



## Weekly Message

Dear Friend,

Yesterday, the Friends In Deed staff met via Zoom with a therapist provided by our Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The EAP is a wonderful resource that we offer to our staff, which includes opportunities to utilize a variety of services: confidential HR consultants; legal advice; therapists for different needs; and other things that might be of support to our staff.

We used our regular monthly staff meeting for this session, as it was the first time many of us took the chance to talk about the fire as a group. As I mentioned in previous emails, several of our FID staff lost their homes entirely or have been permanently displaced. It was an opportunity to share how we are feeling, what we have experienced, and what might be helpful in the healing process. I was very moved by what people felt vulnerable enough to share, and how those that didn't necessarily speak out loud, were present for those that did. We will plan to have regular check-ins with each other for those who want.

In the midst of this conversation, one of the things that emerged was the need to celebrate "wins," and to do it together. One of the Street Outreach and Housing team members shared that after a difficult weekend, they came in on Monday and found messages that 10+ people had been matched to housing! It raised the mood of the room and reminded all of us that the work we do, fire or no fire, helps people each and every day.

I want to take a moment and thank all of the donors, foundations, and supporters who have showered us with such generosity, allowing us to offer both immediate support and relief for our clients who we know have suffered from the fire; and to plan for the future, as we understand that this tragedy will continue to affect many for months and years to come. As always, our motto inspires us: "Doing together what we cannot do alone."

Finally, amid the harsh political rhetoric that is filling our country, especially the attacks on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI),

those with disabilities, and other minorities or vulnerable people, I want to reiterate our approach at FID. We welcome, support, and provide services to all of those in need: immigrants, people who identify as LGBTQIA+, those who speak English or not, and overall people of any race, creed, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender, and age, and we will not tolerate any discrimination in our programs by staff, volunteers, or other clients and guests. Friends In Deed is committed to providing a safe space, with compassion and dignity for all.

Blessings and have a lovely weekend (and may the team you root for win the Super Bowl!),

Rabbi Joshua



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

**Donate today to support our community!**

**Forever Friends Legacy Society**

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**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.](#)



## Get Social



**Shoutout to Justice Law Corporation for answering our call and donating backpacks filled with warmth and essentials!**

Each one includes a scarf, gloves, socks, and a hygiene kit—small comforts that make a big difference for our neighbors in need...[Read more.](#)

**We are thrilled to announce another \$10,000 grant from The Ebell**

The Association is a faithful supporter of the operation of The Women's Room both financially and as volunteers. Ebell RCA is an invaluable partner who shares our commitment to come alongside vulnerable women to improve their

life circumstances...[Read more.](#)



**Thank you Albertsons Companies Foundation, Partnerships for Children, Youth, and Families (PCYF), and the Tournament of Roses Association for your generosity!**

Thanks to their support, Friends In Deed is distributing grocery gift cards to our guests and community members impacted by the Eaton Fire...[Read more.](#)

## News and Events

### **FID Young Professionals Council: 2025 Planning Meeting**

We are excited to bring the group together to plan for 2025!

Please take a moment to vote on the proposed planning meeting to find a time that works for everyone. The meeting will take place next week, and we look forward to discussing and finalizing our plans for the year ahead.

[Vote 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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