

MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY



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MEDIA ALERT

Photo Opportunities

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MEND'S 8th ANNUAL MENDING POVERTY CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS INCOME INEQUALITY

June 2, 2015 (Pacoima, CA.) MEND - Meet Each Need with Dignity, the San Fernando Valley's largest poverty-relief organization will host its eighth annual MENDING Poverty Conference, the theme of which is "[Income Inequality: Challenges and Opportunities for the Nonprofit Sector.](#)"

WHO: Dr. Robert A. Kleinhenz, Ph.D., Chief Economist at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) is the opening plenary speaker. The luncheon plenary will be led by Adam Gamoran, PhD, president of the W.T. Grant Foundation in New York. Special guests include Wendy Garen, CEO of The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation.

WHEN: Tuesday, June 9, 2014, 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Registration and breakfast will be held from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m., and the opening plenary session from 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m., which will be followed by three concurrent breakout sessions from 10:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. The Conference will conclude with a plenary lunch session from 12:15 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.

WHAT: The Conference will convene national and community leaders to address income inequality for Angelinos. The three concurrent workshops, to be held from 10:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m., will feature subject matter experts and program innovators who will address key issues, including:

- LA:RISE – A Fresh, Integrated Approach to Workforce Development
- A Heavy Burden – Income Inequality and Health
- Job Training and Inequality Among the Working Poor

WHERE: The MEND Center – 10641 North San Fernando Road, Pacoima, CA 91331 (reserved parking available for media representatives who RSVP)

WHY: To provide leaders with the latest information, trends and best practices in alleviating poverty for low-income residents of our community.

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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.