

CHRISTOPHER Shares His Story

CHRISTOPHER signed up to volunteer at MEND just before the Los Angeles *Safer at Home* order went into effect in March 2020. But when the quarantine invariably happened, it did not stop him. Seeing the long lines for food form overnight he agreed to stay and help. He says: "I wanted to extend the love and care I have received in my community to others."

As MEND scrambled to serve thousands of people who needed help, we were thankful that Christopher was there at the drive-up line, placing food boxes in the trunks of cars every week.

"Because of the pandemic, a lot of places shut down.... some out of fear, others unable to operate," he observes. "But MEND stayed open - It was cool to see that happen," he adds.

When we asked him why he would volunteer during a global pandemic, he shared these thoughts: "I am reminded of the Bible verse, *perfect love casts out fear*. There is a lot of uncertainty, there is a lot to be anxious about. But need still exists. One response is to shy away from the need out of fear, another is to accept the circumstances, and still meet the need." We agree, Christopher... well said.

Thanks to Christopher and to you for your compassionate support which helps MEND continue to meet the need of thousands of vulnerable people in Los Angeles.



GIVING HOPE

Please call us at **818-897-2443** or visit our website at www.MendPoverty.org for ways to give.

Because of You...

Thank you for the people you helped serve. The nourishing meals, more than 2 million, you made possible. The hope and help during a pandemic. The guidance to a better future. The respite, albeit brief, from survival on the street. The warmth and care and kindness you provided, that helped so many believe in a better tomorrow. The futures you've restored. The smiles... the whispered "thank you". The new stories being told....all are possible because you cared. Thank you, today and always, for being our MEND family and for the hope you bring.



10641 San Fernando Road | Pacoima, CA 91331
www.MendPoverty.Org | (818) 897-2443

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2020 IMPACT REPORT



KARLA'S Journey

KARLA spent most of 2020 worrying about finances. But because of your support she and her family received the help they needed during the toughest times. "I have no idea what I would have done if MEND did not exist."

Like so many of the families you helped in 2020, Karla was often unsure if they would make it. She shares: "My husband lost his job and we struggled with rent and food." She adds: "I go once a week to pick up food from MEND, every Friday. They even give me diapers. And I also receive extras that help, like cleaning supplies to help me disinfect the house."

But, 2020 was not all bad for Karla's family. They welcomed their beautiful baby boy, Jesus, during the pandemic.



The small family tries to take things day-by-day, and Karla confesses that the stress sometimes keeps her up at night. But despite the difficulties she tries to pay your generosity forward by preparing

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meals from the food she receives from MEND for her 92 year old neighbor so that he does not go without a home cooked meal.

Karla shares, "I see so many people in need living on the streets, or like my neighbor who cannot leave his house right now. At least we have a roof over our heads. It feels good to help others. I am so grateful for MEND and the people who support MEND. They are helping people like me and my family."

THE IMPACT YOU MADE IN 2020



218,937 people ate a good meal in 2020 because of YOU



12,727 homeless and low-income people clothed



2.6 Million lbs. of food distributed, enabling 2.2 Million meals



2,775 one-on-one Family Support Program encounters to ensure families did not fall behind



27,435 lbs. in food delivered to quarantined & at-risk clients



134 children received Holiday gifts



427 young children received 71,900 diapers



10,000 PPE kits and messages of hope to thousands of people

MEND's Life Changing Programs

The Life Changing Programs That You Make Possible

MEND's Emergency Foodbank & Food Pantry is the San Fernando Valley's largest and as the pandemic hit in early 2020, we saw an immediate doubling then tripling in numbers of people needing help. The drive-through and walk-up lines have remained long throughout the year, and because of your help, we have served every single person in line week after week, as well as community partners with non-perishables, meat, eggs, dairy and fresh fruits & vegetables.

As the northeast Valley became the epicenter for COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles, our **Hope & Care** program sent out outreach teams to share information on testing, mental health resources, and distribute thousands of PPE kits.

Pathways to Wellness serves those who are food-insecure and at an elevated risk of chronic disease. In 2020, despite social distancing, our case teams completed home food deliveries and kept clients on track with their health goals.

Families that elect to participate in one-to-one coaching to help them overcome long-term challenges receive help from our **Family Support Program** case team.

Homeless individuals and poor families receive clothing, shoes, diapers, toiletries and hygiene products at MEND's **Clothing Center & Homeless Care Services**. We restructured these services during the pandemic, but continued to support our homeless clients as needed.

We took some time to celebrate the holidays in 2020, including a chicken in every food box in November and December, along with a number of festive offerings. Over 130 children received toys, blankets and other donated gifts.

