



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Universal Studios Hollywood Treats 1,000 M.E.N.D and 10 Other Transitional Living Family Shelter Residents To A Springtime “Christmas in Spring” Celebration, Saturday, April 24 From 11 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Universal City, California – A tropically-clad Santa Claus, with assists from SpongeBob SquarePants, Dora The Explorer, Scooby Doo, Shaggy and Universal Studios Hollywood<sup>SM</sup> employee volunteers, will bring warm weather “holiday cheer” to over 1,000 shelter residents at this year’s 19<sup>th</sup> annual “Christmas in Spring” event held at M.E.N.D.– Meet Each Need with Dignity-- (10641 San Fernando Rd, Pacoima, CA 91331) on Saturday, April 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The “Christmas in Spring” charity event is sponsored by Universal Studios Hollywood’s Discover A Star Foundation, designed to offer families in need the opportunity to enjoy a family outing during a time of year when the needs of families are often overlooked.

Universal’s employees will serve a hot lunch, provide treats, gifts and entertainment to the families supported by M.E.N.D. and those bused in from 10 area transitional living facilities, including P.A.T.H. (People Assisting the Homeless) in Hollywood, L.A. Family Housing’s North Hollywood Valley Shelter, East L.A.’s Triangle House, Comunidad Cesar Chavez, Vineland Place in North Hollywood, the Downtown Women’s Center in Los Angeles and the Union Station Homeless Services in Pasadena.

Commenting on the event, Larry Kurzweil, said: “Our annual ‘Christmas in Spring’ has become a cornerstone of our company’s culture and a signature event for our Discover A Star Foundation community outreach. This year, more than ever, people from all walks of life are in need of basic essentials as the economic crisis continues to take its toll. We take great satisfaction in knowing that our efforts truly impact our less-fortunate neighbors as they work to rebuild their lives.”

Marianne Haver Hill, President and CEO, M.E.N.D., said: “During this difficult time of economic recession, agencies like MEND are serving unprecedented numbers of clients. These recipients are voicing to us their discouragement and desperation as they endure tremendous adversity. M.E.N.D. is grateful to Universal Studios Hollywood for generously hosting this incredibly worthwhile event that will bring hope, happiness, and practical support to so many impoverished families in our community. We know this year’s ‘Christmas in

Spring' event will be yet another great success story for our many families struggling to attain their own victories.”

In the spirit of Universal Studios Hollywood’s popular “The Simpsons Ride,” this year’s event will feature a traditional Carnival theme, echoing the atmosphere created for the new attraction. Literacy will be a theme of the event and each child will receive an age-appropriate book donated by Universal Studios Hollywood and its Discover A Star Foundation.

Each child attending the event will receive a special gift bag provided by My Stuff Bags Foundation, a recent grant recipient of the “Discover A Star Foundation.” Dedicated to providing comfort and messages of home to abused, unfortunate and neglected children entering crisis and foster care, the Foundation offers “My Stuff” duffel bags containing new items they can call their own: clothing, toiletries, toys, books, games, school supplies, stuffed animals and a soft, cuddly, handmade "security" blanket.

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[Universal Studios Hollywood](#) is, The Entertainment Capital of L.A., includes a full-day, movie-based theme park and Studio Tour; the CityWalk entertainment, shopping and dining complex; the Universal CityWalk Cinemas; and the Gibson Amphitheatre concert and special event venue. The theme park features such groundbreaking attractions as “Revenge of the Mummy™ – The Ride,” “Shrek 4-D™,” “Jurassic Park® – The Ride,” the world-renowned Studio Tour, which takes guests behind-the-scenes of such landmark TV and movie locations and sets as Steven Spielberg’s “War of the Worlds,” and the mega-attraction, “The Simpsons Ride.”

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