

MAKE HOPE A MONTHLY HABIT

HERE'S A GREAT WAY to save time and help provide compassionate services all year long! Your generous gift will enable us to provide food and clothing for the most vulnerable in our community, free medical, dental and eye care for the uninsured, as well as services for the homeless.

Make a monthly or quarterly pledge to MEND in three simple steps:

- Decide how much you want to give every month or once a quarter.
- Call our CFO, Scott Mikels at, (818) 686-7353 to provide a few details including the bank account or credit card you want charged and to authorize the gift. We wish to assure you that the information you provide us will be kept private at all times.
- Thank you. Know that every day you are investing in changing lives in our community.



FIVE WAYS YOU CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE TODAY

- 1 Make a fully tax deductible gift today.
- 2 Does your company match donations? Find out by giving us a call at, (818) 686-7320.
- 3 Make a Gift of Love. In lieu of flowers or a condolence gift, send a donation in memory of your loved one to MEND. For birthdays, anniversaries, or holidays, celebrate the special people in your life by making a donation in their honor.
- 4 Host a food drive. It's simple! You can find resources online at: <https://mendpoverty.org/programs/emergency-food-bank>
- 5 Volunteer.

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one."

– Mother Theresa

MEND matters



With dignity and respect, MEND's mission is to meet the immediate needs of individuals and families and increase their access to opportunities that strengthen their capacity to thrive.

mendpoverty.org
WINTER | 2020



SHE HAS ONE OF THOSE SMILES that you cannot help but smile along with But, behind her beautiful smile is a story of pain and struggle

She opens the door of the one-roomed unit she shares with her family to greet our staff. They are there to drop off a bed for her young son's puppy, Nico. Alex had asked for a bed for Nico for Christmas. But MEND staff are also there to check in on the family.

Karla's eyes well up with tears when she sees the light blue donut cushion.

Her words are welcoming: "Come in... don't stand outside."

Karla's journey to this moment was made possible by many generous people, such as the 89 year-old former MEND volunteer who lives just a few houses down, but also by **people like you who allow MEND to be a beacon of hope for people like Karla, and bring comfort to fragile lives in their hardest hours.**

The soft-spoken mother shares: "I came here six years ago with my son, Alex. He was 3." Unable to live with her aunt due

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WISHLIST

When even the smallest New Year wishes work wonders....

If you can donate any of these items, please know they will go to immediate use for a person in need who will be thankful for the dignity and comfort you give...

- New, packaged underwear, socks, gloves and beanies for both women and men
- Gently used jeans and t-shirts of all sizes (constant need for these)
- Food – peanut butter, granola bars, oatmeal, canned tuna, tomatoes, chili, vegetables, fruits, soups, and dry goods such as rice, spaghetti and beans
- BIG WISH ITEM – \$2,600** Funds to replace the pitted and stained flooring in our Foodbank.

Drop off items at MEND, 10641 San Fernando Road, Pacoima, CA 91331. Or call Chanya Blumenkrantz at, (818) 686-7320.



LETTER FROM JANET

Thank you for helping those in need

THROUGHOUT THE HOLIDAYS, amazing

supporters like you help bring joy and love to the most vulnerable families and homeless men and women in our community. The squeals from excited children, the grateful smiles from parents, like Karla, struggling to make ends meet, Santa's booming voice, beautiful presents and bountiful food boxes— all are as a result of your generosity and compassion. It is both the most exhausting and rewarding time of the year! And with every recollection of these moments, *and this is from the heart*, I am filled with

gratitude for what you have done for so many. The words of one grateful man who is right now living on the streets of San Fernando Valley help make my point: "The Christmas party was so nice – the choir - it let me forget the things of today." Thanks to you, we are able to provide a place of dignity, respect and hope, where people can forget the things of today and dream of something better tomorrow. ***This is what your generosity makes real.....***

Janet
Janet Marinaccio
President & CEO

PARTNERS FOR THE FUTURE

IF RIGHT NOW IS A GOOD TIME for you to be thinking about the story your own life will tell, at MEND we have a simple and informative packet on leaving a charitable gift in your will that we'd be happy to mail to you, with our compliments.

