

With dignity and respect, powered by volunteers, MEND's mission is to break the bonds of poverty by providing basic human needs and a pathway to self-reliance.



APRIL | MAY | JUNE 2011

*matters*

mendpoverty.org

## Former Welfare Recipient Honored As Volunteer Of The Year



MEND honored Volunteer of the Year Lulu Carrion and many other outstanding current and past volunteers on Saturday, March 26th, during the organization's annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

When Maria "Lulu" Carrion's husband was killed in a car crash in 2000, she was devastated. She had three young children and was pregnant with her fourth, no job experience, and no income to pay her mortgage. Carrion sold her home, moved in with her parents, and called Los Angeles County welfare office to figure out what to do next. The County's Welfare-to-Work program sent her to MEND for on-the-job training as a volunteer. Thus began an eleven-year volunteer "career" with MEND that ultimately led to Carrion being given the agency's highest recognition, **Volunteer of the Year**. Along the way, Lulu remarried and because she no longer needs to work, she volunteers most days of the week in the MEND food and clothing departments.

"The impact that Lulu and all of our volunteers have made in MEND's programs is priceless," said Lupe Martin, Volunteer Services Director. "People are always amazed at what a small staff and an army of volunteers can do for a community. I think the magic is in the positive feeling volunteers get from giving back...and if you've never experienced it, to some degree, the feeling is hard to explain."

Martin noted that if it weren't for volunteers like Lulu, the organization would not be able to serve as many as 32,000 on a monthly basis. Volunteers from a broad range of backgrounds and income levels donate close to 13,000 hours each month.

### Upcoming Events

- May 14 Letter Carrier's Food Drive
- May 21 Universal Studio's Christmas in Spring at MEND
- June 15 MENDING Poverty Conference
- June 29 Dress for Success
- August 31 Head to Toes

### The MEND Wish List:

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

#### Volunteers Needed:

- Tutors - 4 hrs/wk, Tues - Friday 3-7 PM
- Optometrists - 3 hrs/wk or mo
- Pharmacists- 3 hrs/wk or mo
- Grant Writers - 2-5 hrs/mo
- Data Entry - 4 hrs/wk
- Home Visitors - 3 hrs/mo
- ESL Teachers - 3 hrs/week AM OR Eve
- Food Pick Up Drivers - 3 hrs/wk AM OR PM
- Clothing Pick Up Drivers - 4 hrs/wk PM
- Administrative Assistants - 3 hrs/wk
- Food Packers - 3 hrs/wk
- Food Dept. Customer Service Reps - 4 hrs/wk

#### Items Needed:

- Men's clothing/ plus size clothing/ teenage clothing/ new undergarments/ socks/ school uniforms/ new or gently used pots and pans/ post-it notes/ Microsoft office 2007 software/ flash drives (1 GB)/ mouse pads/ 42 cup coffee maker/ knife sharpeners/ expo dry erase markers (chisel)/ dry board erasers/ rolls of fadeless paper in bright colors (48" x 12')/ popcorn machine/ two small work stations in excellent condition/ dolly or cart/ urinalysis machine/ automatic pill counter

# MEND Hosts Oscar Night® America



On Sunday, February 27, MEND hosted an elegant **Oscar Night® America** viewing party with proceeds directly benefiting MEND's operations. Selected with the honor of hosting Los Angeles' officially sanctioned viewing party by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, MEND treated guests to an evening that included a red carpet entrance, news coverage by ABC7, local celebrities, 'paparazzi', predict-the-winner contest, wine tasting, auctions, and broadcast of the Awards.



