



STOP Summer Hunger!

Local children and their families are asking for YOUR help!

May 31, 2011

Dear MEND Supporters,

As I flip through my family's photo album, my mom stops me at the usual page to say, "and that's the dress that you received from MEND." Looking at the eight year old me with curly hair and a smile, I vaguely remember the dress, but always know my mom will stop to remind me. She is eternally grateful for MEND's help in our years of need.

My name is Linda Ornelas and as a child growing up in Pacoima, I was a recipient of MEND's generous giving. My siblings and I received food and clothing year-round and gifts for Christmas from the MEND Center, which was only two blocks from our home. We survived on hope and charity. This, along with a strong-willed mother, helped us to succeed in school and go on to college. I graduated from UC Berkeley and some of my siblings attended Stanford, UCLA and UC Santa Barbara.



As I sit on my couch writing this to you, I thank you in advance for helping children in need of food and clothing and for helping the eight year old that I see in the photo. I thank you for giving them and me dignity and an opportunity for a successful future.

But the reason that I am writing to you now is that hunger is at an all-time high in our community. There are many, many more children and their parents who are coming to MEND these days for emergency food and clothing than when I was young.

In fact, in the last two years, the number of food applicants to MEND has risen by 116%! And typically, MEND serves more food applicants in the summer months than at any other time of year!

When my family was really struggling years ago, I remember what it was like to go to bed hungry...and I have decided to do what I can to ensure that other children do not experience hunger!

Hunger in our community is something that you and I can do something about! We can collect food donations personally or within our churches, businesses and community organizations to give to MEND. These donations in turn are put into boxes that provide a nutritious breakfast, lunch and dinner for three days.

But in addition to food, it also takes funds to keep MEND's large Foodbank operation going. **I am asking you to donate \$48.75 to help MEND Stop Summer Hunger in 2011.** A gift in this amount will supply one hungry family with a three-day supply of food.

You can be assured that your donation will be well utilized to help our community neighbors who need it most. On average each year, 95% of MEND's revenues go to support our programs, such as emergency food and clothing distribution, healthcare, and education and training.

Please go online today to www.MENDpoverty.org to make a generous donation. Or, use the enclosed envelope to mail in your gift.

Again, thank you for your partnership as we together work with MEND to Stop Summer Hunger.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Ornelas

Linda Ornelas
MEND Volunteer

P.S. Your donation TODAY of \$48.75 or \$195 or \$975 will help to ensure that MEND can continue to assist the growing number of hungry people who come to our Center requesting help.

CALL: 818-686-7353

CLICK: MENDpoverty.org

MAIL: Enclosed response envelope

Join me in fighting hunger in 2011

- \$48.75
 - \$195.00
 - \$975.00
 - Other Amount _____
- this would really help!* ←

- By CHECK made payable to MEND
 - I will be making my donation online at: www.MENDpoverty.org, select **Donate Now**
 - BY CREDIT CARD (please fill out the information below)
 - VISA MasterCard AMEX Discover
- Make a one-time charge of \$ _____. Charge \$ _____ each month.



MEND
10641 San Fernando Road - Box B
Pacoima, CA 91331-2626

Cardholder's Name: _____ Exp Date: _____

Card #: _____ Security Code: _____

Daytime Phone #: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

My Company: _____, will match my gift, I am enclosing or will send a matching gift.