

Volunteers Mending Lives



MEND

April - May - June 09'

Matters!

AMPUTEE RECEIVES FOOD FOR HIS JOURNEY

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MEND ON GMA

Foodbank Director for MEND, Richard Weinroth and the recently developed 'Gourmet Food for the Homeless' was featured on ABC's Good Morning America (GMA) on April 8. Congrats to Richard and his volunteer team of chefs!

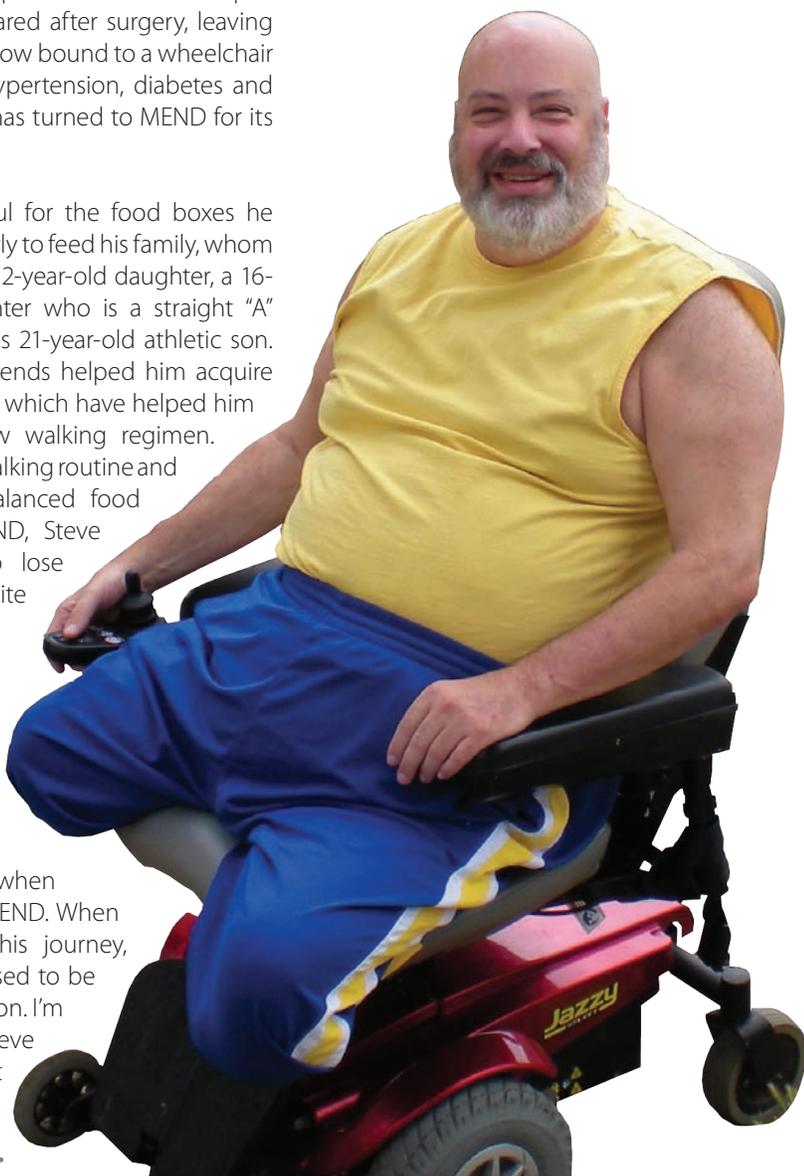
SPECIAL NOTE!

The MEND Centers are CLOSED on Mondays. ALL SERVICES continue for longer hours Tuesdays thru Saturdays. Please visit the MEND website for schedule: <http://www.mendpoverty.org/services.html>

Steve Browdy was once 6 feet tall and a working man, skilled in the areas of carpet and furniture cleaning, scrap and precious metal refining. Almost 10 years ago, Steve's legs were amputated when a septic infection appeared after surgery, leaving him disabled. Now bound to a wheelchair and fighting hypertension, diabetes and obesity, Steve has turned to MEND for its services.

Steve is grateful for the food boxes he receives regularly to feed his family, whom he adores — a 2-year-old daughter, a 16-year-old daughter who is a straight "A" student, and his 21-year-old athletic son. Recently, his friends helped him acquire prosthetic legs, which have helped him develop a new walking regimen. With his new walking routine and nutritionally balanced food box from MEND, Steve has begun to lose weight. Despite all that he has been through emotionally and physically, Steve maintains a very positive outlook on life and is always in great spirits when he comes to MEND. When reflecting on his journey, Steve says, "I used to be a different person. I'm what's left of Steve Browdy, but there is always a reason for me to be here." 

