

MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY



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MEDIA ADVISORY – PRESS CONFERENCE

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‘Stamp Out Hunger’ is largest one-day food drive in the world

- WHO:** Actor/Producer Edward James Olmos
Actor/Writer Anthony Anderson
CA Senator Alex Padilla
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
Ralphs
- WHAT:** Press Conference to launch the 2014 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 6, 10:30 a.m. PT.
- 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, people around the country will come together on Saturday, May 10, to donate and volunteer to help Stamp Out Hunger. This is the largest single-day food drive in the world and involves letter carriers collecting donated food from their communities.

Background

On Saturday, May 10, 2014, 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 struggling to keep up with demand.

A press conference will be held at MEND on Tuesday, May 6, with special guest **Edward James Olmos**, along with NALC representatives and USPS officials. The press conference will outline 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 10, and letter carriers do the rest). MEND Food Bank representatives will discuss the enormous need for food assistance 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](#).

Actor, comedian and writer **Anthony Anderson** was born in Compton, CA, and is an alumnus of Hollywood High School for the Performing Arts and Howard University. He is currently a member of NBC's Emmy Award-winning drama "Law & Order," playing Detective Kevin Bernard.

Anderson has appeared in over 20 films, including *Kangaroo Jack*, *My Baby's Daddy*, *Hustle & Flow*, *Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London*, *Transformers* and *Me, Myself and Irene*. On television, he starred in his own sitcom, *All About the Andersons*, as well as in *The Bernie Mac Show* during the final season. He has also made guest appearances on many shows, including *NYPD Blue*, *The Shield*, *K-ville* and *Rake*.

California Senator **Alex Padilla** was elected for [California's 20th State Senate district](#) in November 2006. Prior to serving in the CA Senate he served over seven years on the [Los Angeles City Council](#) representing the 7th District.

Padilla grew up in the community of [Pacoima](#) in Los Angeles and is a graduate of [San Fernando High School](#). He earned a degree in [mechanical engineering](#) from the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#) in 1994. After graduation, he moved back to Pacoima and briefly worked as an engineer for [Hughes Aircraft](#).

Padilla is a member of the governing board of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the President of the [National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials](#). He has served as president of the [League of California Cities](#) and was both its youngest-ever president and the first [Latino](#) to lead the league. Padilla was named one of [America's "100 Most Influential Hispanics"](#) by *Hispanic Business magazine*.

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ABOUT MEND

MEND-- Meet Each Need with Dignity, serves an average of 38,000 and as many as 53,000 poverty-level clients each month, while remarkably keeping operating costs to less than 6%. MEND takes a holistic approach to relieve the effects of poverty by providing basic human needs while giving their clients the education and training, that fosters self-reliance. Named California Nonprofit of the Year in 2012 by the Governor's Office, MEND is one of the largest, most efficient and most comprehensive poverty-relief organizations in the Los Angeles region.

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; job training; medical, dental and vision care; classes for adults in English as a Second Language, literacy, and computer training; an after school program for kids; showers and other services for the homeless; and a Holiday Basket Program for 1200 pre-screened families in need. In 2013, 172,609 volunteer hours were provided, equating to 95 full-time employees.