



Wendy shares her story

Wendy is 34, living in her 2000 Chevrolet with the two companions who never left her side after everyone else did - her terrier mix, Baxter, & tabby cat, Milo.

Seven months ago, Wendy made the hardest choice of her life. After years battling serious substance abuse that stole her job, her apartment, and most painfully, time with her daughter, she chose sobriety. Not for the first time, *but with a determination that feels different now.*

When Wendy came to MEND, she found more than just meals & hygiene supplies. She found people who saw beyond her circumstances to her potential. Who helped her secure an office cleaning position and connected her with resources. Who believed in her recovery journey.

Each day is both victory and struggle.

What keeps her going through exhaustion and uncertainty is the photograph tucked in her sun visor - her daughter Lily at age 8, missing her front teeth in a wide smile.

Your support makes stories like Wendy's possible - the painstaking climb toward rebuilding a life worth living. When you give to MEND, you're providing the foundation for second chances and reunited families. You're helping create the moment when Wendy will finally tell her daughter, "Welcome home."



giving
HOPE

"Helping one person might not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person." - Unknown

Please call us at **818.897.2443** or visit **mendpoverty.org** for ways to give.

Thank you for all that you make possible. A nutritious meal...millions of meals...for vulnerable neighbors and families. The transformative power of compassion for 1,550 brave individuals who summoned the courage to take their first steps toward employment and wellness last year. The dignity restored to people who are homeless who found help and understanding. And perhaps most precious of all - *a caring voice reaching out when silence and isolation threatened to overwhelm.*

In 2024 at MEND, these were lives forever impacted because of your generosity. In just twelve months - *during one of our most financially challenging years* - your kindness helped serve people who might otherwise have had nowhere to turn.

When someone arrives hungry, afraid, or alone, it's your heart reaching out through our hands. Every meal served, every resource provided, every moment of human connection exists because you chose to care about strangers facing unimaginable hardship.

Your compassion creates ripples that extend far beyond what you can see. We are profoundly grateful that you are part of the MEND family - not just as a supporter, but as the very heartbeat of our mission.

10641 San Fernando Road | Pacoima, CA 91331

www.MendPoverty.org | (818) 897-2443

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*Names may have been changed to protect privacy

IMPACT Report



2024

Luisa's Citizenship Journey

What began as helping a 79-year-old woman with a bus pass application revealed something much deeper—her dream of becoming a U.S. citizen after 24 years in America.

When she shared this dream, we knew we had to help. We connected her with a local nonprofit that assists immigrants with the citizenship process. We also secured a MAPS grant for her to ease her financial burden with legal fees.

What touched us the most was Luisa's extraordinary dedication. Every morning, she woke up at 3 AM to study citizenship questions. She'd made a beautiful promise to herself—she wouldn't visit Mexico until she could return as a U.S. citizen.

Her routine with her MEND coach developed naturally. Before picking up her weekly groceries at the food pantry, they'd practice test questions. These morning study sessions became something they both genuinely looked forward to.

Last December, Luisa passed her citizenship test! In just weeks, she'll finally attend her citizenship ceremony and become a proud American citizen.

In times when the political climate feels overwhelming, Luisa's story reminds us why we do this work. This remarkable woman never abandoned her dream, facing every obstacle with grace and persistence.

With dedication and proper support, beautiful outcomes are possible.



HOPE IN ACTION: YOUR Impact IN 2024



34,806
Unduplicated Neighbors Served



2.8 million
Nutritious Meals
Consumed through our Community Nourishment Programs distributing 3.5 million pounds of fresh fruits & vegetables, proteins & nutritious pantry items.



1,550
Community Members
Received job coaching & placement through Gateways Employment Services, or achieved better health outcomes through Pathways to Wellness.



932
Homeless Women, Men & Families
Served with groceries, warm meals, clothing, and referrals to other help.



859
People in Need
Linked to vital community resources including help with legal aid, transportation, citizenship, housing, and more.



456
MediCal Members with Complex Health Needs
Received comprehensive, personalized support through Enhanced Care Management to improve health wellbeing.



999
Volunteers
Gave of their time, reflecting the dedication and support of our community.

LIFE Changing PROGRAMS, POWERED BY YOU

All MEND services empower community resilience through two core goals: meeting crisis needs and helping participants address the long-term challenges that keep them from thriving. We ensure food equity, advance health and wellness, address homelessness, and offer job placement support—all in one place.

MEND's **Community Nourishment Programs** (CNP) distribute almost 3.5 million pounds of good nutrition to over 34,000 vulnerable individuals in 202 LA zip codes, both directly and by provisioning 39 local food pantries. Our commitment begins with treating everyone who comes to MEND with dignity and respect regardless of their economic status, background, or circumstances. CNP's choice model allows participants to select the items they prefer in the quantities they need.

MEND's **HERE WE THRIVE Center** offers an array of longer-term proactive engagements to improve health and economic circumstances.

Pathways to Wellness helps participants with chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and hypertension to manage their conditions and improve their health through nutrition, exercise, and support. **Living Wise + Well** provides older adults (55+) with food, exercise, health education, and social contact tailored to their needs.

Gateways Employment Services offers jobseekers skills workshops, career exploration, assessments, quarterly onsite job fairs featuring local employers, and a computer hub for job search, résumé creation, job application, and online interviews.

Connections provides customized resource navigation, including help with housing, transportation, public benefits, immigration, etc.

Hope & Care offers an umbrella for community services, from comprehensive mental health services for low-income families to diaper distribution and community outreach on important local issues. First Step services address the needs of 800-1000 unhoused individuals with food, clothing, hygiene items, and referrals to community resources.