



Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

At Friends In Deed's Food Pantry, we welcome people from all walks of life, but language barriers can sometimes make it challenging to provide the best support. Recently, a couple of women who only spoke Arabic came through our doors and, while we have materials in English, Mandarin, and Spanish, Arabic was missing from our resources.

That's when Anne Harnag, one of our dedicated volunteers, stepped up to help. She took our registration requirements and operating hour sheets home, determined to make them accessible for Arabic-speaking guests; her son's partner is a woman who is half Syrian and has a strong connection to the language. Together, this woman and her father worked to translate the materials, ensuring they were accurate and culturally appropriate. They even accounted for Arabic's right-to-left writing style.

Anne returned with beautifully translated materials, ready to help our Arabic-speaking neighbors navigate the Food Pantry with ease. When asked about it, she shared that her son and his girlfriend, though unable to volunteer in person due to full-time jobs, were thrilled to contribute in this meaningful way.

Anne's story is a testament to how small acts of compassion can make a big difference. By bridging the gap, she reminded us that kindness knows no language barriers and that everyone has a role to play in building a community of care.



Dr. Richard Cheung and Ervin Galvan



Stacy Santeramo

One of the special aspects of being an executive director is my relationship with members of the board of directors. It is a relationship that I cherish, and so today I am honored to thank three recent members who finished their terms of service.

Dr. Richard Cheung, a past president of FID, has been synonymous with our organization for nearly a decade. His leadership helped save Friends In Deed when it was in real financial trouble; his presence in the community grew our visibility and stature; and his passion grew our donor base and number of supporters, including private sector and public sector leaders. Richard always brought a good spirit, and good wine, to any FID function. He has done an amazing job and we are very grateful for his service!

Stacy Santeramo also served on the board for many years, and she spearheaded several of our Jazz on the Green events, making them incredibly successful as fundraisers and community engagement opportunities. Her expertise in HR was also an invaluable asset both to the organization as a whole, and to me personally, as our staff grew. She had so much energy and provided invaluable input toward our success. We thank her for years of dedication and commitment to FID!

And, Ervin Galvan, who is rolling off the board after six years, supported FID in so many different ways. As the owner and operator of We Olive Pasadena, Ervin donated countless meals, gift baskets, use of his space, and advertising for FID. In addition, as a graduate of Leadership Pasadena, he personally sponsored three of our staff to participate in this highly regarded, six-month intensive program. Ervin was always ready to jump in, and always with a smile. Thank you for your service!

In two weeks, we will have the opportunity to once again support FID during our annual [Giving Day](#)! On 2/25/25, we will

2*25*25 GIVING DAY

be looking to get 225 supporters to donate, and when we hit that number, we will unlock an amazing challenge grant of \$20K from our friends at The Lawrence A. Appley Foundation. See the information below for all the details.



empower*her*

Finally, we are excited to announce our newest event series, called EmpowerHER. In conjunction with Women's History Month in March, we will be offering three special events centered on women and the work we do at The Women's Room. All will be revealed next week!

Blessings and have a lovely weekend,

Rabbi Joshua



We can only operate with your help!

Donate today to support our community!

Forever Friends Legacy Society

Monday, February 17

Presidents' Day 2025

Friends In Deed offices will be closed in observance of the holiday

Save the Date: Giving Day!

Giving Day is just around the corner!

This year, we set a goal of getting **225 donors on 2/25/25** to support our vital programs that provide food, shelter, and resources to individuals and families in need. To encourage participation, **The Lawrence A. Appley Foundation has pledged to donate an additional \$20,000** to further support our mission if we reach our goal.

[Learn More.](#)



2*25*25
GIVING
DAY

FEBRUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
23	24	25	26	27

SAVE THE DATE
GIVING DAY

The graphic features a green square at the top with the text '2*25*25 GIVING DAY'. Below it, two hands are shown holding a green heart. Underneath the heart is a calendar for February 2025, with the 25th highlighted in green. At the bottom, the text 'SAVE THE DATE GIVING DAY' is displayed.

We're Hiring



Job Opportunities

Part-Time Grants Assistant

Temp Data and Quality Assurance Specialist

Temp Housing Navigator

Get Social



Happy Valentine's Day from all of us at Friends In Deed!

Today, we're sending love and gratitude to our incredible community—our guests, staff, volunteers, and supporters—who make kindness and compassion a daily practice...[Read more.](#)

Huge thanks to G*ve a F*ck LA for putting on an incredible Wildfire Relief Benefit Concert!

We were so honored to be one of the beneficiary organizations alongside Pasadena Humane, Altadena Girls, and One Voice...[Read more.](#)



We're excited to partner with Pasadena Humane to support our Pantry community!

Throughout February, they'll be on-site at the Friends In Deed House every Thursday, providing free dog and cat food to those in need...[Read more.](#)



Cozy kindness!

Huge thanks to Gael Macgregor for donating beautiful hand-knitted scarves to The Women's Room guests. A little warmth goes a long way!...[Read more.](#)



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.](#)



2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

FID Giving Day: February 25

Online

EmpowerHER: March

March 15: Wellness Workshop

March 18: Books & Bouquets

March 25: Trivia Night

Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast: May 1

Pasadena Convention Center

Golfing for Good: June 9

Brookside Golf Club

Stories from the Street: June

One Colorado

Cooking for a Cause: September

Agnes Restaurant and Cheesery

Event dates are subject to change

www.friendsindeedpas.org



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.

[Having trouble seeing this message? View as Webpage](#)

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!