

MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY



www.mendpoverty.org

**MEND**

(818)896-0246

## MEND's Calendar

Please note these upcoming events

### April 29

Teen Dress Day  
10 AM - Noon

### April 30

Victorian Tea  
Noon - 4 PM

### May 13

Letter Carriers' Drive  
1 - 9 PM

### June 17

"Treasure Trunk"  
Resale Store  
*Grand Opening*  
10 AM - 6 PM

### November 4

"Art of Imagination"  
Magic and Illusion Show

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.

# MEND

April/May 2006

# matters!



Assemblymember Lloyd Levine, MEND Co-Founders Carolyn and Ed Rose, Assemblymember Cindy Montañez, and State Senator Richard Alarcon at Capital Campaign benefit hosted by Sony Pictures Entertainment

## Siblings Benefit from After-School Program

Success at MEND is not measured by the pound! Meet two "MEND-ettes," who, for the purpose of protecting privacy, we shall call Roberta and Enrique.

This brother and sister pair, Enrique, 10, and Roberta, 8, attend MEND's after school "Homework Club" every day that it is open. Enrique comes for help with reading, but not so, Roberta, who is already reading at an advanced level! The program's Instructional Coordinator, Mary Watanabe, speaks proudly of both, saying, "They are focused and polite. When they finish (their homework) early, they occupy themselves by reading, or doing something useful." Roberta, who wants to be a teacher, often helps the other students with their homework, and Enrique, when asked what he wants to be when grown said, "I want to drive recycled trucks like my dad!" Their enthusiasm for the club is apparently contagious, because their 6 year old sister can't wait to attend. She sticks her head in the door often and asks, "Am I old enough to come in yet?"

These small clients are inspirational, and MEND is proud of its efforts to offer programs like this one, which is designed to assist the low income children who live in its neighborhood.



## Welcome Treasure Trunk Manager!

MEND is pleased to welcome its newest treasure, Michele McDowell-Jacobson, to the position of manager of its upscale re-sale store, the "Treasure Trunk." (con't on page 3)



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE



## Executive Director's Corner

We often say that MEND is a "volunteer-driven" organization. But what does this really mean? One example is that volunteers drive our scheduling of service delivery - but this also results in the ability to offer assistance at times that may be more convenient for recipients. For example, evening medical clinics make it possible for physicians to volunteer after work, but additionally, minimum wage workers can receive healthcare without taking unpaid time off from their jobs.

Being "volunteer-driven" means that we have added services to our core programs that volunteers have a passion to provide and that are also beneficial to clients, such as weekly acupuncture clinics and an annual "dress up" distribution day in our Clothing Center.

Our capital campaign is a good case in point of volunteer-driven effort. As of this writing, MEND proposal writers and event coordinators have brought in over \$6 million, of the \$8.1 million that is needed for our expansion project. And volunteering has taken some creative forms.

**Bill and Moonyeen Powers** volunteered to host a reception February 23 in their beautiful Chatsworth home to introduce people to MEND and our need for additional space. Their party provided the impetus needed to make a \$100,000 matching challenge! We are grateful to the Powers, the donors who contributed to the match, and to **Mrs. Allene Brown** who doubled their gifts!

Three elected officials volunteered to raise money for the MEND capital campaign at a February event they sponsored. Hosted by **Sony Pictures Entertainment, State Senator Richard Alarcon, State Assemblymember Cindy Montañez, and State Assemblymember Lloyd Levine** welcomed guests, spoke passionately about the importance of MEND's services, and turned in more than \$26,000 in donations!

The volunteer possibilities are almost limitless at MEND! If you are not already involved, why not join us? We can find just the right job for you!

**Marianne Haver Hill**



### Volunteers Recognized for "BUILDING TOGETHER"

The theme for this year's party was so appropriate -- "Building for the Future Together" -- given MEND's current capital expansion.

About 130 people attended this joyous event. It was a lovely day in the MEND parking lot (for the last time, sniff, sniff...we will be in our new building next year!) The tents and tables were decorated beautifully, thanks to creative MEND staff!

There was great entertainment! MC Bobby Arias played CD'S and sang,

a trio of young ladies from Las Vegas called **Mirror Image**, performed and Stephanie Valencia gave a marvelous rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner".

Awards were given to outstanding volunteers from each MEND Program as well as those giving 500 and 1000 hours in 2005; to KABC7 and SSG/PALS for Health, for outstanding business support; CSUN Professor Richard Corona and the Letter Carriers for Community Support;

Board Member Michelle Chavez for Outstanding Leadership; the President's Award to Ed Rose; David Jimenez for Outstanding Service; the MEND 35th Anniversary Award to Bob and Jan Mayers; and finally, the Volunteer of the Year Award to Maria Franco.

Thanks to the **Honorable Zev Yaroslavsky** who performed the installation of the Board of Directors. We're off and running into 2006-2007 with enthusiasm and hope!

