

Victor's Story

When Victor first came to MEND, he pushed everything he owned in a cart. He was homeless but determined to change his life. Finding steady work felt almost impossible at first, but week after week he attended workshops and met with staff who encouraged him to be hopeful and learn the basics of how to build a resume, apply for jobs, and prepare for interviews.

Then came the job fair.

Victor was up at 3 a.m. in the morning, and already his mind was on the opportunity MEND had told him about. But, first, there were a few things he needed to do. Two buses across town to the storage unit where he kept the small bag of clothes for important moments like this. From there, another bus to a local gym so he could shower and prepare for the day.

Clean clothes. A fresh start.

Then two more buses back across the city to the job fair.

By the time Victor arrived, he looked like anyone else walking through the door. And that was the point. Victor completed two interviews & received a job offer! Today, he is working at a local thrift store and taking the next steps toward stability.

Because of kind people like you, Victor has a future.



Because of You...

Thank you for what you make possible - not in the abstract, but in the real and tender moments that define a life.

A bag filled with groceries arriving when worry about feeding the family becomes unbearable. A steady hand extended to 2,297 courageous individuals who chose to take their first steps toward employment and wellness last year. Dignity quietly returned to neighbors who are homeless, who found in MEND not just resources, but respect. And a compassionate voice cutting through the silence of isolation when it mattered most.

In 2025, these were not statistics. They were turning points made possible because of you, in one of the most financially demanding years we have faced together.

When someone walks through our doors carrying fear, hunger, or heartbreak, it is your generosity that greets them. Every meal. Every resource. Every moment of genuine human connection traces back to your choice to help a stranger.

You don't just support MEND. You are woven into every story of hope we get to tell.

Thank You.

Please call us at **818.896.0246** or visit **mendpoverty.org** for ways to give.

10641 San Fernando Road | Pacoima, CA 91331
www.MendPoverty.org | (818) 896-0246
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*Names may have been changed to protect privacy



2025 IMPACT REPORT



"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring - all of which have the potential to turn a life around." ~ Leo Buscaglia



Nancy's Journey

When Nancy's husband lost his job, their world changed overnight. With a baby under three, no childcare, and postpartum depression still weighing on her, there seemed to be no way forward. "I didn't see a way out of the depression, I felt completely hopeless," she recalls.

The family lived in a converted garage apartment, stretching every dollar. Rent came first. Food came last - whatever was cheapest. Nancy felt the walls closing in. "I felt cornered," she says.

Then she learned about MEND. But walking through the doors wasn't easy. "I felt shame - I'm only 32 and physically able to work. I thought people would judge me." Instead, she found compassion. **"I was full of joy when I saw the amount of food we received. It brought peace into my household."**

But MEND offered more than food. Nancy joined mental health workshops and exercise classes that helped gradually pull her out of the darkness. "The workshops truly impacted me. I began to know my worth again." Fresh vegetables meant healthier meals. Christmas toys brought her children's smiles. And when MEND staff greeted her by name in the community: "That makes me feel seen," she shares.

Today her husband works as a mechanic's assistant. Stability is returning. Nancy is already looking ahead. "Once my son goes to school, I'd like to start working. I want to provide more for my family."

Her gratitude is simple and profound: **"After knowing what it feels like to be defeated — I'm grateful we made it through that season."**



THE Impact YOU MADE IN 2025



32,319

Unduplicated neighbors served with compassion and care.



2.7 million

Well-balanced & nutritious meals consumed.



3.4 million lbs.

Fresh fruits & vegetables, proteins & nutritious pantry items distributed.



488

Low-income families like Nancy's received mental health support - workshops, referrals to treatment and help with essentials.



5,556

People who are homeless accessed groceries, warm meals, clothing, and referral to housing, rehab and other help.



2,297

Community members received wellness and job development/placement interventions to support their goals.



710

MediCal Members with complex health needs received comprehensive, personalized support through Enhanced Care Management to improve health wellbeing.

LIFE-*Changing* PROGRAMS

The Life Changing Services You Help Provide

At MEND, every program begins with a simple conviction: that every person deserves to be served with dignity.

Our **Community Nourishment Programs** ensure that food-insecure neighbors never leave empty-handed. Each distribution includes fresh produce, proteins, and shelf-stable staples - enough for multiple nutritious meals. Beyond our own community, your support helps us supply 35 smaller faith- and community-based pantries across Los Angeles, extending our reach into neighborhoods we might never otherwise touch.

The **Here We Thrive Resource Center** offers services that meet people where they are - and helps them get where they want to go.

- **Hope & Care** provides mental health services, including workshops, referrals and essentials to families with young children. It also serves our most vulnerable neighbors - men, women and families who are homeless - through First Step that offers curated groceries, hygiene products, clothing, and critical referrals.
- **Connections Resource Coordination** helps participants navigate the often-overwhelming landscape of social services - utilities, public benefits, legal aid, childcare - removing the barriers that quietly derail long-term stability.
- **Pathways to Wellness** supports individuals living with chronic diet-sensitive conditions such as diabetes & hypertension with nutrition access, exercise classes, cooking demonstrations, and one-on-one health coaching.
- **Living Wise & Well** brings tailored wellness to about 500 seniors annually, while **Enhanced Care Management** provides whole-person case management for Medi-Cal members.
- **Gateways Employment Services** walks job seekers through every barrier - language, skills, confidence - with computer access, resume support, workshops, job fairs, and direct employer connections.