

MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY



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Media Alert

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MEND – Meet Each Need with Dignity to “Give Kids A Smile” on February 6th, 2016

February 2, 2016 (Pacoima, CA) MEND – Meet Each Need with Dignity, the San Fernando Valley’s largest poverty-relief organization, will host a *Give Kids a Smile* event which will provide over 100 local children with dental services.

WHO: Over 100 children in the Los Angeles region will receive a free dental screening and services from MEND’s Dental Clinic. Volunteer dental professionals from MEND and Kids’ Community Dental Clinic will provide the free services.

WHEN: February 6, 2016
8:30AM – 3:00PM

WHAT: The 2016 Give Kids A Smile event will also provide free dental exams, cleaning and more. The children will leave the Center with free toothbrushes, special prizes, attend an oral hygiene education class and of course, meet the tooth fairy. The event is sponsored by Kids’ Community Dental Clinic, Henry Schein Dental, DEXIS Digital X-ray, Colgate-Palmolive and Valley Care Community Consortium.

WHERE: The MEND Center
10641 N. San Fernando Road, Pacoima CA 91331
Reserved parking available for media that RSVP

WHY: To meet each need with dignity and ensure the neediest in our community have access to basic dental care

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ABOUT MEND

[MEND - Meet Each Need with Dignity](http://www.mendpoverty.org), 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 its 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 almost 5000 volunteers (and only 32 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.

ABOUT KIDS' COMMUNITY CLINIC

[Kids' Community Dental Clinic](#), in Burbank, will offer local children two additional opportunities for free dental services.

In conjunction with National Give Kids a Smile Month, the Burbank-based clinic will bring a team of volunteer dentists, hygienists and educators to Providencia Elementary school in Burbank on February 17. Throughout the school day, KCDC volunteers will provide Providencia's entire 450 student body with complimentary dental screening, (disease preventing) fluoride treatment, an oral health lecture and hands-on instruction in oral hygiene, such as flossing and brushing and a toothbrush goody bag.

In addition, students will be given certificates to receive free dental sealants that can be used on Saturday, March 19, when the San Fernando Valley Dental Hygienist's Society is partnering to provide this free service at its clinic, which is housed in a storybook yellow bungalow, located next door to McKinley Elementary School, also in Burbank.

Also, throughout the month of February, KCDC will be offering free dental services to any child. Interested parents and guardians simply need to call the clinic for an appointment 818 841-8010. Annually KCDC reminds the public that this is a preventable yet transmissible disease and is dedicated to fighting tooth decay which can lead to other health issues.