

MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY



www.mendpoverty.org

MEND

(818)896-0246

MEND's Calendar

We are excited to announce these upcoming events

November 4

Super Home Visiting
Saturday
8:30 – 2:00 pm

November 4

"The Art of Imagination"
Fundraiser
7pm
San Fernando High
School Auditorium

November 11

Super Home Visiting
Saturday
8:30 – 2:00 pm

November 16

Tree of Life Gala
MEND honored

December 4 - 14

Toy Sorting

December 9 - 19

Food Sorting /Packing

December 16-21

Toy and Christmas Basket
Distribution

MEND

October/November 2006

matters!



NBA Players Host MEND Benefit

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, MEND Celebrity Spokespersons

Two San Fernando Valley natives have returned as celebrities to lend their support to MEND. On August 24th, Jason Collins, forward for the New Jersey Nets, and his brother, Jarron Collins, forward for the Utah

Jazz, hosted a well-attended charitable evening reception at Mountaingate on behalf of MEND's capital campaign.

Thanks to the support of community members – like the Collins brothers, and the many others who have participated in our fund-raising efforts – our capital campaign is moving forward. To reach our goal, MEND is still actively looking for donations and room sponsorships to complete its capital needs – and to open the doors of the new MEND facility in January.

A Closer Look at the Dental Clinic



Marleim Quezada, (pictured to the left) Manager of MEND's Dental Clinic, currently schedules 12 volunteer dentists, and sees more than 120 patients a month. Despite her busy schedule, Marleim takes the time to get to know each patient, and shared the story of one woman in particular who arrived at MEND a year ago.

This young mother had recently been widowed, was working full-time, and caring for her four children, including a 2 month-old infant. Having heard of MEND through her children's school, she had come, not to seek help for herself,

(Dental Clinic continued on page 3)



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We are entering the final and most important phase of our "Planting The Seeds for Tomorrow's Needs" capital campaign. We've raised almost \$7 million with some very large grants from major foundations such as Weingart, Ahmanson, W.M. Keck, The California Endowment, Ralph M. Parsons, Fritz Burns, and many others. We've also raised almost three quarters of a million dollars from individual donations.

But it is simply not ENOUGH. We are still short by over \$1 million. All of our biggest supporters have already given, so now comes the hard part. And so now we are reaching out in a large scale grass roots effort to get as many donors as possible, at whatever amount they can afford.

In your mail this month, you'll receive a solicitation in our "name a brick, name a tile" campaign. You can name a brick in your honor or in honor or memory of a loved one for as little as \$150, or you can have a beautiful granite tile etched in your name for a contribution of \$1000. These will be long-lasting reminders of the tremendous

effort everyone has undertaken to make the new MEND center a reality.

If you've been by the current building lately, you'll know that MEND is bursting at the seams. The place is so crowded that the capital campaign committee had to meet in the sewing center for its last meeting. We have just plum run out of room to operate our current programs and we certainly can't expand or add new ones. The new space will allow MEND to increase our capacity to help the most needy and vulnerable residents of our Valley with emergency food, clothing, healthcare, education, and other vital services.

If you missed the open house at our new facility on October 14 but would like to get a first hand look before you make a capital campaign contribution, call Marianne Haver Hill at MEND for a tour. While you are at it, bring a friend who might become a potential donor and expose them to the wonderful volunteer world of MEND.

Together, and with your enthusiastic help, we can continue to make a difference. Please give generously!

Jeffrey S. Klein



Christmas Adoption Program Underway

This year MEND expects to have 250 or more families eligible for Christmas "adoption". This program provides a unique opportunity for sponsors to interact personally with a family in critical need – selecting, purchasing and delivering gifts of clothing, household items, toys and food to their adopted family. To sign up on behalf of your service club, church, school, employer, or as an individual, contact MEND this October and help brighten the holidays for a deserving family. The designated contact at MEND for Christmas adoptions is (818) 896-0246 ext. 42 or adoptions@mendpoverty.org.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA!

MEND suggests a creative and meaningful holiday gift idea for those hard-to-buy-for clients, friends, and co-workers. Why not give a "Holiday Gift of Love" to MEND in their honor? Your donation is acknowledged as MEND sends a colorful holiday greeting to those on your gift list. The greeting can be geared to Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza or New Year's.

Just use the envelope enclosed with this newsletter and we will do the rest. For more information, contact MEND's Director of Finance and Facilities, Jorge Jimenez, at 818-896-0246, ext. 202.



Third-Graders Outfitted from "Teeth to Toes"

On August 30th, 180 third-grade students from Vaughn Next Century Learning Center were invited to participate in MEND's "Teeth to Toes" program. Held each year, just after the start of school, this event brings together a group of children and volunteers for a day of fun and lasting benefit. From 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., children flowed through the building, guided through "stations" where each was fitted for a new pair of shoes, received a dental fluoride treatment and tooth-brushing instructions, and participated in games and computer activities.

