

MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY



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MEDIA ALERT

Photo Opportunities

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MEND'S 9th ANNUAL MENDING POVERTY CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

June 1, 2016 (Pacoima, CA.) MEND - Meet Each Need with Dignity, the San Fernando Valley's largest poverty-relief organization will host its ninth annual MENDING Poverty Conference, the theme of which is "[Affordable Housing and Healthy Neighborhoods – Working Together toward Sustainability.](#)"

WHO: **Mercedes Marquez**, former Assistant Secretary in the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and former General Manager of the LA Housing Department, is the opening plenary speaker. The luncheon plenary will be led by **Rushmore Cervantes**, General Manager of the LA Housing and Community Investment Department. **Trent Stamp**, President and CEO of The Eisner Foundation, will deliver an opening welcome.

Sponsors include *The California Wellness Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Wells Fargo, The California Endowment, LA Care, Agora Realty, Councilmember Felipe Fuentes, Habitat for Humanity San Fernando/Santa Clarita Valleys, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, LA Family Housing, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, New Capital LLC, Thomas Safran and Associates and Union Bank.*

WHEN: Wednesday, June 8, 2016 (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: This year's event will include concurrent workshops, each with an outstanding panel of speakers on three key issues:

- What's the Housing Mix in Your Neighborhood? Housing 101
- Who is Your Best Advocate? Engaging Clients in Public Policy
- What Does Stable Housing Look Like? Models and Resources for Housing Stability

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 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 over 5000volunteers (and only 33 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 1300 pre-screened families in need. In 2015, 199,291 volunteer hours were provided, equating to 110 full-time employees.