

# MEMORANDUM

## MENDING Poverty

### FEBRUARY 2011: MEND'S SHOWER PROGRAM UPDATE

MEND's Shower Program offers a facility to refresh and revitalize the body to those who otherwise do not have access to a washroom. Last year alone, the program served 376 total clients with as many as 135 of these individuals coming in a month. Information about the Shower Program is distributed to various homeless service agencies and once a client registers with MEND, he/she can utilize the shower facilities twice a week. Additional amenities include toiletries, a hot meal, a supply of nutritious food for 3-4 days, and a pair of clean clothing, as well as referrals to shelters, job assistance programs, and additional resources. The Shower Program is vital in building our clients' self-esteem: many have expressed that the services help them feel motivated to continue with their job searches. To help, please donate clean towels, men's casual clothing, and toiletry items to the MEND Clothing Center.



#### A Fresh Start!

Rafael Antonio Ingles was facing very hard times in his life. In order to better provide for his aging father and six-year-old daughter, he left his homeland of El Salvador and ventured to the U.S. in hopes of finding job opportunities. He found a job at a factory; however, due to the harsh economic climate the company went out of business and he was laid off. In need of assistance, Rafael came to MEND's Shower Program and was also connected to MEND's other services including emergency food, clothing, bus tokens, and dental care. He was even offered a volunteer position in MEND's Clothing Center. While he continues to look for new employment opportunities, Rafael continues to volunteer and enjoys helping others in need while he gains valuable job skills.



#### Here and Now!

Ruben Gonzales always thought poverty and homelessness existed in faraway places. Then last year, he started volunteering with MEND's Shower Program and realized that these issues are part of his own community. The experience increased his awareness of social issues and helped cultivate compassion for the less fortunate. The most interesting aspect of volunteering for Ruben is sharing life stories with volunteers and clients from different backgrounds. In talking about inspiration, he noted that he is motivated to help because he has found other volunteers at MEND who are so dedicated to helping those in need.



**MEND**  
**40**  
**YEARS**



#### Annual Volunteer Dinner Celebrates MEND's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

MEND's Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner Party will be held on March 26, 2011 at 5:30 PM in at the San Fernando Road building. Volunteers will take center stage as we recognize their hard work over the year. As part of MEND's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we will honor former volunteers and board members from past decades. Awards will be presented to 'Volunteers of the Year' in each department as well as other categories. Additionally, the MEND Board of Directors will be installed at this event.

*Thanks to our volunteers: Young-Ji Lee and David Jimenez for developing this update!*