

Volunteers Mending Lives



MEND

July - August - September '09

Matters!

MEND Opens Doors for Neighborhood Children

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DESIGNATE MEND FOR UNITED WAY


or Combined Federal Campaign

One relatively easy way to give to MEND is through the United Way Annual Campaign or Combined Federal Campaign.

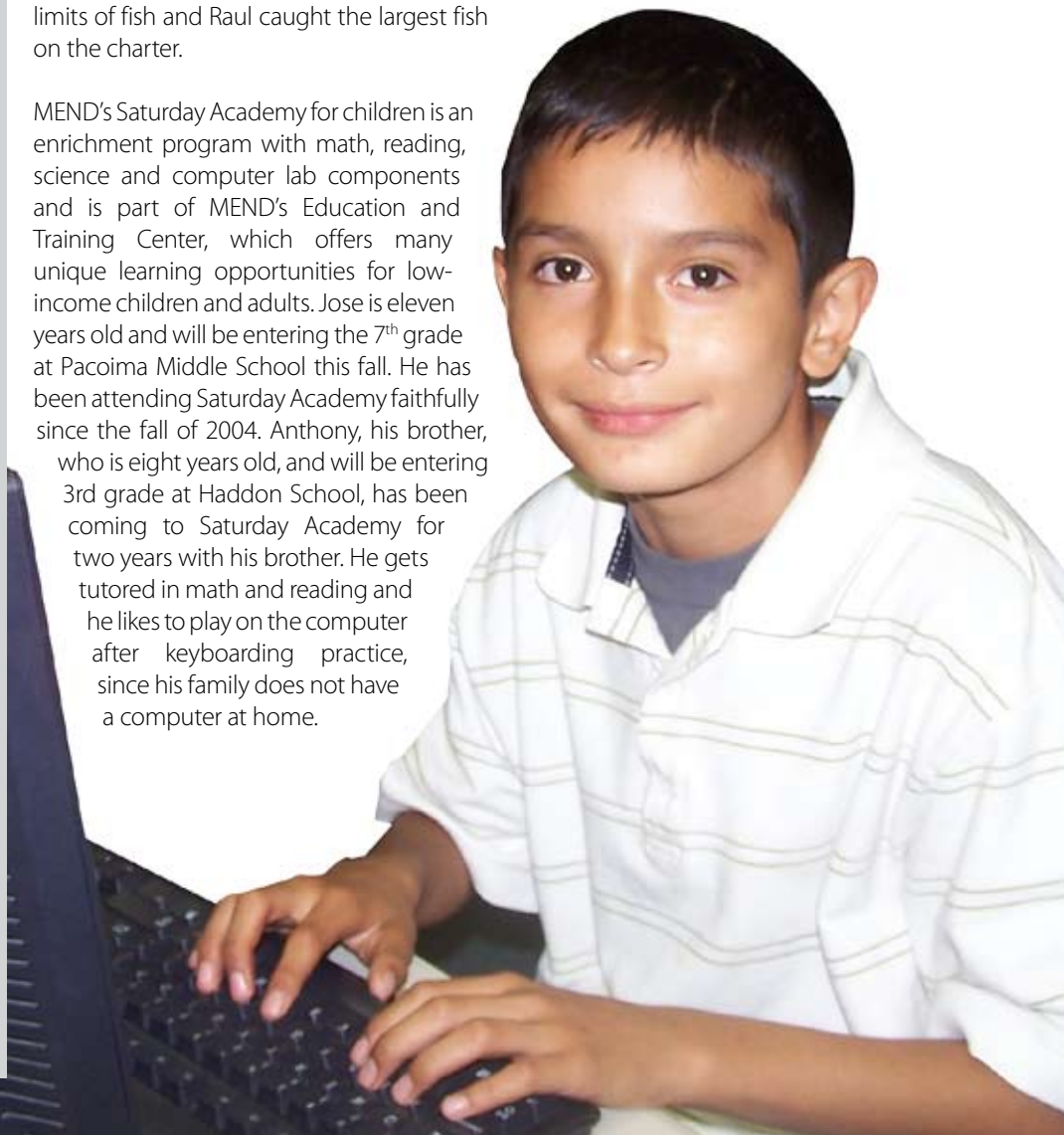
Remember to designate MEND when your company conducts its annual United Way Campaign. Although MEND is not a United Way agency, we still qualify for designated donations. When completing the United Way donor form, please remember to use MEND's tax ID #: 23-7306337

The Combined Federal Campaign, for federal employees, works much the same way. You can designate MEND as the recipient of your contribution. If MEND is not among the agencies listed in your Combined Federal Campaign packet, use our tax identification number as noted above.

