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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE PLEASE

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MEND Brings Joy To Those In Need

For the last nine years, Reuben Joy, Pharm.D., MEND's Pharmacist of Record, has volunteered one Wednesday afternoon a month to work in the pharmacy at MEND. MEND stands for Meet Each Need with Dignity and is the largest and most comprehensive poverty agency in the San Fernando Valley.

The MEND Medical Clinic is open at various times each month to help impoverished, and medically disenfranchised patients in the San Fernando Valley. The medical clinic has a licensed dispensary that provides free prescriptions to patients during their medical appointments.

Despite a busy work and work-related travel schedule, Dr. Joy makes his volunteer time a priority. "My contribution is minimal yet it profits many...it is something I consider important," says Joy, "Volunteering my pharmacist services at MEND is both professionally and personally rewarding. The work environment is challenging yet the opportunity exists for a win-win-win. The practitioner is always learning, the patient is enabled to see a physician and receive needed medications, and the local community is benefited. There is a remarkable spirit of volunteerism and camaraderie working with the staff and volunteers at MEND."

Pharmacists are especially needed to fill prescriptions on Wednesdays and

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Thursdays during the family practice clinics scheduled each month. However, other days and times are also possibilities for volunteers during any of MEND's specialty clinics."

MEND has been serving a growing number of impoverished families who live in the Northeast part of the Valley for 33 years. More than 38,000 needy individuals receive help *each month* from MEND, including emergency food, clothing, medical and dental care, English as a Second Language classes, job placement, computer and job training, Christmas baskets, home visiting, and other services.

More than 1400 volunteers run and implement MEND programs together with MEND's small staff, and volunteers also take care of fund raising and public relations activities. Because of this emphasis on volunteer involvement, MEND's overhead and fundraising costs are less than 5% of its annual revenue. MEND does not receive government grants to operate its services, so this agency relies on financial donations from individuals, foundation, and businesses, as well as in-kind contributions of food, clothing, medicines, and toys.

By becoming a part of MEND's pharmacist volunteer team, you can:

- Make a difference in someone's healthcare for a little as 4 hours per month
- Work with English-to-Spanish translation pharmacy dispensing software
- Utilize our fully stocked dispensary, with over 145 items on our formulary
- Utilize your professional skills in a unique environment
- Network with other healthcare professionals and MEND's support staff
- Easily fit the gift of volunteering into your busy schedule as per your availability

If you are a California- registered pharmacist and would be willing to donate a few hours of time each month to help those in need, please call Nina Vaccaro, MEND Medical Clinic Manager, at (818) 896-0246. You can also visit the MEND website at www.mendpoverty.org.

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