

MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEND names CSUN Outstanding Community Partner

*San Fernando Valley's largest poverty relief agency
honors volunteers and acknowledges local university*

Pacoima, CA (April 11, 2014) — MEND – Meet Each Need with Dignity, the San Fernando Valley's largest poverty-relief agency, hosts its annual Volunteer Awards Dinner on Saturday, April 12, 2014, at its Pacoima building.

California State University, Northridge (CSUN) will receive the 2013 Community Partnership Award and Ron Villafana has been named 2013 Volunteer of the Year.

Marianne Haver Hill, MEND President and CEO, says volunteerism and partnership are integral to MEND operations:

“Our volunteers and our partners are our lifeline and, of course, essential to serving those in critical need in our community.”

President Dr. Dianne Harrison will receive the Award for Outstanding Community Partner on behalf of CSUN. The university has a long history of partnership with MEND and at least nine different departments have worked with MEND in different capacities over the years. Last year more than 300 CSUN students volunteered for different programs.

Total MEND volunteers last year numbered 5225. This translates into more than 170,000 volunteer hours and equates to over 95 full-time employees. The Volunteer Dinner honors all the agency's volunteers but includes several special recognitions.

Ron Villafana is the overall agency Volunteer of the Year. He has been volunteering at MEND for more than 15 years and is past chair and current member of MEND's Governing Board. He has served as co-chair of MEND's annual Christmas basket program that involves more than 900

community volunteers and serves close to 1200 needy families. Villafana also volunteers in the MEND Foodbank, helps with the Home Garden Program, and serves on the Management and Budget Committee.

“MEND has received a number of awards for its innovative and holistic work in the community,” says Haver Hill. “Two years ago we received the Governor’s Award for California Non Profit of the Year – a huge honor. Our success would not be possible without the commitment of partners like CSUN and the hundreds of volunteers that help us each day. For this reason, we like to give out awards of our own.”

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ABOUT MEND

MEND-- Meet Each Need with Dignity, serves an average of 38,500 and as many as 53,000 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, today MEND benefits from the assistance of more than 5200 volunteers (and only 31 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, computer classes; math, reading and science tutoring for kids; showers and other services for the homeless; and a Holiday Basket Program for 1200 pre-screened families in need.