## Volunteer Spotlight



### Maria Franco Volunteer of the Year

The lady with the great, big smile -  
that's Maria!

She came to MEND for the first time as a recipient, about 17 years ago. After the Franco family got on their feet, Maria came back to MEND as a volunteer where she served in the Clothing and Food Departments.

Mission College was suggested to Maria as a place to learn office skills. No sooner said than done! Maria returned to MEND, as an employee, serving as Receptionist, Food Manager and Outreach Coordinator.

Maria took a break from her MEND work for a period of time to be with her children more, but returned again a couple of years ago. This time around, she is supervising the Catering and Hot Lunch Programs two full days each week. Her many years of dedication to MEND, hard work and creative use of her skills made Maria Franco a great choice for the Volunteer of the Year Award 2005-2006.

With a tear trickling down each cheek, she said, "I want to be able to help as much as I can - just like those who helped me when I needed it most."



### IN MEMORIAM

#### ED ZEIGLER

Barbara Kingsolver, American author, once said, "Wars and elections are both too big and too small to matter in the long run. The daily work that goes on, it adds up." It is in this light that we will remember Ed Zeigler, a man whose dedication and commitment to MEND definitely added up. Ed volunteered at MEND, first as a long-time food department driver, and later as a weekly donation deposit volunteer. Ed will be remembered, and missed, by all at MEND whose lives he touched. Ed is survived by wife, Anna (his MEND volunteer partner for 18 years), four children, nine grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and sister.

#### McDowell-Jacobson - *con't from page 1*

Michele started on March 6, 2006, and she has been hard at work preparing for the store's grand opening! She will also be responsible for ensuring its successful growth and operation, various bookkeeping tasks, and training its employees and volunteers.

She's well qualified for the job! Her career has been devoted to the retail industry, with over 30 years of experience working for major retailers in Los Angeles, CA, and Houston, TX.

In addition to her impressive resume, Michele also brings a terrific amount of enthusiasm for MEND and its mission. When asked why she chose the position with MEND over any other, she said, "I love the attitude at MEND, what they stand for, and their commitment to the community...I really just followed my heart."

## 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:

### Current Program Support

Fritz Burns Foundation  
Cars for Causes  
Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation  
The Arthur Gallagher Foundation  
William Hannon Foundation  
KABC7  
Kirby Construction Inc.  
Sketch Foundation  
Vons Foundation  
Wells Fargo Community Support

### Capital Campaign Donors

Agora Realty and Management, Inc.  
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7-Eleven  
Time Warner Cable  
Law Offices of Dan Trammell  
Universal Studios, LLP  
The Wolfson Family Foundation  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, 3rd Dist.  
Youth Policy Institute (YPI)



Volunteer Bill Berg, Food Packing Coordinator Mellie Garcia, Vons Store Manager Jenn Alquitela, Executive Director Marianne Haver Hill, Volunteer Fil Jaramillo, and Food Partner Relations Manager Rob Baskerville receive check from Vons that included gift cards and a cash donation to MEND.



www.mendpoverty.org

## 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  
 Clothing Driver - 4 hours/week  
 Dentists - 3 hours/month  
 Dental Hygienists - 3 hours/month  
 Evening ESL Teacher - 2.5 hours/week  
 Pharmacists - 3-6 hours/month  
 Physician - 3 hours/week or once a month

### ITEMS

Cereal  
 Job interview clothing  
 Toothbrushes/ toothpaste  
 Gently used clothing for MEND's retail store  
 White Dry/Erase Chalkboard



### Here We Grow Again!

Check this column for updates on how our new building is coming along!

Hammers and nails are flying at the site of MEND's new facility, located on the corner of San Fernando and Pierce Streets, in Pacoima. Erik Schonsett, spokesperson for RE Lee Design and Construction, says the exterior walls are up, electrical system started, and plumbing well under way! Scheduled completion is late 2006.

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Newsletter Coordinator Linda Myshraill Writers Jenny Gutierrez, Marianne Haver Hill, Jorge Jimenez, Jan Mayers, Linda Myshraill Editors Jenny Gutierrez, Marianne Haver Hill, Bob Mayers Photographers David Jimenez, Erik Schonsett, Sandy Tilsen Graphic Design Mary Alice Sears Computer Tech Don Sears Printer West Coast Printing Mailing Laura Diaz & St. John Eudes Youth Group, Leonard & Kathy Rostant, Don & Irene Kershinski

Your support  
 makes a  
**BIG**  
 DIFFERENCE  
 to



Won't you please give some serious thought to ways in which you can share your time, talents and resources with MEND? If you want to become involved, please fill out this coupon and return to:

13460 Van Nuys Boulevard  
 Pacoima, California 91331  
 (818)896-0246



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April - May 2006

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) \_\_\_\_\_

www.mendpoverty.org

Phone (Day & Night) \_\_\_\_\_

Please note my change of address

Please remove my name from your mailing list

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