

Volunteers Mending Lives



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JOIN US FOR MENDING HEARTS -
- An Elegant Tea Party fundraiser
to be held at the MEND Center
on Saturday, May 3, 2008, from
11a.m. - 2:30p.m.

Enjoy high tea, a performance
by International Steinway Artist
Steve Hall and a silent auction.

For more
information
please call:
Letty Siegel at
(818) 774-2214.



MEND

April - May - June 08'

Matters!

Emergency Food Program Delivers Above & Beyond!



Ernesto Pennington is 40 years old, a resident of Pacoima, and has been living with cancer for half of his life. For Ernesto and his wife, Angelica, who is Ernesto's primary caregiver, life wouldn't be the same without MEND's Emergency Food Program. "I am disabled and have cancer-related seizures, so it's really hard for my wife and me to get around," Ernesto said. They rely on public transportation, but because of his condition, it's not always an easy option.

A few months ago, Ernesto and his wife were recommended to MEND through a social service agency. MEND has relieved them of a huge burden of not only worrying about food, but also picking it up. Because of Ernesto's conditions, MEND's Emergency Food Program delivers a box of food bi-weekly, specially packed by food department volunteers.

Ernesto says that the program has been a blessing and that the process was easy. He said, "When I walked into the door, the staff made me feel like 'we can help you.' I left that day with bags of food and clothing. MEND has helped me big time." Like many

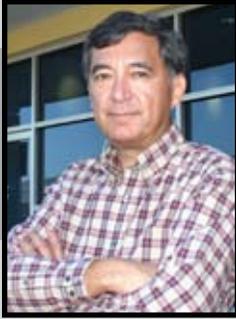
of MEND's grateful recipients, Ernesto hopes to give back to MEND by volunteering. "The people at MEND have a good heart, and they really pay attention," Ernesto said. "I would recommend MEND to anyone who needs help. I wasn't afraid to ask for help, and if I can go in and ask for help, anyone can." ✚

REFRIGERATED TRUCK IS "COOL!"

Congratulations to the Food Department for receiving a much needed refrigerated truck! This special purchase was made possible by a grant from the **Universal Studios Discover A Star Foundation**. According to Gina Mirabella, Food Department Director, "This truck was essential for the Food Department because we have to transport donated, refrigerated food at a certain temperature." Gina maintains the highest level of standards in her department, and with the new truck, MEND can continue to deliver only the freshest food to its clients. Thanks, Universal, for making the MEND Food Department so "cool!" ✚



PHOTO: MEND Board of Directors President Ron Villafana and Bob Mayers show off the new refrigerated truck that Bob played an integral part in acquiring for MEND.



A Message From The President

Our Mission

as a volunteer-driven organization, is to provide services that meet the basic human needs of individuals who reside in the Northeast San Fernando Valley. These services are provided in a manner that safeguards the dignity of all recipients while promoting self-reliance.

Our Philosophy

rests on the principles that every person, created in the image of God, has innate human dignity and the right to be treated with respect; and every person has the fundamental right to what is needed for a fully human life.

I have been a MEND volunteer in the Food department since 2002, and I am starting my third year as a board member. I am looking forward to serving as President for 2008-09.

My work as a volunteer involves picking up donations of food from grocery stores. Along with a helper, I visit five Albertsons stores every Saturday morning. We collect a wide range of items such as milk, juice, butter, cheese, yogurt, eggs, bacon, sausage, lunch meats, fresh vegetables, fruit, bread, and other bakery products. Since I have been doing this for some time, I have gotten to know many of the store employees and they look forward to our visits. There is another driver on Saturdays who makes collections from Vons, Ralphs, and Trader Joe's. We are only two of many others who make these trips five days a week.

I have found this work both humbling and rewarding. When we return to MEND each week, I see mothers with their children,

seniors, and homeless clients that come to MEND for food and other services. I see first hand how we as volunteers matter in the lives of those who are less fortunate. I encourage those of you that do not already do so to volunteer -- to get involved.

Since MEND moved into its new facility last year, the demand for services has increased, and food donations have gone down. Now, as we enter the summer season when the number of families with school-aged children increases but food and financial donations drop significantly, please consider a gift of your time along with your contributions. I would love to have you ride along with us one Saturday and see for yourselves how much participating with MEND can mean to you! 

Ron Villafana,
President 2008-09
MEND Board of Directors

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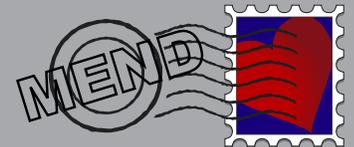
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MEND VOLUNTEERS

Letter Carriers' Food Drive



The Annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive will take place on **Saturday, May 10, from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.** Please call the MEND Food Department, (818) 897-2443 Ext. 7330 if you would like to volunteer at the MEND Center or at one of the participating United States Post Offices.

The MEND Wish List:

Please help us meet critical needs with your time, contributions and services:

Items Needed:

Men's clothes

Semi-used shoes(all ages)

Formal and non formal Teen clothing

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss

Plastic grocery bags for food distribution

Volunteers Needed:

Clothing Driver – 4 hours/week

Dentists – 3 hours/month

Dental Hygienists – 3 hours/month

Home Visiting Volunteers 3-5 hours/month

IT Volunteer – 2-4 hours/week

Pharmacist – 3 hours/month

Physician – 3 hours/week or once a month

CAN YOUR COMPANY MATCH YOUR GIFTS TO MEND?

