

## Chairperson Corner



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Governing Board Chair. I have had the honor of serving as a member of the Governing Board for the past 2 years. In my work as Sr. VP Human Resources at Universal Studios Hollywood, I also serve on the board of our philanthropic Discover a Star Foundation. In addition to being a Discover a Star grant recipient, MEND is also the location of our annual Universal Studios Hollywood Christmas in Spring event, offering a full lunch, entertainment and cheer to struggling families during a time of year when their needs are often overlooked.

As I have learned about the impressive services and programs offered by MEND, I continue to be inspired by the tremendous work, humility and dedication of the talented staff and volunteers. It has been amazing to hear the testimonials of the countless numbers of individuals and families whose lives have been transformed through the services and programs offered at MEND.

Over the next year, the Governing Board is focused on partnering with the staff on the implementation of the 3 year strategic plan, of which, building a comprehensive job readiness program is a critical priority. This program will be one more step in helping our clients on the pathway to self-reliance.

It is my privilege to serve as the Board Chair and I look forward to a very productive year ahead.

*Virginia Tanawong, Chairperson, MEND Governing Board*

## Newsletter Committee

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 Mailing: MEND Volunteers

## Donor Acknowledgements

A special "Thank You" goes to all our donors, including foundations, businesses, churches, schools and other organizations that have contributed to MEND since our last issue.

### Major Donors

Accenture LLP  
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 St. Euphrasia School  
 Sunair Children's Foundation  
 Wells Fargo  
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*Thanks to our Individual Donors as well!*

With dignity and respect, powered by volunteers, MEND's mission is to break the bonds of poverty by providing basic human needs and a pathway to self-reliance.



SUMMER | 2014

*matters*



mendpoverty.org



## My Journey at the Education and Training Center

Maria Ceja first heard about MEND from a TV commercial. A native Spanish speaker, she felt that she needed to improve her English skills and that is what first led her to the Education and Training Center at MEND. A little over a year ago, she started taking English and Computer classes at the Center.

"Learning English can be difficult but the teachers make it easier to learn. I also didn't have any computer skills before I went to the center." Maria enrolled in computer classes as she wanted to learn about the internet, e-mail and Microsoft Office applications. "I feel a lot more confident now than I did a year ago."

She said that the teachers have helped her a lot and are willing to stay after class if the students need extra help. "They have great patience and made me feel good that they cared."

Maria also volunteers her time at the center. She helps out with office tasks, translating and helping new students at least 4 days a week. "I was the Volunteer of the Month at the Educational and Training Center for July," she says proudly.

Maria is continuing classes at the Center and states she "is glad that she can add the skills that she learned to her resume."

## THE MEND WISH LIST

Please help us meet critical needs with your time, contributions and services:

### Volunteers Needed:

Data Entry: 4hrs/wk Flex Hours Tues- Sat.  
 Home Visitor: 4hrs/wk Tues-Friday  
 ESL Teachers: 3hrs/wk Tues-Fri, AM & 3hrs/wk Tues- Thurs, PM  
 Clothing Rescue Driver Assistant: 4hrs/weekly Wed, AM  
 Clothing Donation Receiver: Flex Hours Tues-Friday 12- 5 PM  
 Tubers: 2hrs/wk Tues-Thursday 3-6PM  
 Dentists including Specialists: 3+hrs/month  
 Hygienists: 3+hrs/month  
 Registered Dental Assistants: 3+hrs/month  
 Optometrists: 3hrs/month Sat  
 Physicians & Nurse Practitioners: 3hrs/wk or once a month  
 Registered Dietitians: 3+hrs/month  
 Computer Lab Teacher's Assistant: 3+hrs/wk Tues- Thurs 3-5PM  
 Bilingual(In Spanish) Computer Teachers: Word, excel, PowerPoint, internet: 3+hrs/wk PM  
 Food Rescue Drivers: Tues., Fri, Sat. 10:00-1:00PM  
 Kitchen Assistant- Cooking, Prepping & Sanitation: 3+hrs/wk Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat. 7:30-11:30AM/12-4PM

### Wish List Items:

Automatic Pill Counter  
 Ophthalmoscope; Orescope; Blood Pressure Kit  
 Pedometers  
 Disposable & other Dental Materials  
 Dentist chairs and stools  
 Portable Color Scanner  
 Sewing Material  
 USB  
 Tennis shoes  
 Microwaves  
 Strollers  
 Adult bicycles  
 Pallet Jack  
 New Toys (11 - 14 yrs)  
**Food donations needed:** Canned Soup, Canned Tuna, Peanut Butter, Corned, Granola / Protein Bars



## Upcoming Events

August 27 Head to Toes	September 24 Baby Shower	October 15 Friends for Good	October 29 Super Saturday Home Visiting	November 1 Super Saturday Home Visiting	November 22 Santa's Workshop	December 6 Santa's Workshop
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When not lending her voice to her day job as a voiceover artist, **Betsy Melman** helps middle schoolers find their own through the MEND Podcast series. Hosted by our Youth Services Program, this allows participants to perform interviews and gain valuable communication skills.