If you've already included MEND – Meet Each Need with Dignity in your will, thank you! Your gift, when the time comes, *hopefully, far into the future*, will continue MEND's life transforming services in this community.

Please contact Chanya Blumenkrantz, Chief Development Officer at, (818) 686-7320 if you have any questions or would like to receive the information packet to help in your decision. You can also find information and sample documents at our online site here: <https://mendpoverty.org/make-a-donation/mend-legacy-society>.

In the end, if the question is how you want to be remembered, then there's no better way than in the impact your legacy will make in the lives of people in need.

We're grateful for your support!

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to space limitations, Karla found a place to stay in Pacoima. As it happened, the homeowner was a MEND volunteer.

Karla survived by collecting recyclables and cleaning houses. But she also started coming to MEND for help.

"I have no idea what I would have done if MEND did not exist." She adds: "MEND opened its doors to us...I get food every month and it lasts us 3 or 4 days. I also get clothes for Alex."

With a grateful smile she explains that the clothing is especially helpful since Alex is growing more by the day.

Not too long ago, Karla met her partner, Ruis, and moved into the one-room space. The spotless home features a bunk bed, small dining table and chairs for seating, tiny kitchen and bathroom. In one corner is a Christmas tree – a treasure from MEND.

Karla and her partner are expecting a baby boy, Jesus. With her hands wrapped around her baby bump, she shares many hopes and dreams for their future.

CLIENTS AT MEND ARE NOT JUST A BOX TICKED AS THEY COME IN. THEIR STORIES ARE PERSONAL TO ALL OF US. "All I want is a house. I don't want a car or anything like that, just a house." Recalling the scary two days she recently spent in hospital, she adds with emotion: "I want our baby to be healthy."

Clients at MEND are not just a box ticked as they come in. Their stories are personal to all of us.

Her son, Alex, has big dreams and aspirations of his own. Karla points at all of the soccer trophies displayed on the top of the refrigerator and you can feel the pride she has for his accomplishments at such an early age. She shares that she encourages Alex's dreams even though some seem out of reach: "I don't want to say no because in the United States anything is possible." She wipes her tears away. She hopes her baby boy shares the same big dreams as Alex.



Thanks to you, the lives of thousands of near-homeless and homeless families and individuals in our community are made better...every day. Despite their struggles, Karla and her family are hopeful about the future and want you to know how grateful they are for your help.

Thank you for the dignity you bring to people who are struggling. We couldn't do what we do, without you.

JOYOUS HOLIDAYS AT MEND



AT THE START OF DECEMBER, Thayana came to MEND with her husband, mother, and one year old daughter to donate toys for babies for our Christmas program. As she spoke with one of our staff members, she began to share the unique story behind the donation. When Thayana's mother, Paloma, was pregnant with Thayana and her two sisters, she suffered a lot of complications. The newborn triplets along with Paloma had an extended stay in the hospital until they were all healthy enough to go home. Paloma decided that as her daughters' one year birthday was approaching, she wanted to give back by donating toys to an orphanage in Brazil. With a smile, Thayana shares that she wanted to continue this tradition once she had her own children. Her daughter, Taylor, just turned one and as a show of gratitude for her family's health, Thayana came to MEND to bring holiday joy to other children. Thanks to Thayana and her family as well as to the many other donors who helped make holidays truly joyous at MEND!

FROM THE FRONTLINES

A CARING VOICE, where once there was none. A "how are you feeling?" and a hot meal in a compassionate place. A helping hand, clean clothing, and desperately needed medicine. Kindness and hope. Last year, because of your generous support

- More than 2,000,000 meals were cooked by struggling families in Los Angeles because of the food boxes you provided.
- Homeless men and women received food, clothing and hope during 9,000 service encounters.
- Over 10,000 were provided with clothing, blankets, diapers, shoes and so much more by our Clothing Center.

Your willingness to help hurting men, women and children in our community is truly amazing.