

MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY



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MEND Launches Annual Summer Hunger Campaign As More Families in Need of Food

Pacoima, May 3, 2011 – As the number of people seeking emergency food assistance from MEND has risen 116% in the last two years, the San Fernando Valley’s largest poverty center and food bank has launched its annual Stop Summer Hunger campaign.

July and August are two of MEND’s busiest months as school is out and there are fewer services available where families can receive discounted or free meals.

“With the Los Angeles Unified School District not offering summer school this year, we anticipate a big increase in families need assistance as their children will not be getting subsidized lunches and breakfasts,” said Marianne Haver Hill, President and CEO of MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity). “No summer school, coupled with the more people losing their jobs during these tough economic times, means that more and more people will be struggling to put food on their table.”

MEND serves as many as 32,000 each month through its food bank and other services and of these, 86 percent are children.

Businesses, churches, schools, summer camps, and civic organizations are encouraged to hold food drives during the summer, with proceeds going to the MEND Foodbank. The agency offers direct service to clients, as well as food donations to more than 30 smaller charities throughout the Valley. More than 250,000 lbs of donated food are needed monthly in order to serve those who are hungry.

In addition, in celebration of MEND’s 40th anniversary, community groups are asked to challenge their participants and employees to consider donating a portion of their coffee money to raise \$40 per week per group toward the MEND Stop Summer Hunger Campaign. The charity hopes to raise \$40,000 to match donations totaling this amount already given so as to help sustain its large food distribution operation

People can also participate in a “virtual food drive” by visiting www.mendpoverty.org

About MEND -- Meet Each Need with Dignity

[MEND](#) -- [Meet Each Need with Dignity](#), which serves as many as 32,000 poverty-level clients each month while remarkably keeping operating costs to 5%, is the largest, most efficient and most comprehensive poverty-relief organization in the San Fernando Valley. MEND's mission is to relieve the effects of poverty by providing all the basic human needs while giving their clients the tools, education, training, support and opportunities necessary to start the transition out of poverty.

MEND was born as a *volunteer-powered* organization four decades ago in a garage in suburbia, and today utilizes more than 3200 volunteers (and only 24 paid staffers) to implement its vast array of programs that provide food, clothing, medical, dental and vision care; job training, classes in English as a Second Language, literacy, computers, office skills, sewing and parenting; math, reading and science tutoring for kids; hot meals, food, clothing and showers to the homeless and a community wide adopt-a-family Christmas Program.