



Holiday Issue 2008

What's Inside:

A Message from the President & CEO

2008 Goal

“My Sight Was Almost Gone”

For Families with Special Needs

Because each family who applies for a Christmas Basket is visited at their home we know that some



need more help than others. This year, we'll have about 250 families

who we hope will be “adopted” by a club, church, school, employee group or a caring family to receive extra help – new clothing, household items, plus additional food and toys. If you are interested in adopting a family, please check the special box on your reply card when you send your gift.

Meet Each Need With Dignity

MEND MATTERS

“The Kids Were So Excited and Happy!”

2

2

3

Rosa has seven years of experience as a medical assistant, but since the birth of her daughter Amanda, she's been staying at home to care for her new baby. Being off work over the summer meant she didn't have to pay a babysitter to care for her other children, Anthony, who is 7, Esmeralda, 5, and Vanessa, who just turned 4, but it also meant a drop in the family's income.

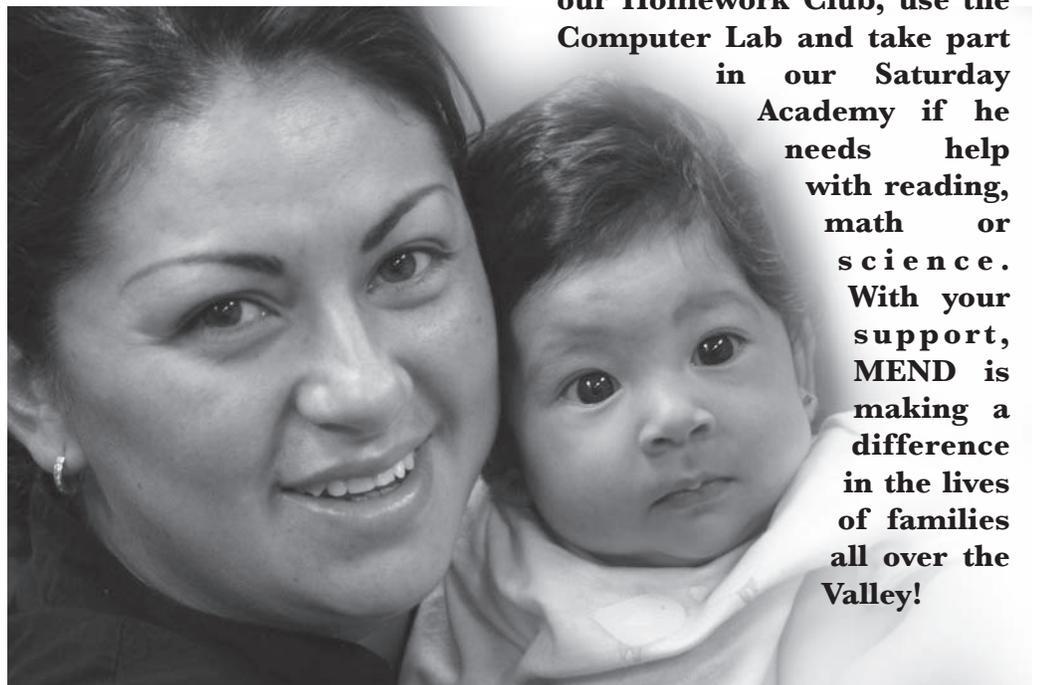
She'll return to work in the next few months when the kids go back to school but since work has slowed for the children's father as well, the family is facing hard times. “I tried to apply for welfare, but they told me I needed an approval.”

“I had heard about MEND before, so I went on the internet and got their new address, and the first

day I came here I received food and clothes. They gave us a box of food: a watermelon, onions, vegetables, cereal, cans of tomatoes, pasta, macaroni and cheese, pancake mix and a little cake. The kids were so excited and happy about the cake!”

Volunteers also told Rosa about the many other services that MEND offers to help her family over this rough patch. “I heard about the dentist and I'm thinking of signing up for that. I don't have MediCal for myself, just for the kids, so that will be good.”

Until the family gets back on its feet, MEND will be there to help with food and medical care for Rosa. The kids can get back-to-school clothing and Anthony is old enough to join our Homework Club, use the Computer Lab and take part in our Saturday Academy if he needs help with reading, math or science. With your support, MEND is making a difference in the lives of families all over the Valley!



Holiday Gift Dilemma?

Can't quite find the right gift for hard-to-buy clients, friends and co-workers? Give a "Holiday Gift of Love" to MEND in their honor. Your donation is acknowledged by MEND with a colorful holiday greeting for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza or New Year's.

For more information contact Scott Mikels at 818-896-0246, ext. 7353.



A Dynamite Idea

Alfred Nobel invented dynamite but he had reservations about its potential destructive powers. So he also created a lasting legacy so that people would remember him for the good he did. Today, everyone knows the name behind the greatest and most prestigious prize in the world – the Nobel Peace Prize.

Each of us can follow Nobel's lead by creating a lasting legacy. And it's easier than you might think. Adding a bequest to MEND in your will or trust can provide significant help for our community's neediest children and families. Your bequest will make an important difference in many lives. For more information, please call Marianne Haver Hill, President/CEO at 818-896-0246.



A Message from the President and CEO

"Volunteers MENDING Poverty" is more than just a slogan. It's a tribute to the hundreds of people who go "above and beyond" in service to our community's poorest families; volunteers like Terry Roberts who worked as a probation officer for many years before retiring and is now heading up the donor pick-ups for our Christmas Program.

Angela Zaidman used to manage an optometry office. Today she's a stay-at-home mom using her management skills to coordinate toy distribution in Santa's Toyland during the holidays. In addition to her work here at MEND, Angela spends her own time recruiting volunteers to be shift supervisors, coordinating toy set-up, and going out to buy more toys as they are needed.