PHOTO: MEND emergency food recipient Steve Browdy inspires others by his positive attitude





The Chairman's Corner

Vision

All residents of our community living in poverty attain self-reliance and contribute to society as caring human beings.

Mission

MEND is generations of diverse volunteers striving to relieve the effects of poverty.

Newsletter Staff:

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MEND Volunteers

DEAR MEND FRIENDS:

It is hard for me to believe that I am in my second term as Board Chairman! On March 21st, the 2009-2010 MEND Board was installed at the **Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner**. It was a great opportunity to welcome the new Board but more important to say thank you to the thousands of MEND volunteers who make MEND the great organization that it is today.

On April 23rd, we held the **'Hope for Tomorrow Star Gala'** and it was a resounding success. Co-Chairs Letty Siegel and Bette Baer did an amazing job leading their great committee. The success of that event is a

testimony to all of those that give their time and generous financial support to MEND.

Universal Studios held its second **'Christmas in Spring'** event at MEND on April 25th and provided more than 1100 low income children and their parents hope and happiness. This is just one of many examples of our corporate partners bringing dignity to our clients.

On behalf of my fellow Board Members, I would like to thank all that have stepped forward for MEND during these difficult economic times .

Ron Villafana, Chairman
2009-10 MEND Board of Directors

WE REMEMBER

With sadness, we acknowledge the passing of two past presidents of MEND's Board of Directors. In early January, David Rothberg passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer's. His board terms were in the mid-1980's. Joe Salas who was President in the early part of this decade died April 9. Each brought unique skills and expertise to their board leadership roles, and loved helping the poor.

Also, we recently learned of the death of Sr. Irene Kleinhanz, CSC on March 4. Sr. Irene came to MEND in the 80's and was with us for several years. She ran our "La Tienda" store and was a terrific writer! Lastly, Bob

Neil, a long-time evening volunteer teacher in MEND's English as a Second Language program, died in late March.

We mourn the loss of these wonderful MEND friends and offer our sympathy to their loved ones.

STAMP OUT HUNGER

The Letter Carriers' Food Drive that was held on May 9 is an annual event that teams with the local U.S. Letter Carriers to collect emergency food. This year MEND received approx. 70,000 pounds of food from the drive. Thank you to the Heart of the Valley letter carriers' local and to all the volunteers who helped make this event a success!

THE MEND WISH LIST:

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

Volunteers Needed:

Administrative Volunteer
4 hrs a day/twice a wk

Dental Assistants

3 hrs/month

Home Visiting Volunteers

5 hrs/month

Optometrists – 3 hrs/wk
or once a month

Pharmacist – 3 hrs/wk
or once a month

Food Pick-up Drivers

AM & PM

3 hrs/wk

Items Needed:

School Uniforms

Blankets

Men's clothes

Men's shoes

Teen clothing

Children shoes

New underwear

(all ages)

STARS SHINE DURING 'HOPE FOR TOMORROW' GALA AND BENEFIT



PHOTO: Gala Co-Chairs Letty Siegel (L) and Bette Baer (R) together with Gala guest celebrities Angela Watson, Esai Morales, Morgan Fairchild, and Edd Hall

The 2009 Hope for Tomorrow Star Gala and Benefit was held for a sold-out crowd on Thursday, April 23rd at the MEND Center, and was attended by celebrity guests Morgan Fairchild, Edd Hall, Esai Morales, and Angela Watson. The evening began with cocktails and silent auction, and was followed by dinner and an awards ceremony. Honorees included: Hope for Tomorrow Award winner, Marianne Haver Hill, President & CEO, MEND; the Leadership in MENDING Poverty Award, awarded to United Way of Greater Los Angeles; Partnership for Tomorrow Award, awarded to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Community; and Planting the Seeds for Tomorrow Award, given to Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. Special thanks goes to Event Co-Chairs Letty Siegel and Bette Baer and their committee for organizing a fabulous event! To see more photos of this festive gala, log onto MEND's website:

<http://mendpoverty.org/pastevents.html>

HS STUDENTS FROM LA CANADA CHURCH PARTICIPATE IN 30-HOUR FAMINE TO COLLECT FOOD

In February, Katharine H. Henry, 13, and 15 other youth from the La Canada United Methodist Church, participated in a 30-hour Famine to help collect food for MEND. The famine is an international youth movement, connected to World Vision—an organization dedicated to tackling poverty and injustice worldwide.

