

MEMORANDUM

MENDING Poverty

APRIL 2010: MEND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM UPDATE

Volunteers make it happen! In 2009, more than 3700 volunteers gave over 155,000 hours of service, or the equivalent of 75 employees! *That means that more of MEND's financial gifts can go directly to serve our clients in need.* MEND recognizes three volunteers who have contributed their time to making a difference in our community.



Volunteer of the Year!

Once a week, Arthur Fleisher, MD, starts his day at 6:30 a.m. driving the bread truck around town collecting donated food items for MEND's FoodBank. Then twice a month, he provides gynecology services for women in MEND's Medical Clinic. He volunteers at a minimum of 30 hours per month which totals around 400 hours a year. He finds that the most rewarding moments are when "he is able to give access to basic needs to the people who need it the most." Dr. Fleisher received MEND's 2009 Volunteer of the Year award for his dedicated service.



Volunteer-to-Work!

Christiana Cardellio is pursuing a career as a dental assistant and the volunteer work she is doing at MEND's Dental Clinic is helping her climb the career ladder. She is part of a state welfare-to-work program that helps individuals obtain work experience through job placement at agencies like MEND. Besides learning job skills, she has had the opportunity to work and network with dentists and providers who have been her mentors. Her primary teacher has been Denise Benitez, MEND Dental Clinic Manager, who has shared her knowledge and her passion for helping. Christiana strongly believes that "MEND is a great place to obtain technical and hands-on training for a career in dental assisting."



Volunteer with a Purpose!

Like many volunteers, Roni Trujillo, a retired attorney from Guatemala, joined the volunteer force at MEND after hearing others praise about its great work in his community. He immediately felt an immense satisfaction in knowing that he is truly helping those who are desperately in need. After volunteering for over a year, Sonia Centeno, MEND Clothing Assistant Manager, recommended him for a paid position at MEND through a nonprofit agency, Youth Policy Institute (YPI), which runs an employment training program. Roni reflected on the meaning of volunteerism: "Through my volunteering, I am able to serve those who need the help and see a smile of great satisfaction after they receive the service. I truly feel grateful for being part of MEND."



Volunteers Wanted!

MEND constantly seeks volunteers to help low-income residents in the Northeast San Fernando Valley. All of MEND's programs continue to have openings for volunteers. In addition, dental professionals are currently in greatest need. Find more information about MEND's volunteer needs at our website: www.MENDpoverty.org/volunteer or please contact Lupe Martin at Lupe@MENDpoverty.org or (818)686-7327 if you would like to make a difference today.

Thanks to volunteer writer Young-Ji Lee and volunteer photographers David Jimenez, Olga Quintero & Karly Wakley for developing this update!