

MAKE HOPE A MONTHLY HABIT

HERE'S A GREAT WAY to save time and help provide compassionate services all year long! Your generous gift will enable us to provide food and clothing for the most vulnerable in our community, free medical, dental and eye care for the uninsured, as well as services for the homeless.

Make a monthly or quarterly pledge to MEND in three simple steps.

- Decide how much you want to give every month or once a quarter.
- Call our CFO, Scott Mikels at, (818) 686-7353 to provide a few details including the bank account or credit card you want charged, and to authorize the gift.
- Thank you. Know that every day you are investing in changing lives in our community.



MEND matters



With dignity and respect, MEND's mission is to meet the immediate needs of individuals and families and increase their access to opportunities that strengthen their capacity to thrive.

mendpoverty.org
FALL | 2019

AS NEW
HOPE
BLOSSOMS,
YOU ARE
THERE.

A YEAR AND HALF AGO, MEND started a program with a goal to coach, guide and empower families to take the steps that will help them thrive. With your kind and generous support, we were able to make the Family Support Program a reality. Eighteen families stepped up and enrolled to start this journey with our case manager and student interns.

Our families' stories were filled with hope and self-reflection. Each had a vision: to find a good job; to move out of substandard housing into a real home; to provide a better life for their children. For many of them, the Family Support Program was

their sole source of support and encouragement.

Through this program we have seen some families take small steps towards positive change, **while others have taken giant steps in building their capacity to thrive.** We are incredibly grateful for your investment in MEND that has made possible the life transformation that these families needed – thank you!

Here are some of the families whose lives you are changing through this program.

- Vanessa was overwhelmed when she joined the program. She was

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WISHLIST

Could you spare any of the following this Fall? When supplies are low, even the simplest gift speaks volumes to those we serve. We need:

- New underwear and socks** (all sizes) for our homeless men and women to restore dignity.
- Gently used jeans and t-shirts** of all sizes (constant need for these)
- Food** – peanut butter, granola bars, oatmeal, canned tuna, tomatoes, chili, vegetables, fruit, soups, and dry goods such as rice, spaghetti, and beans.
- Warm blankets** (new) and **sleeping bags.**

Drop off items at MEND, 10641 San Fernando Road, Pacoima, CA 91331. Or find MEND's Wishlist on Amazon at, [Bit.ly/MENDwishlist](https://bit.ly/MENDwishlist). If you have questions, please call Jackey Arriaga at, (818) 686-7360.

FIVE WAYS YOU CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE TODAY

- 1 Make a fully tax deductible gift today.
- 2 Does your company match donations? Find out by giving us a call at, (818) 686-7320.
- 3 Make a Gift of Love. In lieu of flowers, or a condolence gift, send a donation in memory of your loved one to MEND. For birthdays, anniversaries, or holidays, celebrate the special people in your life by making a donation in their honor.
- 4 Host a food drive. It's simple! You can find resources online at: <https://mendpoverty.org/programs/emergency-food-bank>
- 5 Volunteer.

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one."

– Mother Theresa



LETTER FROM JANET

Thank you for helping those in need

RECOGNIZING THAT the families who rely

on MEND to make ends meet were often faced with a confusing maze of resources and could benefit from more intensive supports, we knew we had to help. With little funding available to fill this important need, donors like you stepped up with a *compassion so powerful, you are changing the destinies of families.* We hired a licensed social worker to supervise volunteer Masters of Social Work students to provide these services. We started small, and with your help, we hope to grow our program to serve many more families. You will read the stories of two families in this newsletter, stories of hope and a future. We help them put together a plan

that points them to success. And we support them every step along the way as they work to achieve their goals. Thanks to **Thanks to you, we have seen results.** We define a successful client as one who no longer needs MEND's services to get by, because he or she is able to take care of themselves and their family. Five families have accomplished this through the program. Join us in the next phase of this program as we raise funds to hire a second case manager so we can reach more families and change more lives in our community. Thank you!

Janet Marinaccio
President & CEO

UPCOMING EVENTS

LA Public: Food

MEND will benefit from an art project called LA Public: Food at 10AM on Saturday, October 5, 2019 at Roger Jessup Park in Pacoima. The event hopes to amplify the challenges of hunger in our community. Volunteers will pack up to 1000 lunches to benefit MEND's clients. Artist Emily Marchand will create a community quilt and embed seeds within it. Each volunteer will receive a piece of the quilt to take home and plant. Please join us if you can!