Ask Jose Rodriguez what the best part of participating in the MEND Saturday Academy is and he'll probably say fishing! MEND volunteer Asa Watanabe treated Jose to his first ocean fishing trip this summer along with Jose's friend, Raul, another MEND student, as a reward for excellent attendance and behavior over the better part of the last five years. Both boys came home with their limits of fish and Raul caught the largest fish on the charter.

Jose, Anthony, and their mother attended the five week Family Math Workshop last summer with their little sister Daisy, who is five. The Rodriguez's are very invested in their children's education and they make use of every opportunity to help them succeed in school. Both boys are attending MEND's Summer Tutoring Program in addition to the Saturday Academy. 

MEND's Saturday Academy for children is an enrichment program with math, reading, science and computer lab components and is part of MEND's Education and Training Center, which offers many unique learning opportunities for low-income children and adults. Jose is eleven years old and will be entering the 7th grade at Pacoima Middle School this fall. He has been attending Saturday Academy faithfully since the fall of 2004. Anthony, his brother, who is eight years old, and will be entering 3rd grade at Haddon School, has been coming to Saturday Academy for two years with his brother. He gets tutored in math and reading and he likes to play on the computer after keyboarding practice, since his family does not have a computer at home.





The President/CEO'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:

In recent months, as the result of the work our board and staff did on our strategic plan, revising our missions statement and core values, I have spoken often with our stakeholders about the fact that MEND is building a movement around the issue of poverty. Our goal is to involve as many people as possible in making a difference in the lives of the poor.

There are many entry points to do this:

- individuals making monthly pledges of \$5 to \$500 or supporting our fundraising events
- businesses contributing funds, conducting food, clothing and toy drives and/or involving their employees in group projects with MEND
- foundations and/or other organizations partnering with MEND on program initiatives
- people volunteering their time and skills in MEND programs or in behind-the-scenes work such as public relations, grant writing, and other tasks.

Hosting the MENDING Poverty Conference is part of this movement, as we engage leaders from throughout Los Angeles in dealing with the issues of poverty. So is our Stop Summer Hunger campaign that not only brings in much-needed food and funds, but also educates the larger community that the poor are hungry not only during the holidays, but also during July and August.

Your support is needed! Help MEND expand this poverty relief movement by involving your church, business, or community organization in our work – or by contributing your time and your resources! In this critical period of economic crisis, it will take all of us reaching out to our neighbors in need to ensure that their basic needs are met... with dignity.

Marianne Haver Hill
President and CEO

THE MEND WISH LIST:

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

Volunteers Needed:

Cooks – 5-6 hrs/ wk

Dentists & Dental Assistants

3 hrs/month

Food Pick-up Drivers - AM & PM

3 hrs/wk

Home Visiting Volunteers

5 hrs/month

IT Volunteer – 2-4 hrs/wk

Nutritionists – 3 hrs/wk

or once a month

Optometrists – 3 hrs/wk

or once a month

Pharmacist – 3 hrs/wk

or once a month

Physicians – 3 hrs/wk

or once a month

Writers for PR Projects – 3 hrs/month

Items Needed:

Pallet jack

Bullhorn

83 terra cotta pots (24 inch)

- for MEND garden

Leaf Blower

Office Fans

4 drawer vertical filing cabinet

School uniforms

Plus Size Clothing

Teenage Clothing

New Under garments

- all ages/sizes M/F

Diapers sizes 1-6

Canopy


Standing Shade Umbrella



PADILLA PARTY AT THE CONGA ROOM BENEFITS MEND

PHOTO: MEND President and CEO Marianne Hill with State Senator Alex Padilla

A special celebration on July 16 of this year, not only celebrated State Senator Alex Padilla's 10 years of public service but also raised approximately \$270,000 for MEND!

