

MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY



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‘Stamp Out Hunger’ The Biggest, One-Day Food Drive in the World Launches to Feed the Hungry

- WHO:** Actor/Producer Edward James Olmos
Executives and Representatives from the Following Participating Groups:
MEND – Meet Each Need with Dignity
U.S. Postal Service
National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) AFL-CIO
Los Angeles Regional Foodbank
Ralphs
- WHAT:** Press Conference to launch the 2013 National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Annual National Food Drive ‘Stamp Out Hunger,’ the largest one-day food drive in the world.
- WHERE:** Food Bank at MEND – Meet Each Need with Dignity, 10641 San Fernando Rd, Pacoima
- WHEN:** Tuesday, May 7, 10:00 a.m.
- WHY:** At a time of year when food banks across the country struggle to keep up with demand and budget cuts threaten the social safety net, this May 11th, people will come together to donate and volunteer, helping their neighbors all across the country through Stamp Out Hunger...the biggest single-day food drive in the world, to help assure that millions of struggling families won't send their kids to bed hungry!

Background

On Saturday, May 11, 2013, the National Association of Letter Carriers, in conjunction with the U.S. Post Office, will collect donated food items from mailboxes in every neighborhood across the nation to help stock local food banks that are struggling to keep up with demand.

On May 7, special guest Edward James Olmos, along with NALC representatives and USPS officials, will get the word out about how easy it is for everyone to participate and help their neighbors in need. (Just set a sturdy bag of non-perishable food by the mailbox on Saturday, May 11, and letter carriers do the rest.) MEND Food Bank representatives will discuss the skyrocketing need for food assistance here in the Los Angeles area.

Award-winning actor and producer Edward James Olmos, whose father was a letter carrier, was born and raised in Los Angeles. Olmos is best known for his acting roles in films such as *Stand and Deliver*, *Selena* and *Blade Runner*; miniseries such as *The Burning Season* and *Hollywood Confidential*; and TV shows such as *Miami Vice* and *Battlestar Galactica*. He earned a Golden Globe Award for best actor in *The Burning Season* and was nominated for both an Academy Award and Golden Globe for his lead role in *Stand and Deliver*.

A social activist, Olmos has been a longtime pioneer for more diversified roles and images of Latinos in the media. In 1997, he co-founded the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival, and the following year founded [Latino Public Broadcasting](#) and currently serves as its chairman. Olmos also co-founded the non-profit Latino Literacy Now and makes frequent appearances at juvenile halls and detention centers to speak to at-risk teenagers. He has also served as an international ambassador for [UNICEF](#).

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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 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.