PARTNERS FOR THE FUTURE

A WELL-PLANNED GIFT sustains your generosity after your lifetime, and makes a powerful statement about the legacy you wish to leave.

If you have already included MEND – Meet Each Need with Dignity in your will, thank you! Your gift, when the time comes, *hopefully, far into the future,* will continue MEND's life transforming services in this community.

Please contact Chanya Blumenkrantz, Chief Development Officer at, (818) 686-7320 if you have any questions or would like to receive additional information to help in your decision. You can also find legacy information and sample documents at our online site here: <https://mendpoverty.org/make-a-donation/mend-legacy-society>.

In the end, if the question is how you want to be remembered, then there's no better way than in the impact your legacy will make in the lives of people in need.

Grateful for your support!

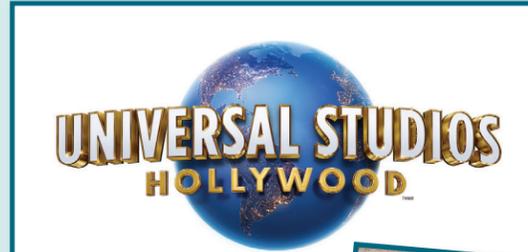
CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT

Universal Studios Hollywood and Discover A Star Foundation

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Universal Studios Hollywood and Discover A Star Foundation for providing an amazing Christmas in Spring for 900 children and their families!

Universal Studio's dedicated volunteers were back for another year to transform MEND into a festive wonderland. They greeted families with smiles as children danced with Minions, grandmas played carnival games, moms posed with Hello Kitty, and kids of all ages lined up for the limbo dance. The highlight, among many, was of course a family photo with Santa. Every child had the chance to take home a special gift and any book that sparked their interest.

Thanks for another year of happy memories with MEND's families. Your generous support extends beyond this wonderful event and keeps the spirit going all year round! Thank you!



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anxious, felt alone, and her family was struggling to make ends meet. Despite her anxiety, she trusted our team and shared struggles that she kept hidden from other people in her life. Her first priority was to find a good job. She was very nervous but she enrolled in a caregiver course. Not only was she able to complete the course but she also made friends along the way. She told us that she was surprised that her new friends admired her dedication and courage because she didn't see herself that way. With her new certification, Vanessa got a job as a caregiver. Her family is now able to put some money into savings, and is working towards a new long term goal of finding a new home.



• Rosa came to the Family Support Program after she had increased her visits to the Foodbank. In meeting with Rosa and her family, we learned that her husband, the sole provider of the family, had tragically passed away. Rosa felt lost and didn't know how to support her 3 children. We helped her create a plan to regain control, and she prioritized getting a job to support her family. She was nervous to start her job search but we showed her the

ropes and were there with guidance and encouragement whenever she needed it. Rosa has since found a job, and she loves it! Because of the increased income, Rosa no longer needs to visit the MEND Foodbank. She is especially proud about this. "This is the first time in a long time that my family hasn't needed the MEND Foodbank," she says, beaming. We too are proud of her accomplishment.

At our recent program graduation, each one of our families received a certificate recognizing their accomplishments. For some, this was a certificate of participation as they will continue working towards their goals. **For 5 families it was a certificate of completion because they have met all their goals and no longer need MEND's support!** This will be a moment that none of us will ever forget.

None of these amazing and life changing results in our families could be possible without your generous support of MEND. Your investment has allowed families the opportunity to feel safe, share their lives with us, and make positive changes that will strengthen their capacity to thrive for generations to come. Thank you once again.



FROM THE FRONTLINES

A CARING VOICE, where once there was none. A "how are you feeling?" and a hot meal in a compassionate place. A helping hand, clean clothing, and desperately needed medicine. Kindness and hope. **In the first six months of 2019, YOU made all of this, and more, possible.** Thank you.

- 1,589,478 meals prepared by our families from food that you made possible in our Foodbank
- 2,038 service encounters for homeless individuals and families
- 2,011 clinic visits for uninsured patients
- Thousands of clothing items distributed to homeless and low-income people