Julie Park from Garden Christian Fellowship in Chatsworth volunteered as an ESL teacher last year. Then she heard about our Christmas program and told her church group about it. Thanks to Julie, more people – including UCLA graduate students, an engineer and a doctor – signed up and participated with toy sorting and food packing.

We are so grateful for all our volunteers! Without them, there would be no MEND.

Marianne Haver Hill
Marianne Haver Hill



Last-minute additions are made to Santa's Toyland where volunteer "elves" help parents select the perfect gift for each child to complete the family's Christmas Basket.

2008 Goal: Christmas Baskets

Every year we distribute Christmas Baskets to needy families.

Our commitment to these families doesn't end with the holidays. Christmas adoptees will be revisited in early 2009 to provide follow-up assistance, including referrals to other MEND programs and community agencies that offer additional services.

Here's how you can help:
DONATE

Send a gift today to help provide Christmas Baskets. Use the gift form and visit www.MENDpoverty.org.

VOLUNTEER

In the next several weeks we will be conducting basket filling, donation pick-ups and...

Food Sorting/Packing

Toy Set-up/Sorting

Toy & Basket Distribution

Toy Clean up and inventory

Call Estela Santana at 818-896-0246

"My Sight Was Almost Gone!"



Martha's cataracts have been worsening for the past four years. "I could no longer see my grandchildren, only their figures. My sight was almost gone. I was forced to take hold of things to get around. My children had been searching for help but it was very expensive."

Martha learned about MEND from a friend and came in to be examined at our vision clinic. A simple operation removed her cataracts and she was also given glasses to correct other vision problems.

"The day that I was released from the hospital, after my operation, I could see my grandchildren's little faces. Everything was clear and defined. I could see their pretty eyelashes and their eyes, all of them!"

Tears come to Martha's eyes as she talks about regaining her sight and how thankful she is to MEND and those who volunteer and work here. "Thank you to everyone that helped me, thank you very much. All of this is so good!"

The vision clinic is a collaboration between MEND, the Lions Club and the San Fernando Valley Optometric Society. Vision screenings and eyeglasses are provided at no charge to patients. When appropriate, referrals are made for cataract surgery at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, and this procedure for MEND clients is underwritten by the Auer Family Foundation.

Teeth to Toes Event

Third graders from Vaughn Next Century Learning Center show off their new shoes together with Disney VoluntEARS who helped fit the footwear during MEND's annual "Teeth to Toes" event. Two-hundred youngsters participated in this year's event.



Each child received a backpack filled with school supplies, a new pair of shoes, dental fluoride treatment and oral hygiene instruction, and enjoyed games and arts & crafts activities.

Increase Your Gift to MEND with the Help of Your Employer

Many companies will match employee contributions, sometimes dollar-for-dollar! This results in a substantial increase in the value of your gift. Ask your employer if they offer a Matching Gift Program, and if they do, ask for a matching gift form and mail it to MEND along with your donation.

ts for 1,200 Families!

Provide the hundreds of toys and blankets needed to fill Christmas envelopes included with this newsletter or give online at

We'll need hundreds of volunteers to help with adoptions, sorting, and data entry.

December 6 – 17

December 4 – 15

December 17 – 21

December 22

on at MEND

ory

6-0246 for more information on dates and times.



Depending on their needs, each family receives a turkey and enough food for a bountiful Christmas dinner with leftovers, a new blanket for each child and new toys for each boy or girl ages 14 and under.

Board Nominations Being Accepted

The MEND Nominating Committee will soon begin meeting to consider nominations for the Board of Directors. The term of office begins April 1, 2009 and runs through March 31, 2010. Board members are asked to serve on one standing committee of the board or serve in one MEND program and to help raise money for the organization in addition to attending bi-monthly meetings. If you would like to nominate someone to serve on the Board, please contact the Nominating Committee, care of Marianne Haver Hill, at 818-896-0246.

Tile by Tile, Brick by Brick

Leave your legacy in MEND's new home

Even though the doors are open and our clients and staff are now enjoying the much larger and vastly improved spaces and services available at MEND's new home on San Fernando Road, there is still time to leave an enduring record of your support for this great organization.

For as little as \$150 you can have a brick inscribed with your name – or dedicated to a friend or loved one – installed near the new front entrance. Larger bricks are available for a donation of \$325. Tiles inside the new building commemorate individuals who generously donate \$1,000 or more and business donations of \$1,500 and up.

Prominently located, these tiles and bricks are a lasting reminder of your dedication to meeting the basic needs of the neediest families in our area. To become a permanent part of the MEND legacy contact MEND co-founder Ed Rose at 818-894-3361.



Wish List

You can help our Valley's poorest families by contributing your time or services or by donating items.

Volunteers Needed:

Clothing Driver – 4 hours/week
 Food Driver – 3 hours when needed
 Dentists – 3 hours/month
 Dental Hygienists – 3 hours/month
 Pharmacist – 3 hours/month
 Physician – 3 hours/week or once a month

Items Needed:

New toys for children ages 3-5 and 10-14
 Jackets for children
 Teen clothes
 Men's clothes and shoes
 Children's shoes
 Plastic grocery bags for food distribution
 Frozen turkeys for Christmas



Yes, I'd like to help our Valley's poorest families have a merry Christmas.

- \$25.00
- \$50.00
- \$75.00
- \$ _____

Donate online at www.MENDpoverty.org, or call (818) 897-2443 ext.7353.

- Bill my credit card
- VISA MC

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____

PHONE # _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MEND
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 Pacoima, CA 91331

