

MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY



10641 N. San Fernando Rd.
Pacoima, CA 91331
phone | 818.896.0246
fax | 818.897.0128

www.mendpoverty.org



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Contact:
Charee Gillins
626-585-2606
cgillins@aarp.org

Marianne Hill
818-686-7335
marianne@mendpoverty.org

**AARP AND MEND JOIN FORCES TO COMBAT HUNGER WITH
COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

Non-perishable food items needed!

AARP, in partnership with MEND--Meet Each Need with Dignity, is hosting a one-day "Community Food Drive" on **Saturday, December 11** as part of its Create the Good Hunger Campaign. The food drive will collect canned goods benefitting MEND's Food Bank and raise awareness of senior hunger in the Latino community.

The public is invited to drop off non-perishable food items at participating grocery stores to support San Fernando Valley's largest regional food bank.

At a time of desperate need, demand is skyrocketing and donations are not keeping pace. According to MEND, the number of people receiving emergency food assistance has increased by more than 125% in the last two years. MEND's Foodbank serves 20,000 individuals each month and relies on generous donations to keep their food bank fully stocked.

This effort also comes at a time when six million older Americans are struggling to have enough food this year. Between 2006 and 2008, the percentage of poor and near-poor elderly who were hungry more than doubled—from 4.7 percent to 10.1 percent, according to the AARP Public Policy Institute.

Other research shows that states with the highest levels of hunger often have large Latino or African American populations, or they have high concentrations of seniors living at or near the poverty level.

Food items needed (no glass containers):

The most urgent needs include:

- Cereals
- Pasta
- Rice
- Dried beans
- Canned soups
- Canned tomatoes
- Canned vegetables
- Canned meats

Drop-off Locations:

Food donations can be dropped off at the following sites between the hours of **8:00am - 5:00pm**:

Albertsons, 16201 San Fernando Mission Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344

Albertsons, 18555 Devonshire St., Northridge, CA 91324

Vons, 20440 Devonshire St., Chatsworth, CA 91311

Already this year, AARP Create The Good volunteers have collected food for local food banks in 27 states. Additional events are taking place through the end of the year. To raise money for local food banks, organize a local food drive, or help a friend or neighbor sign up for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), people of all ages can visit www.createthegood.org/hunger to find tips and tools in both English and Spanish.

ABOUT AARP

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan social welfare organization with a membership that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce AARP The Magazine, the definitive voice for 50+ Americans and the world's largest-circulation magazine with over 35.1 million readers; AARP Bulletin, the go-to news source for AARP's millions of members and Americans 50+; AARP VIVA, the only bilingual U.S. publication dedicated exclusively to the 50+ Hispanic community; and our website, AARP.org. AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

ABOUT MEND

MEND serves as many as 30,000 poverty-level clients each month while remarkably keeping operating costs at 5%. It is the largest, most efficient and most comprehensive poverty-relief organization in the San Fernando Valley. MEND's mission is to break the bonds of poverty by providing basic human needs and a pathway to self-reliance.