

MEMORANDUM

MENDING Poverty

DECEMBER 2007 MEMO: HEALTH CLINIC GRAND OPENING!



• On October 18th, 2007, MEND celebrated its **Health Clinic's Grand Opening** with an all day event. Throughout the day, MEND's staff and 70 volunteers served approximately 310 patients who otherwise could not have afforded medical care. The free services provided included: flu shots, vision screenings, dental screenings, blood sugar screenings, blood pressure screenings as well as physician exams and consultations.

• **Patient's Dramatic Improvement:** **Maria Castellanos** became a patient of the Medical Clinic when she was ill and did not have the resources for treatment or medicine. Her health has dramatically improved due to the outstanding services and support she has received from the staff of the Medical Clinic and generous volunteers. Ms. Castellanos shares her story, *"Thanks to the MEND clinic my health has improved dramatically. At MEND, I am given the medicine I need and receive great treatment. The doctors really listen to me and care about my concerns regarding all of my medical problems. The compassionate and quality service I have received made me decide to become a volunteer at MEND to help others."*

• **Volunteer MENDING Poverty:** The exceptional services provided at the MEND Medical Clinic would not be possible without the selfless and diverse group of medical professionals who volunteer their time. One of these extraordinary individuals is **Gloria Hampton, RN**. For more than 13 years, Gloria has volunteered on Thursdays in the family practice clinic as a dispensing nurse. She fills prescriptions and informs patients on how to take their medications. Mrs. Hampton expresses her feelings about volunteering at MEND: *"It provides me a sense of giving and helps me stay on top of the medical field. There are many times when an agency can't afford to give all the care necessary and that is why it's important to volunteer."*

• **Rising Costs of Medications:** As the MEND community celebrates the opportunity to be of greater support to those in need through the medical clinic, it also faces the harsh reality of greater costs for these services. MEND's Executive Director **Marianne Haver Hill** explains, "We have experienced a huge increase in our expenditures for medicine, as health companies have greatly reduced the availability of free medications to patients. Due to these changes, many of our clients are unable to get the medicines they need, and MEND has been required to purchase many more pharmaceuticals than in the past. However, MEND continues in its unwavering commitment to "Meet Each Need with Dignity" by absorbing the cost of these essential medications. We would obviously be very grateful for any additional financial support for our Medical Clinic."

As a valued partner of MEND, we ask that you consider reaffirming your personal commitment to those in need, particularly those facing health challenges in their lives by making a financial contribution to the Medical Clinic.