

MEMORANDUM

MENDING Poverty

MARCH 2007 MEMO: Schools and Students Support MEND

• Every year, **MEND** receives significant support from local schools and students. This support comes in many valuable forms including on site participation in our Dental Clinic and clothing center. Schools and students also help MEND by holding and supporting food, toy, clothing, and other drives during the year as well as MEND's annual Christmas program in which classrooms adopt MEND's most needy families for Christmas. In addition, schools send groups to volunteer and/or raise money on MEND's behalf. Students can earn service hours toward their graduation or receive internships/field experience for credit at MEND.

• **Students MENDING Poverty:** MEND's Computer Lab Instructional Coordinator, Mary Watanabe, shares the story of one incredible volunteer family, "I have 3 volunteers from one local family. They are the greatest: responsible, creative, and great models for our kids. The oldest sister, Carmen, volunteered last year on Saturdays. Then she brought her 13 year old brother, Javier, so he would understand how important it is to give back to your community. Javier has been wonderful with the kids, even leading a class in origami. Javier just found out that he can count his volunteer work toward his community service requirements in his Confirmation Class. Carmen is not able to volunteer right now so she is sending her sister, Maggie, with Javier this month. Maggie is a senior at CSUN, and works for LAUSD as a teacher's assistant. She is a real asset to our program."



Javier Gutierrez, 13, "giving back" at the Rose Education & Training Center.

• **MEND Clients Receive Nutrition Education:** Dietetic students from the USC Quick! Help for Meals program volunteered at MEND on a weekly basis during the fall 2007 to provide nutritional education to our clients. In addition to this vital information, our clients also received large bags of fresh vegetables. **MEND client Mr. Guadalupe Ortega** expresses the value of this program, "The vegetables distributed have been a great asset to my entire family. We had no idea vegetables could be used in the many different ways outlined in the recipe book we received! Everyone from the USC program was very kind and helpful and the food was fresh. We have already lost weight by learning to eat better. I hope they return to MEND soon."

• **CSUN Professor Supports MEND:** CSUN professor Rosa Furumoto sends students from her community studies class to MEND each semester. This class is a service driven course and MEND is always the first choice on their charity list. Professor Furumoto shares her reasons, "MEND is a positive place where the students can actively help within the diverse services that MEND provides to their clients. My students can personally engage in serving communities and get an authentic understanding of the issues and challenges these communities face. A high percentage of my students choose to continue to volunteer at MEND after they complete the course. MEND makes that much of a positive impact in the CSUN students' lives!"

You can make a difference! These are just a few examples of schools and students empowering and uplifting those within our community while receiving valuable life lessons about contributing and about the importance of each person taking action and giving the greatest gift of all; the gift of their time. We invite you to give of your time or to make a financial contribution to support MEND's programs!

Special thanks to volunteers Christina Lemon, David Jimenez and Jack Hurley for their work on this Program Update!