The famine began at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, right after school lunch. After school, the students made posters about their food drive, and in the evening, they slept in cardboard boxes in a dirt lot at their church. The following morning, the students walked about 2 miles to the local Ralph's grocery store, where they collected food from patrons. Katharine's commitment to organizing this project with her youth group paid off: the students brought in 1,000 pounds of food for MEND!

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LOS ANGELES PARTNERS WITH MEND TO HOST 'KIDS IN THE KITCHEN'

On Saturday, March 2, the Junior League of Los Angeles kicked off its national Nutrition Month by bringing its 'Kids in the Kitchen' event to MEND. The event encouraged the children and parents of MEND's After School and Saturday programs to lead a healthy lifestyle. Booths were set up in the lobby and decorated with an international theme. Volunteers demonstrated how to make healthy snacks from everyday staples. While the children practiced making their own snacks, they also learned a few phrases in the language of a variety of countries.

Meanwhile, the parents attended a presentation on nutrition, followed by a round of Q&A's from the group with healthcare professionals. A healthy lunch was served, and other activities included Hip-Hop classes, arts and crafts, and a raffle with prizes. Each child received a pedometer and was challenged to take 10,000 steps daily.

MEND 'VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR' AWARDED TO MARIA SAZO



PHOTO: Program Director Maggie Torres presents 'Volunteer of the Year' award to Maria Sazo.

The 2008 MEND Volunteer of the Year Award, was given to Maria Sazo. For the past five years, Maria has been at the forefront to help alleviate the effects of poverty by volunteering many hours each week at MEND. She has assisted in the coordination of our medical, vision and dental clinics, with dedication, understanding, and flexibility. Maria interprets for our providers, schedules appointments, and does filing and data entry. She has also taken on the sole responsibility of managing our vision clinics several times a month. She is dedicated, kind, and holds MEND's mission up high and offers services to all that need them in the most dignified manner. Congratulations Maria!

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: _____

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL DONORS, FOUNDATIONS, BUSINESSES, CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, AND OTHER SUPPORTERS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO MEND SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE.

Current Program Support

ABC7
Agora Realty and Management, Inc.
American Jet Industries, LLC
Congressman Howard Berman
Best Buy
Delaney Design

Dental Foundation of CA
Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation
Eisner Foundation
Flickback Media
Frieda C. Fox Foundation
Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes
The Arthur J. Gallagher Foundation
Gateway Science & Engineering, Inc.
The Grantsmanship Center
Henry L. Guenther Foundation
Laborer's International Union of North America
AFL-CIO
Lincy Foundation
Loma Linda University
L.A. Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.
Medtronic Foundation
Providence Health & Services
St. Euphrasia Catholic Church

St. Euphrasia Women
Sempra Energy
Sherman Oaks Health System
Smart & Final
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust
Harold R. & Winifred R. Swanton Foundation
Undershare, Inc.
United Way
Universal Studios Hollywood's
Discover a Star Foundation
Wal-Mart Foundation
Weingart Foundation
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

Capital Campaign

The Sascha Brastoff Foundation
Skirball Foundation

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday - June 4
MENDING Poverty Conference
Wednesday - July 29
Dress for Success
Wednesday - August 26
Annual Teeth to Toes Event
Wednesday - September 30
Baby Layette Distribution
October 1 thru 14
Christmas Registration
Saturdays - November 7 & 14
Super Saturday Home Visiting



SUMMER HUNGER



MEND's Annual Stop Summer Hunger Campaign is a food and fund drive to support the growing number of emergency food clients. Last summer, MEND experienced a 28% increase of new clients, and during the 1st quarter of 2009, MEND experienced a 62% increase compared to 1st quarter of 2008. Many of MEND's new clients recently lost their jobs and on several occasions, MEND has served multiple people from just one company. The summer months can be demanding for the food department, especially when kids are out of school. To donate funds, please log onto MEND's secure website at www.mendpoverty.org **If you or your organization would like to donate food or coordinate a food drive, please contact MEND's Foodbank Director Richard Weinroth: 818-897-2443 or richard@mendpoverty.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**VOLUNTEERS MENDING LIVES!
APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2009**
MEND Offices: (818) 896-0246
10641 N San Fernando Rd
Pacoima, CA 91331

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