MEND matters!

June/July 2006

MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY

www.mendpoverty.org

MEND

(818)896-0246

MEND's Calendar

Please note these upcoming events

August 5
Mervyns Childspree Day
6:30 AM- 9:30 AM

August 30
Teeth to Toes Event
8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

November 4
Super Home Visiting
Saturday
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

November 4
"The Art of Imagination"
Fundraiser
7 PM

November 11
Super Home Visiting
Saturday
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

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.

Tea Anyone?

On April 30th, MEND proudly hosted its second Victorian Tea on the grounds and Student Center of Chaminade College Preparatory Middle School in Chatsworth.

"This fundraiser," said Letty Siegel, event chair, "was possible only through the combined efforts of over 30 volunteers, spanning months of preparation, including hundreds of donated service hours and thousands of dollars of costs that were underwritten by committee members themselves." Highlighting the event was Linda Schaefer, guest speaker, author and photojournalist of Come and See, A Photojournalist's Journey into the World of Mother Teresa. Linda said, "Find Calcutta in your own backyard. I believe you've found it in MEND."

A reception and silent auction of 190 gift baskets and artwork preceded the formal tea. Student volunteers assisted with the event and served tea to the invited 275 guests. A lovely "cuppa" was served with traditional tea foods, including scones and savories, on beautifully set tables with committee member's personal china and silver.

Postal Workers deliver the goods -- Again!! *See page 2 for the details!!*

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

My family and I started volunteering at MEND more than ten years ago, and I've served on the Board for several years, so I am excited to start my service as President of the 2006-07 Board of Directors--especially this year, because it is such an important one, a time of transition and new beginnings.

Construction of the new building on San Fernando Road is going smoothly, and we're hoping that it will be in "move in" condition by the end of December. Marianne Haver Hill and the staff are working hard to plan the huge task of transitioning to the new facility.

We've raised about $6.6 million of the $8 million we need to complete the project, so capital fundraising is more important than ever. We will need everyone's help to raise the last $1.4 million to make our dream of a new MEND home a reality. If you know of someone who can provide financial resources or volunteer time to assist in fund raising, please let me or Marianne know.

In May, the board and staff met at CSUN for a day-long retreat, to begin the planning of the next chapter for MEND. First, we need to finish the capital campaign, put the finishing touches on the new building, make the move, and expand the various programs we already have once we have the room to grow. At the same time, we tried to look out a few years, to see what new program initiatives might be possible. It was generally agreed that, after the move, top priorities are to start the homeless shower program, plan for the remodel of the existing building (which will continue to operate and house the Learning Center, Computer Lab, Sewing Training and Christmas Programs), and to bring back the furniture program. In addition, we agreed to research the possibility of a child care center and a job readiness program. All in all, it was a very full day!

Thanks again for all your continued support.

Jeff Klein

Mend Medical Clinic Helps Patient Avoid Dangerous Health Problems

Thanks to the persistent efforts of MEND's resourceful and dedicated medical team, a long-time patient, whom we shall call Fred, has been given the in-home health care and training he needed to help avoid serious, long-term complications resulting from improper treatment of his diabetes.

Fred, who is unable to work due to his health issues, relies solely on family members and MEND assistance to survive.

"The doctors at MEND have been concerned about Fred for a long time," says Nina Vaccaro, MEND's Medical Clinic Manager, "In October, his indicator levels were dangerously high. However, by working with RN's, who attend Cal State Northridge's bachelors degree nursing program, we have developed an effective case management program which teaches diabetic patients, through in-home visits, about proper dietary requirements and insulin care and use. Thanks to this program, his indicator levels are now in line with those recommended by the American Diabetes Association."

Post Office Picks up Slack, Food, and Mail, when Donations are down!

Do confuse the message with the messenger --- especially when the message is one of compassion for those who struggle daily to feed their families!

MEND salutes the United States Postal Service for hosting its 14th annual Letter Carrier's Food Drive, a national event, occurring on the second Saturday of every May.

Gina Mirabella, MEND Foodbank Director, said, "Over 173 MEND volunteers worked all day, and late into the night, processing food donations from generous households along the letter carriers' routes." She added that "Jeannette Dolobson, letter carrier for the Tarzana post office, coordinated the seven postal locations serving MEND: Tarzana, Encino, Sherman Oaks, Van Nuys Main, Van Nuys Civic, Panorama City and Sun Valley --- a huge effort!"

