

MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY



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EDWARD JAMES OLMOS TO KICK OFF STAMP OUT HUNGER AT MEND

- 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
Ralphs
Anthem Blue Cross
- WHAT:** Press Conference to launch the 2015 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 5, 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 9, 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 9, 2015, 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 5, with NALC representatives and USPS officials, Ralphs and Anthem Blue Cross representatives, as well as a possible guest appearance by actor/director **Edward James Olmos**, who has supported ‘Stamp out Hunger’ for the last three years. 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 9, 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](#).

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ABOUT MEND

[MEND-- Meet Each Need with Dignity](#), serves an average of 37,000 and as many as 48,000 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 approximately than 5000 volunteers (and only 34 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 2014, 193,057 volunteer hours were provided, equating to 106 full-time employees.