

# MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY



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## MEDIA ALERT – PRESS CONFERENCE

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## **EDWARD JAMES OLMOS TO KICK OFF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANIVERSARY OF STAMP OUT HUNGER AT MEND**

- WHO: Actor/Producer Edward James Olmos  
Actress Jeri Ryan  
[Executives and Representatives from the Following Participating Groups:](#)  
MEND – Meet Each Need with Dignity  
National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)  
U.S. Postal Service (USPS)
- WHAT: Press Conference to launch the 2017 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: Wednesday, May 10, 10:00 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 13, 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

Actors Edward James Olmos and Jeri Ryan, along with NALC members, USPS officials and MEND staff, will get the word out at this event about how easy it is for everyone to help their neighbor by placing a sturdy bag of non-perishable food by their mailbox on Saturday, May 13. Letter carriers will collect the food for local food banks.

Award-winning actor and producer **Edward James Olmos** — whose father was a USPS letter carrier — was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. 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 in a diverse array of causes and charitable organizations, Olmos has been a longtime pioneer for more diversified roles and images of Latinos in the media. Olmos has publicly supported the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive since 2013.

Actress **Jeri Ryan** is known for her role as the Borg Seven of Nine on Star Trek: Voyager, for which she was nominated four times for a Saturn Award and won in 2001. Ryan is also known for her role as Veronica "Ronnie" Cooke on Boston Public (2001–2004). She was a regular on the science fiction series Dark Skies (1997) and the legal drama series Shark (2006–2008). In 2009 she guest starred on the series Leverage as Tara Cole. From 2011 to 2013, she starred as Dr. Kate Murphy in the ABC drama series Body of Proof. In 2016, she began appearing as Veronica Allen on the Amazon Prime series Bosch. She has a recurring role on TNT's "Major Crimes" as Attorney Linda Rothman.

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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.

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 30 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 2016, 187,252 volunteer hours were provided, equating to 103 full-time employees.