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For Immediate Release:
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Help Make A Merry Christmas for Those in Need

Like the Phoenix out of the ashes, MEND has bounced back after its devastating fire on October 18, 2004. The fire destroyed thousands of dollars worth of clothes, toys, baby items, and blankets that were destined for those in need. The public's response to the tragedy was overwhelming. Hundreds of people opened their hearts and donated much-needed items to replace what was lost. The staff and volunteers are eternally grateful for the community's quick response and support.

The fire happened just before MEND's busiest time of year, when MEND prepares Christmas baskets for needy families. Not only did MEND lose items in fire, but there was also a break-in on October 10 to a storage bin that housed new baby items, new shoes for kids, Christmas gifts, and bicycles. All the items in the storage bin were stolen.

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MEND needs both volunteer help and donations for Christmas. Approximately 1000 families a year apply to receive a MEND Christmas Basket, which includes enough food for Christmas dinner plus staple items, a new blanket and two new toys for each child under the age of 14. Help is needed to wrap presents, pack food boxes, sort clothes, and distribute Christmas baskets. Donations of food, warm blankets, and new toys are also needed.

If you can help, please contact MEND at (818) 897-2443 or
(818) 896-0246

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