

2022

IMPACT REPORT





Joel's Journey

Joel is in recovery from a long-time addiction. He shares: “God rescued me when I was lost.” Feeding his addiction had led to years of ill health, broken relationships & homelessness. It was a hopeless and desperate life. But that’s behind him now. Clean and sober, Joel came to MEND after completing rehab, hoping to stay busy while looking for a job. He was struggling financially and in his personal life, but he also knew that nothing good would come out of idleness.

He showed up day after day, helping where he could. Then one day he learned that a job had opened up as a Warehouse Driver. It seemed so perfect! He approached a caseworker for help with putting a resume together, coaching and support. He was nervous, but he applied for the job. On the third day he was called in for an interview and shortly after he received the great news that he had been hired! Today Joel is a new man. Sober, employed and on his way to achieving his dreams, thanks to people like you.

Mark is rebuilding his life thanks to your generosity

Mark was at MEND at his grandmother's recommendation: "MEND will give you a chance, despite your past," she said.

So, here he was, nervously waiting to speak to someone.

He needed help with finding a place to live. Recently out of jail, Mark shared that he was making do, sleeping on the floor, in his grandmother's tiny home. After the initial euphoria following his release, he was beginning to worry about what to do next. Mark was finding that a criminal record made it challenging to reintegrate into society and rebuild his life.

"Because I took a wrong turn doesn't mean I can't change direction," he said.

He talked, and we listened, about the extreme mental stress he was experiencing and the fear he had of never catching up with his contemporaries. That was a lot! Our case worker helped him co-create a plan to meet his goals. First, he applied for and received his basic ID documents, then MEND worked with another organization to find him a place to live. He was ecstatic! Now Mark is enrolled in MEND's Gateways employment services and is busy looking for work. He recently stopped by with smiles and thanks that touched our hearts. But the thanks is really for you... for your care for people like Mark. With you and MEND in his corner, he is rebuilding his life.



YOUR IMPACT IN 2022



2.6 million

nutritious meals for almost 270,000 people



202

people in danger of losing their homes received rental assistance



255

low-income individuals supported on their journey to regain health, find a job, and achieve self-reliance



40,712

home & health supplies, and so much more



62,995

diapers for poor families



3,021

COVID vaccines facilitated



2,623

board games & toys that brought indescribable joy to hundreds of children



789

Encounters with those who are homeless

You also enabled us to say yes, whenever a community food pantry needed food. In fact, by supplying 37 food pantries in 2022, your help went so much further and into so many more homes across Los Angeles.

MEND'S LIFE CHANGING PROGRAMS

MEND's **Community Nourishment Programs** feed hundreds of thousands of people in need of food through a Food Pantry (direct distribution), Food Bank (distribution to partners), Buen Provecho farmers market & Health "Store". Demand remains high, but your help enables us to put canned & dry goods, meat, eggs, dairy and fresh fruits & vegetables in the hands of hungry people in Los Angeles.

Consolidated under one umbrella called **Here We Thrive**, our **case management services** offer interventions to help participants address the root causes of their struggles, access housing, mental health & other resources through partners, regain their health, and find & keep a job.

MEND's **Hope & Care** *outreach services* continued in 2022, providing help with COVID vaccines and wellness support.

First Step services are open every Thursday with direct and indirect services for people who are homeless.

MEND remains a place where people in crisis can find help with rental & utilities assistance, diapers, and other essential services.

And, finally, year after year, MEND sets aside time to restock backpacks for low-income children and celebrate the holidays with those who are homeless and marginalized.





Giving Hope

THANK YOU

Thank you for all you make possible. A nutritious meal...thousands of meals...for 269,000 vulnerable people and families in our community. Compassionate help for 255 individuals who last year had the courage to begin their journey to thriving. Support for 202 people who were in danger of losing their home. And a caring voice, where there may have been no one. In 2022 at MEND, just a single year, these were some of the wonderful victories made possible by your kind support. You enabled MEND to serve almost *more than 300,000 in 12 months*. Thank you for the care & kindness you extended for people who are struggling. We are grateful that you are a part of our MEND family.



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Please call us or visit our website for ways to give.



*Names may have been changed to protect privacy