

MEMORANDUM

MENDING Poverty

APRIL 2009 MEMO: MEND Throws a Baby Shower

On February 25, sixty expectant mothers attended MEND's bi-annual baby shower. Everyone played shower games and participated in raffles through which MEND gave away strollers, gates, baby gear and clothing. Albertsons donated fabric grocery bags for the moms, and MEND volunteers filled each bag with baby necessities including bottles, bibs, clothing, and blankets. MEND's food department provided lunch.

The *City of Los Angeles* distributed free car seats in addition to car seat safety training. Various other agencies made presentations: *Women's Care Cottage* regarding their women's shelter; *Black Infant Health Program* regarding pregnancy and infant care; *YPI* regarding employment and other resources; *Urban Education Partnership* regarding community and school support; *WIC* regarding pregnancy and baby nutrition programs; and the *Regional Center* regarding developmental disability services.



Maria (Lulu) Correon helps give away a free basinet to one of our expectant mothers.

- **Customizing MEND Services for Special Needs** MEND Home Visiting volunteers provide assessments for clients with special needs. Such was the case with a single mother named Miranda whose home visitor approved her to receive food and clothing from MEND twice each month, rather than the usual monthly service. Miranda's only source of income is SSI which her daughter receives due to her autism. The daughter requires full-time care, making it impossible for Miranda to work outside the home. When Miranda comes in the MEND Clothing Center, she receives adult diapers, feminine hygiene items, and appropriate apparel items, in addition to a nutritionally balanced box of food from our Foodbank.
- **Clothing Volunteers MENDING Poverty** Lucia Romero started volunteering at MEND in April 2007. For 16 hours each week, Lucia receives payment from SER JOBS for work experience, but she volunteers extra time everyday to ensure her department is properly stocked and merchandised for MEND clients. Lucia is the lead volunteer for the children's clothing area that includes baby, toddler, and teenage clothing. She takes great pride in her work and her attention to detail is reflected in the professional retail experience of MEND's clothing clientele.
- **Special Needs in MEND's Clothing Department** We especially need *new* packages of underwear for men, women and children, larger size clothing for men and women, and clothing for teens. We also have a very special need for school uniforms. For more information please contact Clothing Manager Veronica Soto at (818) 686-7328.

Special thanks to volunteers Katharine Newman and David Jimenez for their work on this Program Update!