

**MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY**



10641 N. San Fernando Rd.  
Pacoima, CA 91331  
**phone** | 818.896.0246  
**fax** | 818.897.0128

[www.mendpoverty.org](http://www.mendpoverty.org)

**April 17, 2013**

**For Immediate Release**  
**Contact: Marianne Haver Hill**  
**(818) 896 0246**

## **Grant Writing Grandmother Wins Halo Award for Exemplary Community Volunteerism**

*Fourteen years of service at MEND-Meet Each Need with Dignity brings in over  
\$4 million in funding*

**PACOIMA (April 17, 2013)** Eighty three-year-old, Northridge resident Marge Terhar was selected by the Carl and Roberta Deutsch Foundation to receive the 2012 **Halo Award** for outstanding volunteer service. Since 1999 Mrs. Terhar has produced nearly 470 grant proposals and applications that generated revenues for MEND totaling over \$4 million.

The Halo Awards recognizes volunteers who do exemplary work in their communities. The goal is to strengthen nonprofit volunteer programs in the Los Angeles area and to celebrate volunteers and the organizations they help. The foundation hopes the awards will inspire others to volunteer in their communities. The Deutsch Foundation awarded \$20,000 to MEND and \$5,000 to Terhar, who relayed her share back to MEND. The recognition luncheon took place at the Annenberg Beach House in Santa Monica in March.

Serving as Co-Chair on MEND's Fundraising Proposal Committee, Marge spends on average about 40 hours per month preparing proposals, researching new funding possibilities, tracking grant applications, and mentoring newer members of our Proposal Committee. Over the years, she helped develop systems and tracking forms that allowed MEND to effectively utilize a team of volunteer writers who last year generated 130 grant requests, and has had a success rate in the past of 74% approvals.

For a dozen years, Marge Terhar had been producing a newsletter for her Northridge church before a parishioner tapped her talent for a much bigger project – writing grant proposals for MEND, the region's largest nonprofit agency serving the poor.

"I've been publishing a newsletter for 27 years for our church, Our Lady of Lourdes in Northridge," says Terhar. "A gentleman who was on the board of MEND had been reading it and ask me if I had ever thought of writing grants. I said, 'No, but I'm willing to try.' I knew about MEND and was inspired by what they do, and I think that's important. You really have to know the organization you're writing about."

Her work comes from the heart, knowing she is seeking funding to help the 42-year-old organization and winner of the 2012 Governor's Award Winner for California Nonprofit of the Year. One of her key successes was a \$500,000 Keck Foundation grant that helped build MEND's Pacoima headquarters.

“MEND has over 4400 volunteers who bring their individual talents to help lift our clients out of poverty,” said Marianne Haver Hill, President and CEO of MEND - Meet Each Need with Dignity. “In addition to Marge’s extraordinary talent as a grant writer, she’s a volunteer who, in her relationships with fellow volunteers and staff, lives out what it means to ‘meet each need with dignity.’ We’re so proud her work and dedication has been recognized by the Deutsch Foundation.”

###

## **ABOUT MEND**

MEND-- Meet Each Need with Dignity, serves an average of 38,500 and as many as 42,500 poverty –level clients each month, while remarkably keeping operating costs to less than 6%. It is the largest, most efficient and most comprehensive poverty-relief organization in the San Fernando Valley. MEND takes a holistic approach to relieve the effects of poverty by providing basic human needs while giving their clients the tools, education, training, support and opportunities that foster self-reliance.

Born as a volunteer-powered organization four decades ago in a garage in suburban LA, today MEND benefits from the assistance of more than 4400 volunteers (and only 29 paid staffers) to implement its vast array of programs that provide food; clothing; medical, dental and vision care; job training; classes for adults in English as a Second Language, literacy, computers, office skills, sewing and parenting; math, reading and science tutoring for kids; showers and other services for the homeless; and a Holiday Basket Program for 1400 pre-screened families in need.