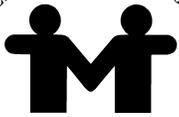


MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY



MEND

www.mendpoverty.org

(818)896-0246

MEND

August/September 2005

matters!



Let's Get It Started

Close to 200 friends and neighbors attended the groundbreaking for MEND's new building on the corner of Pierce Street and San Fernando Road. Representatives from all sectors were in attendance: community members, foundations and other non-profit organizations.

Our thanks go to KABC News person Miriam Hernandez for graciously emceeding the program. Among the elected officials donning hard hats and wielding shovels were County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and City Council President and Pacoima-area Councilman, Alex Padilla. Also turning over the first shovels of earth were MEND

Executive Director, Marianne Haver Hill, current Board President Ed Rose and General Contractor, Robert E. Lee.

Ed Rose, MEND Board President and one of the original founders of MEND said, "This is the first step to making our new building a reality. It is great that MEND will make this area into something beautiful for the benefit of the entire community."

MEND staff and Victory Outreach members worked to clear the area in preparation for the groundbreaking, the MEND Family Club contributed by decorating the area with banners and our own "Fiestas to Go" catered the event.

MEND's Calendar

Please note these upcoming events

October 8-22

Christmas Basket Registration

October 22

Magic Show Fundraiser

November 5 &

November 12

Super Saturdays

(Home Visits to Christmas Basket applicants)

April 29, 2006

Victorian Tea Fundraiser



Mervyn's Mania - Child Spree

Even though it's only August, school is right around the corner. Thanks to Mervyn's and our wonderful volunteers, ten well-deserving kids were able to go on their very own Back-to-school shopping spree.

In the early hours on Saturday, August 6th, the fun began! Mervyn's in Sun Valley generously provided each child a \$100 gift card to spend on school clothes. Armed with lists,

(con't on page3)



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE



Executive Director's Corner

Coordinating a capital campaign has lots of peaks and valleys, but overall, it's been heart-warming to see how many volunteers have stepped forward to assist in this process! In MEND's unique, volunteer-driven way, we are currently utilizing three primary strategies to obtain major contributions:

1. Our capital campaign proposal committee, chaired by 101 Communications CEO Jeff Klein and comprised of executives and professionals, is submitting proposals for large grants to foundations that prefer to give to building projects rather than program operations. Their work is paying off handsomely!

2. Kat Connolly, President of Connolly Consulting, is working with our elected officials to contact their donors on behalf of MEND's campaign. Many letters, phone calls, and appointments have been made, and we are beginning to see very positive results.

3. Tom Backer, PhD, President of the Human Interaction Research Institute, is

helping MEND use a variety of networks to identify wealth managers who in turn can recommend MEND to their clients. These clients may be interested in making charitable contributions for personal and tax reasons, but don't already have connections to specific non-profit agencies.

4. One of our goals in all of this activity is not only to get our new building built, but also to broaden MEND's support base for the longer term to ensure that our expanding programs can keep going!

In the midst of all of this fund raising activity, we want to stay focused on what MEND is all about: "meeting each need with dignity" for the poor who come to us in need of assistance.

Marianne Haver Hill

P.S. Construction is slated to begin September 1, 2005, so if you would like to monitor the progress, drive by our new site at the corner of San Fernando Road and Pierce Street in Pacoima!



Moms, Layettes and Child Safety

Among the many programs the Clothing Department provides to clients is the annual Car Seat and Layette Distribution.

Every year, layettes are put together, car seats are acquired and child safety classes are offered to recipient mothers. New clothing donations for newborns are set aside and special purchases are made, if necessary, to complete the layettes. A typical layette can include clothing, bottles, disposable diapers, baby wipes and a carryall bag.

Prospective mothers participate in child safety classes where they learn the importance of using car seats and how to properly install the seat in the car. This class is a prerequisite to receiving the car seat and layette.

One such example is "Olivia." She has been a MEND recipient for the last three years. Olivia is a young mother expecting her second child. She was very happy to be selected as a participant. The family lives in a converted garage, most of their income goes for housing and there is

not much left for food and other necessities.

Thanks to the program, Olivia feels that her new baby will travel safely and will have some new clothes as well.

Gricelda Gonzalez, Clothing Department Manager, says, "We are very proud of the program. It enables expectant mothers to prepare for the arrival of the baby and provides them the tools to help keep their child safe."



The Family Club children enjoy a day at Universal Studios!

Volunteer Spotlight



Linda Miles first offered her services as a licensed acupuncturist to the MEND Clinic in January, 2004. Having volunteered in the past at the L.A. Free Clinic she felt that it was again time for her to give back to the community. "Giving back is something that's always been meaningful to me. The supreme way of being happy is to help someone else" Miles says. With Miles' special volunteer interests, the MEND Clinic was able to extend its services by establishing its first ever Acupuncture Clinic. Miles volunteers at the MEND Clinic every Tuesday and is able to treat on average about 6 patients, who require treatment for various problems such as chronic pain, migraines, pinched nerves, or even stress and anxiety. The success of the Acupuncture Clinic has been exciting for the clinic staff, volunteers, and most importantly, the patients. For many patients who are unable to find relief from western medicine, the Acupuncture Clinic has provided a much needed alternative for treatment and also functions as complementary



Child Spree *(con't from page 1)*

calculators, and their personal shoppers, children began to shop and were seen selecting their outfits, and of course, modeling each one. Much excitement, smiles, and laughter filled the air!

