

# MEMORANDUM

## MENDING Poverty

### SEPTEMBER 2010: MEND'S EDUCATION & TRAINING CENTER UPDATE

The Rose Education & Training Center teaches, among other subjects, English as a Second Language (ESL) and computer classes for adults, as well as math, reading, science, computer skills and homework help for children whose parents are unable to provide this assistance. An Art Class is now being offered which provides women clients with the opportunity to utilize various crafts in the creation of gift items, as well as projects for their home, and occasionally for sale if they so choose. Other adult classes currently being offered are painting, sewing, guitar and dance classes.



#### Resilient Dedication: Young Students Show Dramatic Improvement

Silvia Rocha was worried about her son's low performance at school which could prevent him from completing junior high. Also, her daughter's low test scores and grades prompted this concerned mother to bring them to MEND's One-on One Tutoring Program which was started in February of this year. After three months of tutoring, Erick received a certificate of recognition for "Most Improved" as his grades remarkably increased from F's to C's. Veronica, as well, improved a whole letter grade in all her subjects. With the help of MEND's volunteer tutors, this brother and sister were able to not only improve their grades, but learned that commitment and dedication can go a long way. Seeing the change from a worried mother to a proud parent holding up her son's "Most Improved" certificate is a good reminder that investing personalized time and attention in struggling students can be the key to academic success. Veronica and Erick have been attending MEND's Tutoring Program throughout the summer and hope to be matched with a tutor again in this new school year.

#### Sharing Her Talents: A Volunteer Highlight

 Edith D. Cruz is a widow and mother of three daughters, all in their early twenties. She is a hard-working woman who finds four hours out of her work week as a hotel housekeeper to give back to the community by serving as one of MEND's Crafts teachers. Using her experience as a teacher back in the Philippines, Edith was first introduced to MEND by her friends who saw her talent in making things, and saw that she wanted to utilize her talents to help others. Edith has been sharing her gift with MEND students since September of 2009. "Always busy," as she describes herself, Edith enjoys seeing her students succeed in the class and in the real world where many have been rewarded financially by selling the items that they have made. Edith's goal is for her class participants to become even more creative with what they make, using the skills and techniques that she teaches them.



#### Empower your community!

 MEND seeks additional volunteers to help teach and tutor the children and adults who enroll in our Rose Education and Training Center. Lilia Soller, Education & Training Director, says that bilingual volunteers are needed for two to four hours per week, Tuesdays through Saturdays. If you are interested in supporting us in other ways, you can donate items. Our ESL program is looking for three LCD projectors and three digital document readers. Please contact Lilia at [Lilia@MENDpoverty.org](mailto:Lilia@MENDpoverty.org) or (818) 686-7331 if you would like to make a difference.

*Thanks to volunteer writer Joanie Simms and volunteer photographer Olga Quintero for developing this update!*