*Top left: Board member Rick Boehmer & family*

*Top right: Guests on red carpet*

*Middle left: Silent Auction Items*

*Middle right: MEND CEO, Marianne Hill & event Co-chairs Diane Medina & Lynn Rinker*

*Bottom left: Top Gun look-a-likes Chris & Rebecca Berke*

*Bottom right: Oscar winner Eddie King & Sr. Colleen Settles*





Left: Director of Volunteer Services Lupe Martin gives award to volunteer Mary Kimber  
 Middle: Bishop Gerald Wilkerson draws winning raffle ticket for trip to Hawaii

## Volunteer Appreciation and 40th Anniversary Dinner



### Matching Gifts & Employee Giving Programs

*Did you know that many companies will double or even triple your donation to MEND? Your company's employee giving program is a simple and efficient yet significant way to make a difference in the lives of MEND's low-income clients. Every dollar you contribute supports MEND services, as well as encourages corporate goodwill from your employer.*

*Please check with your company's management, human resources office, or public affairs department as to whether they have such a program or would be willing to start one.*



Won't you please give serious thought to ways in which you, your family, or organization 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 - Meet Each Need With Dignity  
 10641 N. San Fernando Rd.  
 Pacoima, CA 91331  
 818.896.0246

### APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2011 MEND Newsletter

*Please return the completed form with your donation.*

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

My check is enclosed

Please charge to (circle one): Visa    Mastercard    American Express    Discover    Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEND Donors

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

### Current Program Support

The Angell Foundation  
AT&T  
Friends of Barbara Boxer  
California Community Foundation  
The California Endowment  
The California Wellness Foundation  
Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation  
Disney Worldwide Services  
Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes  
Gelson's Markets  
Habitat for Humanity  
Kaiser Permanente Foundation  
Lau-Branson Family Fund  
Medtronic Foundation  
Northeast Valley Health Corporation  
Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne  
Precision Dynamics Corporation  
Providence St. Joseph Medical Center  
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust  
Sunland Tujunga Lions Club  
Harold R. and Winifred R. Swanton  
Foundation  
Time Warner Cable  
Universal Studios Hollywood's Discover a  
Star Foundation  
University of the Pacific  
Valley Nonprofit Resources  
Valley Quiltmakers Guild  
Walmart Foundation  
Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Whole Foods Market

### Capital Campaign Donors

The Auer Family Foundation  
Xerox Corporation

## CEO's Corner



The start of MEND's 40th Anniversary Year has been a busy time! First, we were honored to be *the* charity in the Los Angeles media market selected to host an Oscar Night® America fundraising gala here in our Center on Sunday evening, February 27th. As you can see from the photos in this newsletter, it was a fun and glamorous event! Guests walked the red carpet created just outside our doors; watched the live broadcast of the Academy Awards on large screen TVs mounted around the party area; participated in a lovely silent auction with passed appetizers and champagne; bid on fantastic live auction items; enjoyed a scrumptious buffet dinner; had their photos taken in a specially created photo room, and much more! Special thanks to our hard working Oscar Committee and the event chairs Diane Medina, Vice President at ABC7 and Lynn Rinker, real estate agent with Prudential California Realty!

The next big event was our Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner on March 26 during which we focused on the 40 years of outstanding volunteerism at MEND. Co-founders and current board members Ed and Carolyn Rose invited founders, past board presidents, and early volunteers to attend and to be recognized with a special commemorative gift created just for them. Any volunteer present at the party who had given ten or more years of service to MEND at any point during our agency's history received a gift as well. And, all of our annual awardees received plaques engraved with our special 40th Anniversary logo.

It's amazing to think about MEND's humble beginnings in the garages of our founders and to see how our agency has grown, thanks to the commitment and compassion of several thousand dedicated volunteers and donors, as well as our dedicated staff. There is much to celebrate this year, and we will continue to do so in a variety of ways throughout 2011! - *Marianne Haver Hill*

## Newsletter Committee

Newsletter Coordinator: Erick López  
Writers: Liza Makabenta, Marianne Haver Hill, Erick López, Leyla Naimi  
Contributors: Maggie Torres, Emily Pang, Scott Mikels  
Editors: Marianne Haver Hill, Frances Groeneman, Bob Mayers, Erick López, Jenny Gutierrez  
Photographers: Marc Salsberry, David Jimenez, Erick López, Dohn Wellons  
Graphic Design: Clifton Wong  
Printing: West Coast Digital Printing  
Mailing: MEND Volunteers



**MEND - Meet Each Need With Dignity**  
10641 N. San Fernando Rd.  
Pacoima, CA 91331

**Return Service Requested**

**April, May, June 2011**

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Van Nuys, CA  
Permit No.  
2604