

MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEND—Meet Each Need with Dignity, Receives \$300,000 NeighborhoodLIFT(SM) Program Grant from Wells Fargo

Grant to Support MEND's Home Gardening Training Program, Teaching "Farm to Table" to local families in need

(Pacoima, CA) June 6, 2013 – MEND—Meet Each Need with Dignity, the San Fernando Valley's largest poverty relief organization, recently welcomed Wells Fargo executives who presented a \$300,000 NeighborhoodLIFT(SM) Program Grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation on Behalf of Wells Fargo, America's leading community bank.

The NeighborhoodLIFT grant will fund a MEND Home Gardening Training Program designed to alleviate hunger by teaching local families how to grow their own fresh produce. "The idea of harvesting food from your own yard is empowering on so many levels," said Marianne Haver Hill, MEND's President and CEO. "It promotes self-sufficiency, eliminates the added expense of purchasing fruits and vegetables and encourages healthful eating. It's very exciting to have a program like this recognized and supported by Wells Fargo and its Foundation."

The MEND program will enroll 72 low-income families in gardening courses with topics ranging from planting, nutrition, and "giving back." In addition, through a partnership with Tree People, the grant will fund the distribution of 750 fruit trees to residents of Pacoima.

Through this program, MEND aims not only to alleviate hunger and promote sustainable self-sufficiency, but also to beautify local neighborhoods through the planting of gardens and fruit trees.

"The families being helped by MEND aren't looking for a handout, simply a helping hand," said John Sotoodeh, regional president of Wells Fargo community bank. "Our support of MEND is a direct result of the amazing work they do in the community."

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About Wells Fargo

Wells Fargo & Company is a nationwide, diversified, community-based financial services company with \$1.4 trillion in assets. Founded in 1852 and headquartered in San Francisco, Wells Fargo provides banking, insurance, investments, mortgage, and consumer and commercial finance through more than 9,000 stores, 12,000 ATMs, the Internet (wellsfargo.com), and has offices in more than 35 countries to support the bank's customers who conduct business in the global economy. With more than 265,000 team members, Wells Fargo serves one in three households in the United States. Wells Fargo & Company was ranked No. 26 on Fortune's 2012 rankings of America's largest corporations. Wells Fargo's vision is to satisfy all our customers' financial needs and help them succeed financially.

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.

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