

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Groundbreaking Ceremony for MEND's Exciting New Facility**

A groundbreaking ceremony and lunch reception will be held on **Monday, June 13, 2005** from 11a.m. to 1p.m at 10641 San Fernando Road Pacoima, CA 91331. The celebration will mark MEND's growing accomplishments in providing life sustaining and enriching services to those in need in the Northeast Valley, and also the beginning of construction of an additional 40,000 square-foot facility where the agency can expand its services to many more clients.

MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity) 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 2004, over 1,800 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 20,000 square foot center on Van Nuys Boulevard several years ago, and after an extensive search, purchased land and made plans for the new facility.

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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

Special guests **Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky** and **City Council President Alex Padilla** will be recognized for their extraordinary efforts on behalf of to raise funds and expedite the beginning of the new facility. Approximately two hundred guests are expected to attend including elected officials, executive directors of various non-profits, representatives from private foundations, business leaders, as well as the surrounding neighbors. Lunch will be served. The celebration will be full of great photo opportunities.

**WHAT:** MEND's Groundbreaking and Lunch Reception

**WHEN:** Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>; 11a.m. to 1p.m.

**WHERE:** Site of MEND's future facility 10641 San Fernando Road Pacoima, CA 91331  
(Corner of San Fernando and Pierce)

**WHO:** Special guests: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky & City Council President Alex Padilla

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

**For more information, please contact Marianne Haver Hill at 818-896-0246.**