



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Meet Each Need With Dignity (MEND) RECEIVES
\$10,000 FROM WELLS FARGO IN RESPONSE TO
DRAMATIC INCREASE IN NEED**

Pacoima, Calif., January 9, 2009 – Meet Each Need With Dignity (MEND)—the San Fernando Valley's largest anti-poverty agency—announced today that it received another donation of \$10,000 from Wells Fargo in response to increasing demand for food assistance in the northeast San Fernando Valley.

"With the enormous increase in the cost of living these funds are truly needed to keep the food flowing through MEND," said Marianne Haver Hill, President and CEO of MEND. "We've seen an even greater increase in the need for food due to lay-offs due to the economic downturn and rise in prices overall, so we are extremely grateful for Wells Fargo's generous donation which gives a good start in the new year."

Each month, MEND serves approximately 46,000 individuals and their families who seek assistance for basic food needs as well as other services such health care, clothing, education and training.

"Wells Fargo continues to hear from our non-profit partners about the soaring demand for food while donations decline," said J. Bilal Abdullah, Wells Fargo Community Bank district manager for North Valley and MEND board member. "To support our local food banks, Wells Fargo recently donated \$60,000 in the past few weeks to assist regional food banks, including \$10,000 for MEND. We hope to encourage other corporate leaders to donate time and money to the regional food banks to see them through this on-going crisis."

MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY

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In August 2008, Wells Fargo donated \$50,000 to regional food banks upon learning about the escalating needs, including \$10,000 to MEND.

In 2007, Wells Fargo awarded 168 grants totaling more than \$1 million to non-profit organizations and schools in the San Fernando Valley. Nationally, the company contributed more than \$91.8 million to more than 14,000 non-profit organizations and schools. It was the sixth consecutive year Wells Fargo donated more than \$10 million to Los Angeles-area nonprofits. In 2007 and 2008, the *Los Angeles Business Journal* ranked Wells Fargo the top corporate donor to charitable organizations in Los Angeles County.

About MEND

In the early 1970's, MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity) opened its doors in an effort to transform the lives of the neediest residents of the San Fernando Valley - poor children and their struggling families. Starting as a small group of volunteers working from a garage, MEND has grown primarily by word-of-mouth into one of the leanest operating non-profit organizations in existence. More than 95% of the support and donations received by MEND, now the largest poverty agency in the Valley, provides emergency food, clothing, medical, vision and dental care, job skills training and job placement assistance, English as a Second Language classes, youth activities, and a Christmas program. In 2007, MEND served over 40,000 individuals each month utilizing a workforce of more than 2600 volunteers.

About Wells Fargo

Wells Fargo & Company is a diversified financial services company with \$1.4 trillion in assets, providing banking, insurance, investments, mortgage and consumer finance through almost 11,000 stores and the internet (wellsfargo.com) across North America and internationally.

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