



13460 Van Nuys Boulevard • Pacoima, CA 91331 • (818) 896-0246 • (818) 897-2443 •
FAX (818) 897-5642

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Marianne Haver Hill
Executive Director
818-896-0246, Ext 212
Marianne@mendpoverty.org

**NBA PLAYERS JASON AND JARRON COLLINS JOIN MEND
AS CELEBRITY SPOKESPERSONS AND HOST BENEFIT RECEPTION**

"Our hope is that MEND receives increased visibility through our efforts and that those who can, will give to a great organization that helps so many in the San Fernando valley, the community where we grew up." Jason and Jarron Collins.

WHO: Jason Collins, New Jersey Nets, forward and Jarron Collins, Utah Jazz, forward.
WHAT: Benefit Reception in Support of the MEND capital campaign.
WHEN: Thursday, August 24, 2006
WHERE: Mountaingate
Los Angeles, CA

A charitable evening reception was held at Mountaingate, to benefit **MEND** (Meet Each Need with Dignity). **Proceeds from the event benefit MEND's capital campaign.** 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 new facility is eighty-percent finished and will be complete by December. MEND has successfully raised \$6.9 million towards its \$8.1 million goal and is actively looking for donations and room sponsorships to complete their capital needs.

MEND was founded in 1971 and is now the largest and most comprehensive poverty agency in the San Fernando Valley, serving more than 38,000 low-income people each month. In 2005, over 2,200 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.

Once completed, the new building will house an enlarged health clinic including medical, dental and vision services for uninsured patients; space for MEND's foodbank, now the 9th 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. The current MEND Center will be retained and the agency's education and training department, including computer lab, will be expanded

Media Note: **MEND staff, volunteers and representatives are available for interviews and tours of the new facility. For more information, please contact Marianne Haver Hill at 818-896-0246**