A YEAR AND A 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

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.

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. 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.

“As NEW HOPE BLOSSOMS, YOU ARE THERE.”

“If you can’t feed a hundred people, then just feed one.”
– Mother Theresa

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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, grandma’s 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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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!

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
- 2,111 clinic visits for uninsured patients
- Thousands of clothing items distributed to homeless and low-income people

continued from cover

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.

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