Always exciting for both the children and the corps of volunteers who transform the building and staff the stations, this year's event was a great success. As MEND Program Director, Jenny Gutierrez, commented, "Getting new supplies makes the students feel special. We give them all that we can so that they can be successful and start school off right."

Volunteer Spotlight



Gricelda Gonzalez, Manager of MEND's Clothing Department, has singled out **Norma Santiago** for recognition as an essential member of the MEND team – one of the outstanding people who help us help others.

Three years ago, when she retired, and the last of her four children had left home, Norma found time weighed heavily on her. One of her daughters suggested she look into activities at a local senior center, but Norma was looking for more than a new hobby, and found MEND after a search online for volunteer activities. From her very first visit, she knew she had found something worthy of her time, and she has been with us ever since – putting in more hours as a volunteer than many people do at their full-time jobs

Always willing to take on new tasks, and to work where she's most needed, Norma is now busy six days a week, and, according to Jasmine Santamaria, Assistant Manager of the department, "Norma is not only reliable and productive, but the most patient, sweet-tempered worker" she's ever known.

In addition to her extraordinary work in the Clothing Department, Norma is currently serving on a committee of four, seeking donations of decorator furnishings for the new MEND facility.



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(Dental Clinic continued from page one)

but to enroll her oldest child in the computer lab. Like many struggling parents, she had put her own needs aside as she tried to ensure a better future for her children. In fact, although she was by then in almost constant pain from damaged molars, she had never seen a dentist – and thought it was out of her reach until learning of MEND's Dental Clinic. As Marleim recalls, this client was so delighted and grateful for the care she received, that she requested weekend volunteer opportunities so that she could contribute to MEND in her "spare" time. Marleim continues, "This is the magic of MEND. You see someone break into a smile, and know that you have really made a difference in their lives."



New staff members (left to right) Dolores Zamora, Estella Santana and Maggie Torres

MEND Welcomes New Staff

This summer MEND welcomed three new members to its professional staff. Although they are serving in new positions, each is already a familiar face at MEND, as they were recruited from our corps of volunteers. Dolores Zamora, formerly a volunteer assistant in the Dental Clinic, is now Administrative Assistant to MEND Executive Director, Marianne Haver Hill. Maggie Torres, formerly an assistant in the Medical Clinic, has taken on the job of Medical Clinic Manager, and Estela Santana, a long-time (and continuing) volunteer in the adult Computer Lab, has joined us as full-time Receptionist.

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.

Current Program Support

Bishop Alemany High School
The Boeing Company
Blue Shield of California Foundation
The California Wellness Foundation
The Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation
Evan Frankel Foundation
The Pfaffinger Foundation
St. John Eudes Parish Men's Council
Wells Fargo Foundation

Capital Campaign Support

Career Options, Inc.
Jason Collins and Jarron Collins Foundations
Primestor Development
Medical Staff of St. Joseph's Med.Center.
Southern California Edison Company



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.

WISH LIST

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

VOLUNTEERS

Super Saturday Volunteers – Nov 4 & 11 8:30-2:00pm
Clothing Driver – 4 hours/week
Substitute Food Driver - 3 hours when needed
Dentists – 3 hours/month
Dental Hygienists – 3 hours/month
Pharmacist – 3 hours/month
Physician – 3 hours/week or once a month

ITEMS

Toothbrushes/ toothpaste
Gently used clothing for MEND's retail store
Gently used/new office furniture
(call Jenny at 896-0246)
Clothing racks Moving boxes
Men's clothing Teenage clothing



Interior Work In Progress in New MEND Facility

The interior work at our new facility is progressing rapidly. September marked the start of interior finish work including painting, installation of cabinets and millwork, the laying of all vinyl tile flooring – and the installation of our new commercial kitchen. Also, the exterior paints have been applied with the final coat of stucco.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Newsletter Coordinator Barbara Williams **Writers** Jenny Gutierrez
Jeff Klein Jorge Jimenez Barbara Williams **Editors** Jenny Gutierrez
Marianne Haver Hill Bob Mayers Anna Santos **Photographers** David
Jimenez Barbara Williams **Graphic Design** Mary Alice Sears **Computer
Technician** Don Sears **Printers** West Coast Printing **Mailing** Christ
Crusaders of Santa Rosa Leonard and Kathy Rostant

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



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MEND

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October - November 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?

I would like to volunteer for the Christmas program by _____ (please specify)

I wish to adopt a needy family for Christmas!

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

Non-Profit
Organization
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