

**RICK DEES and MICHELLE TUZEE CO-HOST
MEND “HOPE FOR TOMORROW” BENEFIT GALA**

**State Senator Alex Padilla and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
To Receive Awards**

**Generously Sponsored by Zenith Insurance Company,
Kaiser Permanente and Disney**

What: Offering an ongoing source of hope for Los Angeles, **Meet Each Need with Dignity (MEND)**, is hosting an elaborate celebration to benefit the organization’s newest building, which houses: an enlarged health clinic including medical, dental and vision services for uninsured patients; space for MEND’s food bank, now the ninth largest in California; a spacious clothing distribution center; shower facilities for the homeless; a hospitality center that will seat more than 200 applicants; and administrative offices.

Guests of the gala will enjoy a special cocktail hour, an exquisite dinner, entertainment by Company B: A musical tribute to The Andrews Sisters and an awards ceremony for recipients: State Senator Alex Padilla, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Providence Health and Services, Steven Brown and Allene Brown.

Guests also will have the opportunity to bid (both silent and live) on high-profile auction items to include:

- “One on one” playing sessions with NBA Players Jason and Jarron Collins
- A black and white framed photograph of MARILYN MONROE, taken by famed Hollywood photographer Murray Garrett
- 4 Clubhouse day passes and parking to the Target World Challenge with Tiger Woods at Sherwood Country Club
- The Ellen Show Tickets
- Golf for four Porter Valley Country Club
- Counter-Top Video Game
- Vacation getaways to Mammoth Mountain, La Quinta Resort
- 4 Dodger Dugout Seats with parking

Who: Rick Dees, Michelle Tuzee, State Senator Alex Padilla, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa,

Where: MEND Center, 10641 San Fernando Road, Pacoima

When: Thursday, April 26, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

Contacts: Marianne Haver-Hill, MEND 818-896-0246
Ellen Lee, MEND Co-Chair 818-993-0168/faylee17@yahoo.com

**MEND staff, volunteers and representatives are available for interviews.

Proceeds from the event will benefit MEND’s daily operations & services that assist low-income families in the Northeast Valley. MEND was founded in 1971 and is now the largest and most comprehensive poverty agency in the San Fernando Valley, serving more than 42,000 low-income people each month. In 2006, over 2,100 MEND volunteers provided 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 to low-income families. The agency outgrew its present building on Van Nuys Boulevard and construction is in progress on the new 40,000 square-foot facility where MEND will expand its services to many more clients. The current MEND Center will be retained and the agency’s education and training department, including computer lab, will be expanded.

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