Around 300 people attended the cocktail reception and dinner held at The Conga Room, downtown Los Angeles, as State Assembly member Felipe Fuentes served as Master of Ceremonies and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom introduced the man of honor – who grew up in Pacoima and has been a major supporter of MEND for many years. Also speaking at the event was MEND President and CEO Marianne Haver Hill and LAUSD Board of Education President Monica Garcia. A special video about MEND and its services was shown during the evening's program. 

ESL TEACHER FINDS CREATIVE STIMULATION WITH STUDENTS

Gretchen Trent, a Granada Hills resident, retired from working for the IRS in 2002. She was delighted to finally have more time with

her husband, but six months into retirement, he passed away. After her loss, she started exploring various options to keep her occupied. Gretchen loved to teach, and had volunteered with MEND's Christmas program in the past, so she decided she would volunteer with the MEND English as a Second Language (ESL) Program.

Now 76, Gretchen continues to volunteer as an ESL teacher every Thursday morning, a routine she's kept for 7 and half years! She teaches the Level Three class, where most of the students are beginning to carry on a conversation in English with her.

"The ESL classes provide a great source of stimulation for me, because I can come to a place where I can reach out to people, help them, learn about their struggles, and also get creative, intellectual stimulation of my own."


Gretchen says the students will reach for anything she can teach them. "I think the ESL program is a vital service for our students and the teachers because it's an opportunity for us to dig out our creative skills!" 



PHOTO: Gretchen Trent (center) with her ESL Students (L to R) Daniel Herrera, Emma Gutierrez, Roberto Ramirez, & Raul Almanza


Special Note: Please see back page for info on how you can become a ESL Teaching Volunteer



POVERTY CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON FINDING SOLUTIONS

PHOTO: City Councilmember Richard Alarcon, Habitat for Humanity CEO Donna Deutchman, and Liberty Hill Foundation CEO Kafi Blumenfeld lead a Poverty Conference workshop (L to R)

The 2nd Annual MENDING Poverty Conference was held at the MEND Center on June 4, 2009, co-hosted by our agency and the Valley Nonprofit Resources. Nonprofit executives from throughout Los Angeles heard outstanding presentations by plenary speakers Morley Winograd and Mike Hais, discussing how to connect "Millennials" with nonprofits; and Dr. Manuel Pastor on the impacts and opportunities in LA's economic crisis. Solutions Workshops included new and timeless fundraising strategies; programming, management, and financing solutions; and using advocacy to fight poverty.

Special thanks to conference sponsors Kaiser Permanente, The California Wellness Foundation, SoCal Edison, United Way, the Honorable Zev Yaroslavsky and the Honorable Richard Alarcon. 

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.

LA City Councilmember Richard Alarcon
 Adamma Foundation
 Angell Foundation
 Anheuser-Busch Co., Inc.
 Arleta Neighborhood Council
 AT&T
 Bellarmine Jefferson High School
 Congressman Howard Berman
 Albert & Elaine Borchard Foundation
 BP Corporation North America Inc.
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 Unihealth Foundation
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 United Way
 Universal Studios
 Universal Studios Hollywood's Discover a Star Foundation
 Verizon
 Westland School, Inc.

Capital Campaign
 Rickey and Robbi Gelb Foundation

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday - August 26
 Annual Teeth to Toes Event
Wednesday - September 30
 Baby Layette Distribution
October 1 thru 14
 Christmas Registration
Saturday - November 7 & 14
 Super Saturday Home Visiting
December 16 thru 20
 Christmas Basket Distribution

VOLUNTEERS BENEFIT FROM ESL TRAINING PROGRAM

MEND's English as a Second Language Teacher Training Program provides volunteers interested in teaching ESL a two-stage training program. Stage one includes six training sessions held on Saturday mornings followed by a put-it-into-practice session that participants do in a MEND ESL class during week seven. Stage two is a quarter-long apprentice program, where the future teacher works closely with an experienced teacher to hone teaching skills.

Some of the topics covered in training include: Who are our students? How do adults learn in general? How do adults learn languages in particular? Teachers in training also learn how to address student errors, provide feedback and basic concepts about student-teacher communication. For more information on how to register for the ESL Teacher Training Program e-mail: lilia@mendpoverty.org or call Lilia Soller, MEND Education and Training Director at (818) 686-7331 or Claudia Cubillo, Morning ESL Coordinator, at (818)686-7336.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2009
 MEND Offices: (818) 896-0246
 10641 N San Fernando Rd
 Pacoima, CA 91331

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