



Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

Next week will be two months since the Eaton Fire ravaged our community. During this time, Friends In Deed has been incredibly grateful to receive so much support and an outpouring of donations. I want to take a moment and share some of the things we have been able to do, and what we are preparing for in the coming weeks and months ahead.

We had several staff that were directly affected by the fire, either losing their homes or being permanently displaced, particularly in The Women's Room. We have given them extended paid leaves of absence to make sure they have the time and support they need to navigate their difficult situations. We have also hired temporary TWR staff so that the program can continue to function at full capacity.

We have designated \$50,000 for rental assistance, specifically for households impacted by the Eaton Fire. So far, Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance (EPRRA) has spent \$2,500 of that amount to assist three households with additional rental assistance, but plans to spend the remaining amount within the next 4-6 months.

We have allocated \$110,000 to emergency motels to allow up to 30 households to stay in motels for the next month. One additional individual had serious burns from the fire and had been staying at the convention center for the past month. Street Outreach and Housing team members were able to help him temporarily relocate his small amount of belongings to a storage unit and got him admitted to a burn recovery unit.

We have hired two temporary staff for the Street Outreach and Housing team: a data specialist to help with the uptick in reports and information needed for the database; and another housing navigator/case manager to support with the increased number of people needing assistance, as well as helping those who have already been matched to housing before the fire.



Our Senior Director of Programs, Ryan Greer, with Ryan Johnson, Community Relations and Foundation Manager at Pasadena Tournament of Roses.

We were given \$15,000 in gift cards from Tournament of Roses in conjunction with the Albertson's Foundation, which have been distributed to families who either lost their homes or lost their employment from the Eaton Fire, approximately 145 households. We will also be purchasing another \$15,000 in Target gift cards to distribute in the coming weeks as people's needs become more apparent with finding new places to live.

In addition to all of this immediate assistance, we are planning to have funds saved for the medium and long-term needs that we know will continue to arise, especially as FEMA and insurance benefits begin to run out for many people.

And while the fire has obviously taken center stage for relief, there are still thousands of people in need of our help with challenges unrelated to the fire. Here is an anecdote of just one person.

For over twenty years, Robert had been quietly making ends meet while living in a small, one-bedroom apartment with his elderly parents. Unfortunately, everything changed when Robert was injured at work. The accident left him unable to continue working, and his life was thrown into chaos. With no income, he had to navigate the confusing waters of workers' compensation while also applying for unemployment benefits—each process complicating the other.

To make matters worse, Robert was the sole provider for his family. His parents, both in their eighties, couldn't receive any public benefits. As the rent piled up, the threat of eviction loomed, and the family's sense of security began to unravel. Robert's injuries kept him from working, and his impending surgery and subsequent physical therapy meant his recovery would be long and uncertain. For the first time, Robert feared losing the home that had sheltered his family for two decades.

That's when Robert turned to Friends In Deed. Our EPRA program, and Assistant Director Marlene, stepped in with a lifeline. Our program paid off the amount owed in back rent, and provided a few months of future rent to help stabilize the family. The immediate financial relief gave Robert the space to focus on his health and navigate the complexities of his workers' compensation case, without the constant fear of losing his home.

Robert still has a long road to recovery ahead, but now he has the breathing room he needs to heal and plan for the future. Friends In Deed made sure that when the time comes for Robert to get back on his feet, he and his parents will still have a place to call home.



Finally, thank you to everyone who donated for our Giving Day—we surpassed our goal by getting 264 donors! We are very grateful to The Lawrence A. Appley Foundation for its \$20,000 challenge grant, which helped us to raise nearly \$65,000.

Ramadan Mubarak to our Muslim neighbors, as the fasting observance begins tonight.