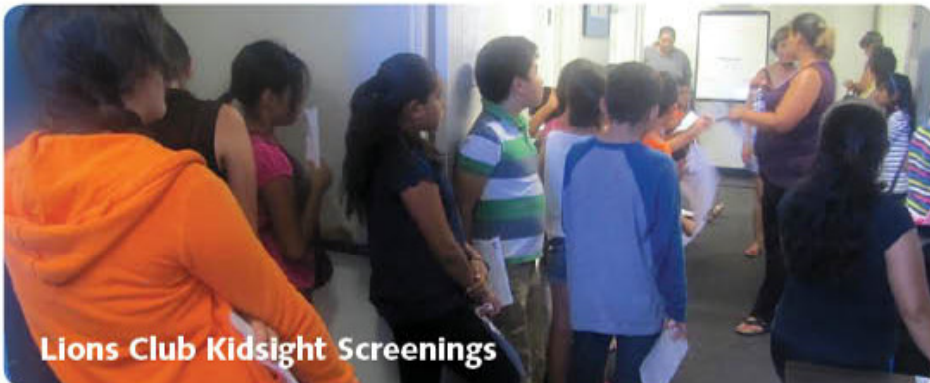
Betsy's professional knowhow as a voiceover artist perfectly complemented the endeavor, and with MEND's strong support, things quickly progressed. By giving the kids a "beat," teaching them communication skills, and by producing the actual pieces, Betsy is able to help her eager

participants speak up for themselves and have fun.

The effort culminates in a segment she's especially proud of, which centers on local street artist, Levi Ponce. Armed with mics and iPads, two of her journalists-in-training set forth to put their hard-earned skills to the test. They were responsible for it all – from initial contact, to research, to the actual interview. Demonstrating that through Betsy's enthusiastic efforts, they have grown into highly accomplished, confident young women.

Her ultimate goal is that these kids continue to hone their public speaking skills, and that they branch out still further from their comfort zone bearing in mind that, "you have a voice, and you can use it any way you want."

*All Greatest MEND Podcasts are now available on iTunes.*

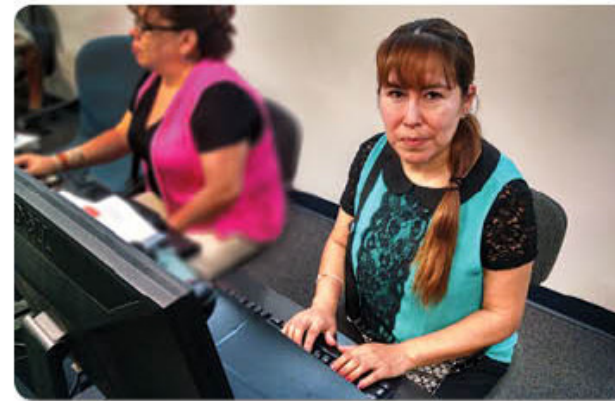


On July 7th, MEND, along with the Burbank Noon Lions and Northridge Lions, hosted a Kidsight Screening at the Education and Training Center. These screenings, which are conducted bi-yearly, are open to all MEND clients and their children. The Lions Club volunteers take a picture of the children's eyes through a special kidsight camera. The images are immediately sent to a technician for analysis. This completely non-invasive procedure checks for

conditions including difference in eye strength, astigmatism, farsightedness, nearsightedness, asymmetric vision and unequal pupils. If a vision problem is detected, the parent is notified and their child is eligible for a free eye examination at the Lions Eyecare Clinic here at MEND.

Since the program began a year ago, three kidsight screenings have been held and over 90 children have been screened. In addition to the free kidsight screenings, the local Lions

Clubs are long-time supporters of the eyecare clinic since its establishment in 2000.




## From Student to Teacher's Aide

**Olimpia Beltrani** came to MEND a year and a half ago after being referred by El Nido, a MEND collaborator. Knowing that computer literacy is an increasing norm in the workplace, she began taking typing lessons at the Education and Training Center. Upon its completion, Olimpia started another course in Microsoft Office, where she learned how to use Word, Excel, Access, Powerpoint and Publisher. According to Olimpia, these classes have helped her slowly gain the confidence to begin job searching. A native Spanish speaker, Olimpia is also enrolled in the English as a Second

Language (ESL) classes to improve her English speaking, reading and writing.

Although she came to MEND as a client, she now volunteers as a Teacher's Aide in the same computer classes after seeing the need for volunteers. MEND has given her the chance to meet people and be proactive in improving her life. "MEND has changed my life, I am now able to communicate with other people, my English speaking has improved and I have found a place where I can connect to others." Olimpia concludes.



### IN REMEMBRANCE

*MEND would like to acknowledge the passing of Kathleen Ann Greenfield, a long-time supporter of MEND. Kathy along with her husband, Phil, helped with the Christmas program, Seed to Supper program and more recently with the launch of the Home Gardening program. She is survived by her husband, seven sons and 26 grandchildren.*

**Won't you please give serious thought to ways in which you and your family can share your time, talents, and resources with MEND? If you would like to become involved, please fill out this coupon and mail it to:**

**MEND — Meet Each Need With Dignity  
10641 N. San Fernando Rd.  
Pacoima, CA 91331**

or call us at MEND: 818.896.0246

### Summer 2014 MEND Newsletter

*Please return the completed form with your donation. Tell us how you heard about MEND*

I wish to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (all charitable donations are tax deductible)

My check is enclosed

For credit card donations, please visit MEND's secure website, [www.mendpoverty.org](http://www.mendpoverty.org)  
Now accepting American Express, Discover, VISA, Mastercard and Paypal

I would like to volunteer my services to a MEND program or committee. What would you like to do?

Please note my 'Change of address'  Please remove me from your mailing list

Name _____	Phone _____
Street _____	
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