

**MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY**



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## **And the Oscar<sup>®</sup> goes to ... MEND**

*Pacoima charity selected once again to host Oscar<sup>®</sup> event on awards night*

**Pacoima, CA**, February 13, 2013 — MEND – Meet Each Need with Dignity, the San Fernando Valley’s largest poverty-relief agency, has been selected by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to be the charity in the Los Angeles market to host an Oscar<sup>®</sup> Experience benefit. This is the third year in a row MEND has been chosen.

Each year the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences’ sanctions charities around the country to host official Oscar parties during the Academy Awards<sup>®</sup> ceremony with proceeds directly benefiting the charities.

MEND will host a gala dinner on Sunday, February 24, 2013, at the Universal Studios Hollywood Globe Theatre. The event will feature Hollywood-style elements including red-carpet arrivals, local celebrities, predict-the-winner contests, auctions, and -- of course -- great wine and food. Wine will be donated by Francis Ford Coppola Wineries and dinner prepared by Wolfgang Puck Catering. It is timed from 4:00-9:00 pm to coincide with red-carpet arrivals and will feature a live broadcast of the awards.

Marianne Haver Hill, MEND President and CEO, says preparations are already underway for what promises to be a spectacular night.

“We are obviously thrilled to be part of this great evening and honored that the Academy has chosen us once again,” says Haver Hill. “The event will raise funds vital to our operations and, of course, serve those in critical need in our community. A big thank you to the Academy and our sponsors.”

Sponsors for the Oscar Experience event include ABC7, The Walt Disney Company, Francis Ford Coppola Winery, Universal Studios Hollywood, Providence Health & Services, Kaiser Permanente, Walmart, Wells Fargo, AT&T, and Telepictures Productions.

Academy Awards for outstanding film achievements of 2012 will be presented on Sunday, February 24, 2013, at the Dolby Theatre™ at Hollywood & Highland Center<sup>®</sup>, and will be hosted by Seth MacFarlane live on the ABC Television Network. The Oscar presentation will be televised live in more than 225 countries worldwide.

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## **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 28 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.