



SUMMER HUNGER



June 25, 2010



Dear MEND Friend,

According to a recent report released by the US Department of Agriculture, **one in four children struggles to get enough food to eat on a daily basis.** The current recession and high rate of unemployment leaves many families applying for food stamps and seeking assistance at local food banks. **These children are not just statistics -- these children are hungry kids in our community who need YOUR help!**

In the past four months, MEND assisted **7,500 children through our food distribution program, an increase of over 83%** from the same time last year. In order to meet this need, MEND has been reaching out to local farms, corporations, and other organizations to secure more fresh fruits, vegetables and canned goods to provide healthy, nutritionally balanced boxes for our recipient families.

During the summer, low-income children don't have access to school lunch programs, and many of them will go hungry or survive on food with little or no nutritional value. For their parents, the poor economy has made jobs more competitive and more difficult to obtain. Construction worker Efrain Botello during good years worked steadily using his skills, but this year, jobs have been scarce. His wife Ana has been coming to MEND for food, clothing and healthcare to help make ends meet. They are grateful for the nutritious food that they can give to their three young children and teenager. "Thanks to MEND, we are eating healthier and have a little bit of money to pay our household bills," says Ana.

You can help feed hungry children in our community by supporting MEND's annual Stop Summer Hunger Campaign. Every gift of \$48.75 will provide a three-day supply of food to children and their parents in need.

You can also support the campaign by donating non-perishable food items for Stop Summer during July and August. And, if you or your organization would like to coordinate a collection drive to give food directly to MEND, please contact our Food Bank Director Richard Weinroth at 818.897.2443 or Richard@mendpoverty.org. We can provide promotional materials to help publicize your drive.

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."

Make your donation today. Even a small donation during these uncertain economic times can make a difference to those who are struggling to survive.

With thanks,

Susan Ng
MEND Board 1st Vice President

Marianne Haver Hill
President and Chief Executive Officer



P.S. Remember, a gift of \$48.75 will provide a three-day supply of food for one struggling family, a gift of \$195 will help four families, and \$975 will ensure that twenty families are well-fed. Send in your donation today!