Your employer may have a program to match your MEND contributions, and many employers more than match each dollar you give, even doubling your donation or more! Your company may also have a program to make dollar matches for volunteer hours you give to MEND. Simply contact your human resources department or personnel manager and tell them you'd like to participate.

If you find that your employer does not have such a program, try suggesting one. It's easy to set up... and beneficial to the business. Companies who make such contributions receive publicity in our MEND newsletter and on our donor wall. Businesses can also be ensured that their contributions remain local, directly serve their surrounding communities, and results from their gifts are tangible. Another attractive feature is that 95% of all revenues go directly to serving MEND's low-income recipients! ✚

Your support of MEND through matching gifts is greatly appreciated! Please contact the MEND Business Office if you would like more information.

RECOVERY RESIDENTS DEVELOPING WORK SKILLS THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

For close to twenty years, residents from Victory Outreach Eagle Rock substance abuse recovery home have volunteered in the MEND Emergency Food Program to help aid our Northeast San Fernando Valley's impoverished neighbors. These volunteers

sort food donations, pack boxes, move, inventory as needed, scrub floors, and more. Rev. Luis Faenz, pastor at Victory Outreach, says, "For these guys, MEND is a great way to develop a work ethic as part of their recovery." MEND Emergency Food Director, Gina Mirabella observes, "When they start out, they lack work and communication skills. Over time, I see the changes in them. We work together, and they do a really important job to help us at MEND."

One of the Victory Outreach participants, Samuel Ortiz, started helping at MEND three years ago. "When I came to the program, I was upset at the world, even myself. I was a thief, an addict, and homeless. Time and God started working on my character, my integrity, and my dignity." Recently, Samuel has been named the Director of Victory Outreach's recovery home in Eagle Rock. He says, "MEND has been a blessing, and my experiences here worked to make progress in my life." ✚



PHOTO: Victory Outreach Eagle Rock Spanish Men's Home volunteers at MEND include (left to right): Antonio Montana, Juan Alejandre, Alfredo Pitalua, and Mario Velasquez.

IN MEMORIAM: BURT FLOWERS & CHUCK BARRAGAN

MEND has lost two wonderful and dedicated volunteers. In late January, Chuck Barragan passed away. He, and his wife Terry, were very active with our agency during the 80's and 90's. They coordinated fundraising events, helped with computer entry, and assisted with the Christmas Program.

In March, Burt Flowers also passed away. For many years, Burt could be counted on to pick up donations on MEND's behalf whenever called upon, and used his graphic skills to design flyers and posters. He also helped out often during the Christmas basket program.

Both of these men will certainly be missed at MEND by those of us who will remember their spirit of giving and their love for the less fortunate in our community. ✚

VISIT THE NEWLY RE-DESIGNED MEND WEBSITE AT WWW.MENDPOVERTY.ORG

Special Thanks to the CSUN (Cal State University at Northridge) Center for Visual Communications and to student Timothy Stewart, and Professor Dave Moon for donating the graphic design! We love the 'new look' and we believe it to be more user friendly and easier to navigate. Check it out for yourself! ✚

Please note that MEND is now able to accept financial donations online - we appreciate your support in this way!

Won't you please give serious thought to ways in which you and your family can share your time, talents and resources with MEND? If you would like to become involved, please fill out this coupon and mail it to:

**MEND (818) 896-0246
10641 North San Fernando Rd
Pacoima, CA 91331**

- Please note my 'Change of Address'
- Please remove me from your mailing list

I wish to make a donation of \$ _____ (all charitable donations are tax deductible)

My check is enclosed

Please charge to (circle one): Visa Master Card Exp. Date: _____

Credit Card # _____

Signature _____

I would like to volunteer my services to a MEND program or committee. What would you like to do?

I would like to help "STOP SUMMER HUNGER" by (please specify below):

I would like to make a donation to the MEND Capital Campaign! Please Contact Me.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

**ALL MEND DONORS ARE
VERY APPRECIATED!**

Current Program Support

Albert J. & Mary R. Allegretti Foundation
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Weingart Foundation
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Capital Campaign

The Annenberg Foundation
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Sunland Tujunga Lions Club
Walter W. Mosher Foundation

***A very special thank you to all our donors,
including the foundations, businesses, churches,
schools, and other supporters that have
contributed to MEND since our last issue.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday - May 3
MENDING Hearts - An Elegant Tea
11am - 2:30pm

Saturday - August 29
(tentative date)

Mervyn's Childspree

Saturday - August 27
Annual Teeth to Toes Event

Saturday - November 1 & 8
Super Home Visiting Saturdays
8:30 am - 2:30 pm



**SUMMER
HUNGER**



This year marks the Second Annual **STOP SUMMER HUNGER** campaign, a food and fund drive to support the growing number of emergency food clients. In 2007, MEND served over 33,000 clients at the MEND center (a 30% increase from 2006), and through its outreach programs MEND served almost 418,000 recipients - combined MEND served a total of more than 450,000 recipients. Different factors contribute to the rising numbers of emergency food clients including job loss, disability and various other financial strains that can occur at any time of the year.
FOR DONATIONS OR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (818) 686-7330.



**VOLUNTEERS MENDING LIVES!
APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2008**

**MEND Offices: (818) 896-0246
10641 N San Fernando Rd
Pacoima, CA 91331**

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