Volunteer Spotlight

A woman with a gift she loves to share!

Meet Michelle Chavez, MEND Public Relations Chair. She is a woman with a welcoming manner, a contagious laugh and a gift for making those inside and outside of the MEND community aware of the services the agency offers, and the many opportunities there are to become involved in its operation.

Michelle began volunteering at MEND in the summer of 2004, by serving on the Advisory Boardserving representing her employer, Prudential Financial.Soon after, she moved onto the Public Relations Committee, a group that supports every facet of MEND. She coordinates a very active, 15-member group that is responsible for marketing and media relations --- handling press releases, newspaper hits, public service announcements, speaker training, marketing for events and programs, and more!

Michelle, who has worked in non-profits before, says that she feels honored to work with the staff and volunteers at MEND because of the contributions that they make. When asked why she began volunteering at MEND, she said, "I felt called to work at MEND --- because of the people, and the heart behind what they do. And also, the efficiency with which they do it. It matters to volunteers to know that they make a difference, and at MEND we feel like we do."

Dress Up Day

makes it possible for teens to celebrate achievements in style!

On April 29, MEND's Clothing Center staff and volunteers hosted the second annual Dress Up Day --- an event designed primarily to assist low income high school students with commencement and prom expenses. Gricelda Gonzalez, the Center's manager, said, "We hold this event because most of these kids' parents can't afford to pay for prom tickets and formal wear, so these (free) items can mean the difference between being able to attend or not. Also, many kids don't feel comfortable showing up underdressed for their graduation --- a big day for them."

Approximately 30 teenage boys and girls attended the event, all ranging in age from 14 to 17. MEND classrooms were converted into a mini clothing store, and medical exam rooms doubled as fitting rooms. The kids were paired with high school and college-age volunteer "shopping buddies," and, together, they selected complete formal attire, including gowns, shoes, purses, make-up, tuxes, dress slacks, vests and more!

Can Your Company Match Your Gifts to MEND?

Your employer may have a program to match your MEND contributions, and many employers more than match each dollar you give, even doubling your donation or more! Your company may also have a program to make dollar matches for volunteer hours you give to MEND. Simply contact your human resources department or personnel manager and tell them you'd like to participate.

If you find that your employer does not have such a program, try suggesting one. It's easy to set up…and beneficial to the business. Companies who make such contributions receive publicity in our MEND newsletter and on our donor wall. Businesses can also be ensured that their contributions remain local, directly serve their surrounding communities, and results from their gifts are tangible. Another attractive feature is that 95% of all revenues go directly to serving MEND's low-income recipients!

Your support of MEND through matching gifts is greatly appreciated!

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

Albertson, Inc.
American Jet Industries
The California Wellness Foundation
Citigroup Foundation Matching Gifts
Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation
The Fanny And Svante Knistrom Foundation
The B.C. McCabe Foundation
National Association of Women in Construction
The Norris Foundation Pals for Health (Special Services for Groups)
Partners in Care
Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne, Inc.
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Providence Holy Cross Medical Center
Providence St. Joseph Medical Center
Wescom Credit Union

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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
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

Look at MEND's New Facilities Now!

MEND's second facility, located on the corner of San Fernando and Pierce in Pacoima, is looking sharp! The wood framing is complete, and dry wall for interior walls was scheduled to begin mid-June. Roof installation is in progress, and exterior stucco will follow. Scheduled completion is late 2006.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
NewsletterCoordinatorLinda MyshrallWritersJennyGutierrez, MarianneHaverHill,Jeff Klein,JorgeJimenez, LindaMyshrallEditorsJennyGutierrez,MarianneHaverHill,Bob MayersPhotographersErik Schonsett,DonSearsGraphicDesignMaryAliceSears ComputerTechDonSearsPrintersWestCoastPrintingMailingLauraDiaz andSt.JohnEudes YouthGroup,LeonardandKathyRostant

Your support makes a BIG DIFFERENCE to

MEND

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

❍ 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**)_____

❍ ***Please note my change of address*** ❍ ***Please remove my name from your mailing list***

13460 Van Nuys Boulevard
Pacoima, California 91331

June - July 2006

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