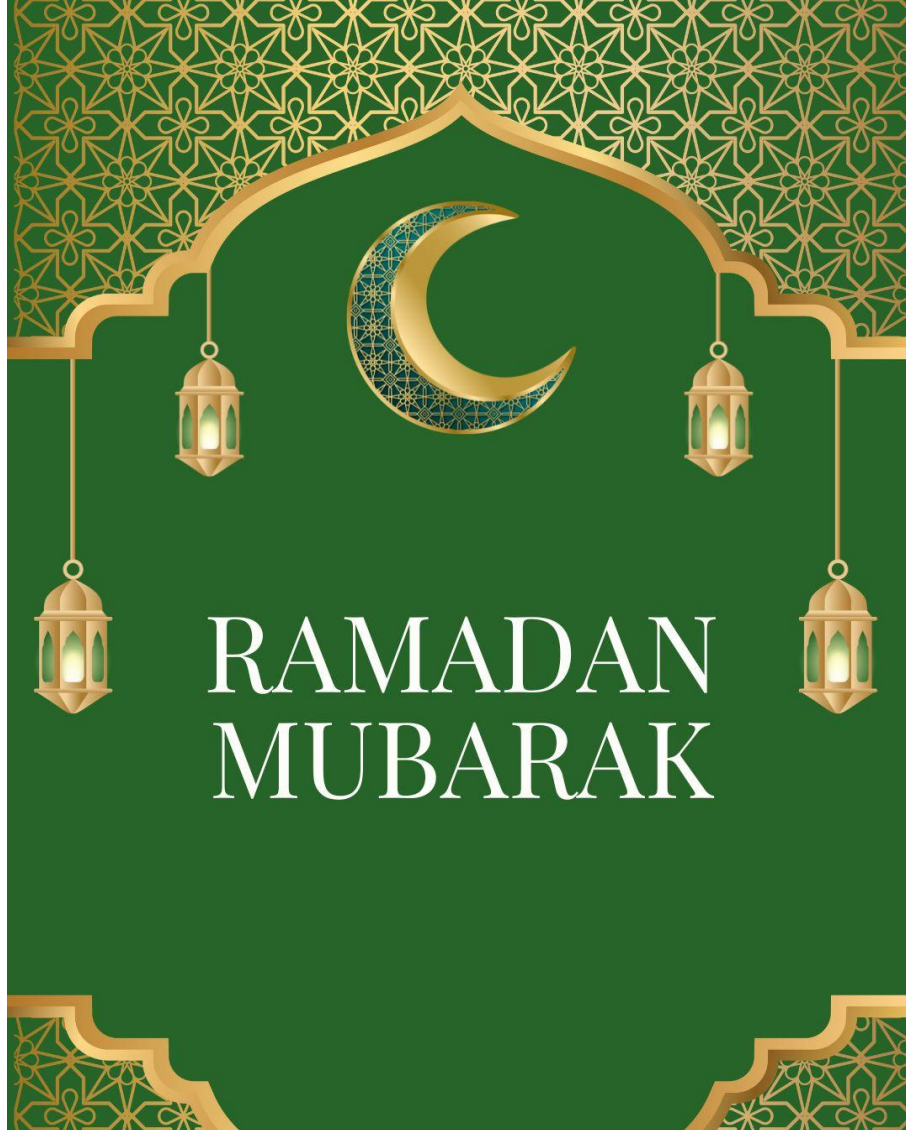
Blessings and have a lovely weekend,
Rabbi Joshua



We can only operate with your help!

Donate today to support our community!

Forever Friends Legacy Society



Get Social



We are so grateful to She Angels Foundation

In response to the Eaton Canyon Fire and our guests who have been impacted, the foundation gave The Women's Room a \$1,000 grant...[Read more.](#)



A huge thank you to HENSEL PHELPS

They generously donated toiletry bags for The Women's Room and our Food Pantry!...[Read more.](#)



We had the honor of attending the Memorial for Our Unhoused Neighbors at All Saints Church

Each year, this beautiful and deeply moving service reminds us to hold space for those we've lost—our neighbors, friends, and community members who passed away while experiencing homelessness...[Read more.](#)

News and Events

EmpowerHER: Lifting Up Women, Wellness, and Creative Expression

In honor of Women's History Month in March, Friends In Deed is excited to present EmpowerHER, a three-week event series designed to celebrate and support women through wellness, creativity, and community.

[Tickets now available!](#)

Bad Weather Shelter



empower*her*

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

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!