

MEND: Meet Each Need with Dignity, our Name, our Mission; Teeth to Toes Event  
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## **NBA Brothers Jarron & Jason Collins to Join “Teeth To Toes” Event**

(August 2004 - Los Angeles, CA) Each year MEND opens its doors to **180** low-income third graders, in one day, to experience “Teeth To Toes”. Throughout its 30-year history, MEND has led the effort to transform the lives of the neediest residents of the San Fernando Valley - poor children and their struggling families. “Teeth To Toes” is a shining example of this vision in action.

MEND is pleased to announce the participation of NBA brothers **Jarron & Jason Collins**. Jason is going into his fourth year with the **NJ Nets**. Jarron is going into his fourth year with the **Utah Jazz**. Both went to Harvard-Westlake and were high school McDonald and Parade All-Americans. Their high school team won two state championships. Jarron and Jason went to Stanford and were All Pac 10 and All-Americans. Their team won 3 Pac 10 championships and participated in the NCAA final four. Both were drafted into the NBA in the '01 draft. Jason was selected the 18th player and Jarron was selected 52. “We are both still part of this community and we believe in the services that MEND provides to this community. We want the children to know that our success would not have been possible without the education we received while growing up in the San Fernando Valley”, Jarron and Jason Collins.

The atmosphere during the “Teeth to Toes” event is one of excitement and fun. The children flow through the building to each ‘station’ to receive a new pair of shoes, receive dental fluoride sealants, use educational software in MEND’s computer lab, and participate in games. They will also receive generously filled backpacks from the Walt Disney Company. “The beaming smile on each child’s face says it all. They are thrilled to be part of “Teeth to Toes”. I am too. They especially love getting new shoes!”, states volunteer Christina Lemon.

### **Event Schedule & Photo Opportunity:**

**When:** Wednesday, August 25, 2004; 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Jarron & Jason Collins:** 10:30am – 12:00pm

**Prime photo and interview opportunities:** 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Where:** MEND Center located at 13460 Van Nuys Blvd., Pacoima.

**Photo opportunities:** children receiving dental sealant application, volunteers selecting and fitting children for new shoes, children learning dental care (i.e, proper way to brush teeth), children participating in games, hands-on computer lab.

Students will arrive at 8:00 a.m.

### **About MEND**

MEND is a volunteer-driven organization that provides services that meet the basic human needs of individuals who reside in the northeast San Fernando Valley. MEND has grown primarily by word-of-mouth into one of the leanest operating non-profit organizations in existence. More than 95 percent of the support and donations the organization receives goes to provide emergency food, clothing, medical and dental care, job skills training and job placement assistance, English and a Second Language classes, computer lab, and a Christmas program. Serving in excess of 38,000 clients each month, MEND is now the largest anti-poverty agency in the Valley.

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