session held on Friday, January 24th at 9 a.m., or 12 p.m. noon at FID House, 444 East Washington Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91104

As we head into MLK weekend, I invite you to think about all of the ways that Dr. King spoke about income inequality, poverty, discrimination, and everything he said about the promise of America that we have yet to achieve. We know that the road ahead for our community will be long and challenging; we know that the path ahead for our nation and world is uncertain; we know the climate crisis that continues to ravage us isn't slowing down; and we know that the most vulnerable in our community will continue to bear the brunt of all these crises. And yet, together, as a community, we will rebuild, "we will get by, we will survive" (as the **Grateful Dead sing**). Thank you for being with us, "doing together what we cannot do alone."

Blessings and God bless our firefighters and first responders,

Rabbi Joshua



We can only operate with your help!

Donate today to support our community!

Forever Friends Legacy Society

Get Social



A heartfelt thank you to Familia Cristiana Bethel Church

They delivered 60 delicious plates of food to the Bad Weather Shelter! Your generosity and care mean so much to our guests...[Read more.](#)



The Food Pantry is back!

This week, we reopened with fully stocked shelves, ready to meet the needs of our community...[See more.](#)



FID's Bad Weather Shelter Volunteer Teams Make Opening Week Possible

Despite the overwhelming tragedy and loss of this last week, community volunteers made time to staff the Bad Weather Shelter...[Read more.](#)

Shoutout to our amazing friends at Trader Joe's Arroyo Parkway!

They generously donated a full pallet of water to support our Pantry community in Altadena and



News and Events

FID's Merria Velasco Interviewed by Fox Weather

She discusses how Friends In Deed is responding to the devastation of the Eaton Fire in Altadena and how the nonprofit will support its community in the months and years to come.

[Watch Now](#)



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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