In addition to clothes, each child received a new watch (so they can get to school on time!) and a new backpack, filled with school supplies. No excuses for missing homework, kids!

One mother was very happy for her child's participation. She did babysitting to save money to buy school shoes for her youngster. She says that thanks to the shopping spree, the money will now buy shoes for herself and her husband.

A BIG thank you to Mervyn's store manager Joann Fonseca and her staff and to the fantastic volunteers who helped make the shopping experience fun and easy.

Everyone had a fabulous time as they all shopped 'til they dropped!

Family Club gets Around!

The MEND Family Club - one of many programs offered through our Education and Training Center - is keeping busy this summer. At this year's annual Youth Day, the kids were treated to a fun trip to Universal Studios. The Club likes to show appreciation to young members for helping with events throughout the year. The Club sold refreshments at the Ritchie Valens Festival in Pacoima in April to help pay for the Universal tickets.

Club members also recently took the Metro Red Line downtown for a tour of the Cathedral of Our Lady Queen of Angels and Olvera Street.

The Club will soon begin a mural, which will be located at the underpass of Interstate 5 and Van Nuys Boulevard. The mural is entitled 'The Stars of the Future', and depicts children's faces. If you are interested in participating in the mural project or joining the Club, please contact Lidia Castillo, 818-984-7082.

OUR DONORS ARE APPRECIATED!

Since the last issue of "MEND Matters," MEND has gratefully received grants and cash donations from the following foundations, businesses, churches, schools, and community groups for this period. A special thanks to our donors:

Capital Campaign Donors

Alex Padilla's Party

Mark Armbruster
Wells Fargo Bank

Capital Campaign Donors

Current Program Support

Dr. Thomas Backer
Carrie Estelle Doheny
Foundation

Dan Murphy Foundation
Law Offices of

William F. Powers, Jr.
The Zenith Insurance Company

Capital Campaign Foundation/Business Pledges

Hayden Foundation
Weingart Foundation

Current Program Support

Adamma Foundation
St. Bernardine of Siena Church

The Dental Foundation of
California

St. Euphrasia School
Friends America

The Mylor Financial Group
Norris Foundation

QueensCare

The Rite Aide Foundation
Valley Iron & Metal Co.

Wells Fargo Bank



**Our Mission,
as a volunteer-driven
organization, is to
provide services that
meet the basic human
needs of individuals
who reside in the
northeast San Fernando
Valley. These services
are provided in a manner
that safeguards the
dignity of all recipients
while promoting
self-reliance.**

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WISH LIST

The following are needed by MEND at this time.
Can you help?

VOLUNTEERS

- After School Tutors - 2 hours/week
- After School Program Coordinator - 10-12 hours/week
- Dentists - 3 hours/month
- Dental Hygienists - 3 hours/month
- Evening ESL Teacher - 2.5 hours/week
- Pharmacists - 3-6 hours/month
- Christmas Data Entry Volunteers (Oct - Dec)

ITEMS

- Arts & Crafts Supplies
- Blankets
- Cereal
- Job interview clothing

IT'S MAGIC!!

MEND is pleased to announce that our fall fundraiser will be held on Saturday, Oct. 22, at the San Fernando High School Auditorium. Carson Entertainment will perform an amazing magic and illusion show unlike anything you've seen before. We're very excited as they have been voted Las Vegas' #1 family attraction for two years in a row! Tickets are \$10 for adults and children and can be purchased at the MEND Business Office. The show will begin at 7:00 PM but doors will open at 6:00 PM. A raffle will also be held and many exciting prizes will be raffled off.

Please contact Dianne Ewing at 818-360-8222 for more information.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Coordinator&Writer: Gigi Gomez **Additional Writers:** Diane Ewing, Tina Kops, Nina Vaccaro, Lidia Castillo, Jenny Gutierrez, Jorge Jimenez, Marianne Haver Hill **Photographers:** David Jimenez, Griselda Gonzalez, Jack Hurley **Editors:** Jenny Gutierrez, Robert Mayers, Patrick Hall, Marianne Haver Hill **Graphic Design:** Mary Alice Sears **Computer Tech:** Don Sears **Printing:** West Coast Printing **Mailing:** Don & Irene Kershnik, Ann & Ed Ziegler, Leonard & Kathy Rostant

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(818)896-0246



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August - September 2005

Address Service Requested

I wish to make a donation of \$ _____ (All charitable donations are tax deductible)

My check is enclosed

Please charge to VISA MasterCard Exp. Date _____

Account # _____ Signature _____

I would like to volunteer my services to a MEND program or committee.

What would you like to do? _____

Name _____

Address (Street, City, State & Zip) _____

Phone (Day & Night) _____

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