

MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Low Income Teens to Receive Gowns

MEND holds annual Dress-Up Day and life issues discussions with teens and parents

(Pacoima, CA) – MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity) has collected dozens of gowns and formal accessories from the community that will be given to young women for their proms, graduations and other special occasions at the organization’s annual Dress-Up Day on Saturday, May 1 at 10 a.m.

Young women from MEND’s client families in the San Fernando Valley, including students from San Fernando High School and Sylmar High School, have been invited to take part in the Dress-Up Day event where students from Western Beauty Academy and Burbank Adult School will be doing hair and make-up after the teens select their formal outfits.

The Pacoima-based non-profit aimed at relieving poverty will also hold a variety of informational discussion groups for teens and their parents on important life topics. Topics for the teens will include safe dating and developing a strong self-esteem while parents will have the opportunity to discuss effective ways to communicate with their teens.

“We want every young girl to feel proud of who she is,” stated Marianne Haver Hill, President and CEO of MEND. “The gowns they receive are beautiful; we go the extra mile to make sure they understand that how they ‘look’ is a mere reflection of their inner beauty.”

About MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity)

MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity), which serves as many as poverty-level clients each month while remarkably keeping operating costs at or under 9%, is the largest, most efficient and most comprehensive poverty-relief organization in the San Fernando Valley. *MEND’s mission is to break the bonds of poverty by providing basic human needs and a pathway to self-reliance.*

MEND was born as a *volunteer-driven* organization nearly four decades ago in a garage in suburbia, and today utilizes more than 3700 volunteers (and only 23 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.

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