

MEMORANDUM

MENDING Poverty



SUMMER HUNGER

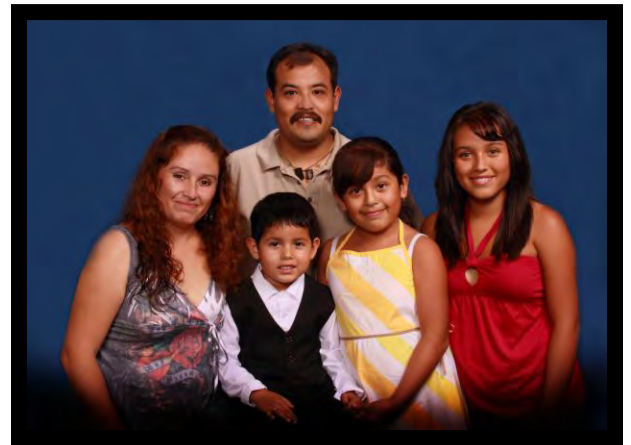


The number of new people seeking emergency food assistance from MEND has doubled in the last year! In addition, July and August are two of MEND's busiest months as school is out and many children are not receiving subsidized lunches. To meet this increased demand, MEND has launched its annual Stop Summer

Hunger Campaign. Non-perishable food can be donated to any of the 17 participating Ralphs stores, or directly to MEND. Participating stores can be found at www.mendpoverty.org. Ralphs, KCBS2/KCAL9, Sempra Energy Foundation, and the Los Angeles Daily News are the Stop Summer Hunger sponsors. As of this writing, \$10,000 has been raised toward MEND's goal of \$25,000, which will then be matched by a \$25,000 grant from Ralphs. *Your help is needed to bring in the \$16,700 more to make the match!*

Family of Five Receives MEND Support During Financial Hardship

Maria Ortiz and her husband, Miguel Lopez support a family of five. Miguel is currently on disability, which has caused a financial burden on the family, so their family has been receiving food and other assistance through MEND. The oldest of their children Michelle, 16, often volunteers at MEND during her school vacations to help give back to MEND for assisting her family. Rosa, their 10-year-old daughter, is currently in summer school; and they also have a 6-year-old, Jesus. The MEND services that the family receives allow for their very limited income to go towards other household needs.



MEND volunteer photographers Doug and Sally Warner took this portrait of the Ortiz-Lopez Family.

Welfare Recipients GAINing Work Skills in MEND Foodbank

The Manzo Family came to MEND through the GAIN program, which is a program designed for welfare to work moms or dads that need to learn new skills in order to prepare for the workforce. Currently, MEND is providing training to about 70 GAIN individuals, and the Manzo Family is included. Both Jose and his wife Maria Manzo dedicate 40 hours a week volunteering in MEND's Food Department. Since their 14-year-old daughter, Elisa, is on summer vacation, she also comes in a couple of times a week to help fill the boxes of food that go to feed the many families and individuals that come to MEND.

Eagle Rock Church Works with MEND to Feed The Homeless

The Christian Assembly of God Church of Eagle Rock originally came to MEND's food distribution program requesting assistance to do a homeless meal program through which they could make sandwiches for individuals on Skid Row. Richard Weinroth, MEND's Foodbank Director, suggested that MEND's volunteers could help prepare some of the meals. For the last six months, a handful of MEND volunteers arrive on Saturday to prepare meals and help the Christian Assembly distribute the meals to approximately 120 homeless living in one of the poorest areas of Los Angeles.

Special thanks to volunteer Liza M. Sacilioc for her work on this July 2009 Program Update!