

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.

You can make an automatic monthly gift to MEND in three simple steps.

- Decide how much you want to give every month.
- 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.
- 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
SPRING | 2020



GRATITUDE AND THANKSGIVING IN THE FACE OF CORONAVIRUS

IN PERHAPS ONE OF THE DARKEST PERIODS OF OUR LIVES, amazing supporters like you have stepped up to help feed thousands of our neighbors in need of emergency food. We are so grateful for your incredible support. The lines have been long, but hearts have been full. As our grocery store partners stopped delivering excess food to our food bank, your support became even more important, enabling us to purchase scarce nonperishables, meat, fruit

and vegetables; pay for drivers and packers; and ensure that we could do all this safely week after week.

We have spent some time talking to the families coming out to our food bank. We ask each one: "How are you holding up?" The answers are varied, but the message is the same. "We are thankful, so thankful for this help." You have stepped up to help people you may never meet. You answered their call in their time of distress. Thank you.

WISHLIST

When supplies are low, even the simplest gift speaks volumes to those we serve. We need:

- Food – peanut butter, granola bars, oatmeal, canned tuna, beans, tomatoes, chili, vegetables and/or fruit, soups, and dry goods such as rice, spaghetti, and beans.
- Diapers, all sizes, and feminine hygiene products.

Drop off items at MEND, 10641 San Fernando Road, Pacoima, CA 91331 on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, 9am-1pm. Or shop online and mail them to MEND. If you have questions, please call Cristina at, (818) 686-7360.



LETTER FROM JANET *How are you holding up?*

THESE ARE STRESSFUL, uncertain

and often heartbreaking times. Daily we hear the staggering reality of the impacts of COVID-19 on the world and our nation. Daily we are met with our own fears, frustrations and feelings of loss of control.

At the same time, we see your incredible generosity, kindness, and compassion. We see appreciation and gratitude on the faces of our families when they come by to pick up their

food box. We see HOPE in the eyes of men and women experiencing homelessness. We are in this together. **You are truly among the most remarkable people, in a remarkable time. Thank you.**

Praying that you and your loved ones are well and safe.

With warmest wishes,

Janet Marinaccio
President & CEO

FEEDING THE BEST PALS OF OUR HOMELESS CLIENTS

MANY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN without a home that we serve find joy and companionship in their pets. When they come to pick up food at MEND, we've always wished we had something nourishing and healthy for their best friends as well. So, imagine our joy when the Burbank Animal Shelter started regular donations of pet food! Thank you to Brenda Castaneda and the animal shelter for this wonderful gift, and thank you to you, for giving people who are homeless a place to turn – those with animal friends, and those without.



PARTNERS FOR THE FUTURE

A WELL-PLANNED GIFT sustains your generosity after your lifetime, and makes a powerful statement about the legacy you wish to leave.

If you have 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 additional information to help in your decision. You can also find legacy information and sample documents online here: www.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.

Grateful for your support!

STORIES OF HOPE AND OPTIMISM IN DIFFICULT TIMES, BECAUSE OF YOU.

IT'S AMAZING TO SEE what you've made possible. Even as the virus has forced many of our staff to stay at home, the case managers at the Family Support Program have continued to check in with enrolled families, keeping them on track with their goals, and giving them new tools to address new challenges and concerns. They wanted to let you know how some of the families are faring.

Despite the negative impacts of COVID-19 on **Nancy** and her family, she continues to strive and show resilience. With the loss of income, food has become an urgent need. She is picking up meals for her children from their school and receiving food from MEND. And to ensure uninterrupted learning for her out-of-school children, Nancy was able to receive free wifi from Spectrum. Now they're using the internet to connect with their teachers and complete school work. Through it all, Nancy is thankful for the resources and staff you have made possible at MEND who are helping her stay hopeful and on track with her goals.

Like millions of workers, **Alejandra**, has been laid off due to the stay at home order. Without income or savings, she has been getting food from local churches and MEND. She has fear



and anxiety for her family, but for her, prayers have helped keep her positive and grateful for people like you. She values the time she gets to spend with

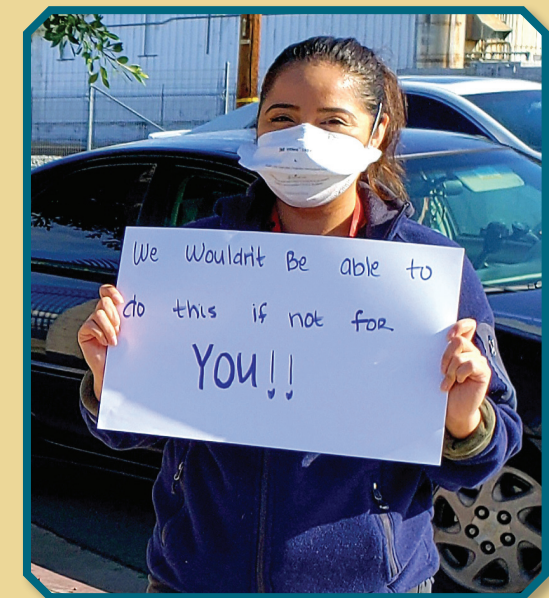
her daughters now that they are home from school. Although there is uncertainty with what will happen throughout the month of April and beyond, she is hopeful that things will get better for everyone soon.

Alexa initially enrolled into the program not really having a clear understanding of how it would benefit her and her family.

She did know however, that she needed guidance and support. Two things she wanted to improve were her health and her ability to understand the language her children spoke; English. Before the stay at home order,

Alexa was enrolled in ESL classes and had joined walking groups to increase her physical activity. She is proud to share that she has continued to practice her English and continues to walk. She's staying focused on tomorrow. Alexa says: "When I think of MEND, I think of a friend who won't let her family

"When I think of MEND, I think of a friend who won't let her family starve, won't let her children go to sleep cold, and will always be there for her when she's ready to get her strength and intelligence in action."



starve, won't let her children go to sleep cold, and will always be there for her when she's ready to get her strength and intelligence in action." You are that friend to MEND and the people we support, thank you.

MAY 5, 2020

GIVING TUESDAY NOW

#GivingTuesdayNow is a global day of giving and unity that will take place on May 5, 2020 as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19.