

WISH LIST

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

VOLUNTEERS

- 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 Treasure Trunk store
- High quality small furniture items for Treasure Trunk
- Men's clothing/ Canned spam/ Canned Corn beef
- Sugar/ Gift wrapping supplies

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!

Staff List

Writers: Lupe Acosta, Natalie Gutierrez, Marianne Haver Hill, Jorge Jimenez • Editors: Jenny Gutierrez, Marianne Haver Hill, Bob Mayers • Photographer: David Jimenez
Graphic Design: West Coast Printers • Printers: West Coast Printing • Mailing: Christ Crusaders of Santa Rosa, Leonard and Kathy Rostant

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:

10641 N. San Fernando Rd.
Pacoima, California 91331
(818)896-0246



10641 N. San Fernando Rd.
Pacoima, California 91331

April - May - June 2007

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) _____

Email _____

Contact Info _____

Phone (Day & Night) _____

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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www.mendpoverty.org
(818)896-0246

MEND's Calendar

Please note these upcoming events

April 26
6 PM

Grand Opening
"Hope for Tomorrow"
Fund Raising Benefit
New MEND
Center

May 12
NOON - 9 PM
Letter Carriers'
Food Drive

August 4
7 AM - AA AM
Mervyn's Childspre

August 29
"Teeth to Toes"

October 27 and
November 3
Super Home Visiting
Saturdays for MEND
Christmas program

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 matters!

April - May - June 2007



A "GRAND" GRAND OPENING FOR THE NEW MEND CENTER!

It was March 31st, 2007. The Grand Opening of the new MEND Center had finally arrived. Excitement was splashed across the faces of all those present. The cutting of the ribbon marked not only the beginning of the event but the beginning of the great change that the new MEND Center will produce. The aroma of the prepared food greeted the guests as they were seated to listen to the speeches of those who have been supporting MEND and its efforts. There was a sense of accomplishment in the air, a sense that boundaries had been broken and that MEND will now be able to extend its help to those in need of it. Tours of the building were given and the purpose of each room was explained. The new building affords its guests the opportunity to have their medical needs met by professionals in a proper environment as well as the chance to look for clothes in a spacious room. From the appreciative speech of former client Erika Contreras to State Senator Alex Padilla quoting Cesar Chavez, it was quite evident that hope is what had driven the building of a second center. Newley installed City Council Member Richard Alarcon announced that he had brought with him the much delayed Temporary Certificate of occupancy, allowing the Mend staff volunteers to begin the moving process the week after the grand opening. The new center will welcome all who step foot in it, making sure to treat every person with dignity and respect, which is, after all, what MEND has always set out to do. MEND has certainly come a long way since it first opened its doors and it is encouraging to know that it will continue to expand and enhance its services to improve the lives of thousands in desperate need.



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE



Executive Director's Corner

The grand opening ceremony of our second MEND Center was filled with touching moments, none more poignant than the personal story of Erika Contreras who lived in the dilapidated trailer park that previously occupied the property where our new facility now stands. Erika's life and personal successes are a testimony to the hope that each of us who works and volunteers for MEND carries within us: an inner sense that the people to whom we offer services are passing through a difficult phase in life, but that their lives can and do get better.

The new Center is a tribute to what it means to "meet each need with dignity": a clothing center that looks like a retail store with changing rooms and mirrors and attractive displays; a dental clinic with multiple chairs so that groups of dental residents can help us reduce the long waiting lists of patients needing care; a health education center to facilitate exercise and nutrition classes for our diabetic and hypertension and other patients; a large food warehouse so that we

can make sure all the varieties of food we need to make up nutritionally balanced boxes are easily available, as well as to provide specialty items for clients on restricted diets; an intake center that provides privacy and dignity as we screen applicants and make appropriate referrals; and a lovely new shower center for the homeless.

Hundreds of donations large and small have made this capital expansion possible, and we are deeply grateful. As of this writing, we have about \$650,000 left to raise to complete our campaign. Our goal is to finish the campaign debt-free, so that in keeping with MEND's 36-year tradition, we don't use our on-going operational income for the overhead expense of a mortgage. If you haven't yet made a capital campaign gift – or if you have the capacity to make another one! – we encourage you to buy a tile or a brick or even to sponsor a room! Your support is greatly appreciated!

Marianne Haver Hill

Volunteer Spotlight



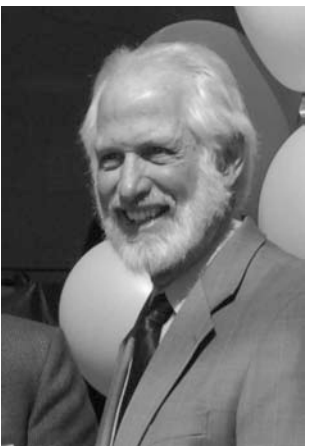
Former Client Brings A Message of Hope

Erika Contreras was a direct recipient of MEND as a child. She now serves as legislative director for Assemblymember Jose Solorio in Sacramento. She and her family of nine migrated from Mexico to California in the 1980's. They settled in a mobile home park that sat where the new MEND Center now stands. The dilapidated mobile homes were separated from the rest of the community by nothing more than a thin fence. The naked eye was able to see right through that fence, but Erika felt as though they were invisible to the rest of society. MEND stepped in to offer its help to her family with furniture, food, and clothing. Erika recalls the holiday season as being her favorite time of the year, when MEND volunteers brought abundant baskets of canned foods and toys, allowing her family to fill their cupboards, which was a rarity for them during that difficult time in their lives.

Erika believes that the greatest gift that MEND gave her was hope—hope that poverty can be overcome, stating that "It is because of MEND that I take with me an incredible passion for change and am able to express my hope through my work in public policy". She makes it evident that MEND can have great impact and makes it clear that MEND does indeed matter.

From Ground Up: Steve Brown Makes the New Center a Reality

Past MEND Board President Steve Brown was an indispensable part of the building of the new MEND center. He led the effort to find the land for the new center, arranged for the purchase of the property, was involved in the selection committee for the design firm, and has been the liaison between MEND and the design-build contractor for the past two years. The building itself is visually appealing, and Brown stated that achieving this was crucial because it would "raise people's morale and sentiment". Like anything worth doing, the path to getting this new center built no doubt had its challenges and obstacles. Steve, however, held on to his belief that it was important that another MEND center exist because of "the dramatic need and what it will mean to the community". Robert Lee, the contractor responsible for the design and construction of the second center, expressed his gratitude to Brown during his speech at the Grand Opening, making it more apparent that this volunteer had tremendous impact on all those who took part in this project. The second MEND center will be helping forty thousand clients each month and Steve can forever be pleased to know that his efforts were successful!



OUR DONORS ARE APPRECIATED!

A very special thank you to all donors, foundations, businesses, churches, schools, and other supporters that have contributed to MEND since our last issue.

Current Program Support

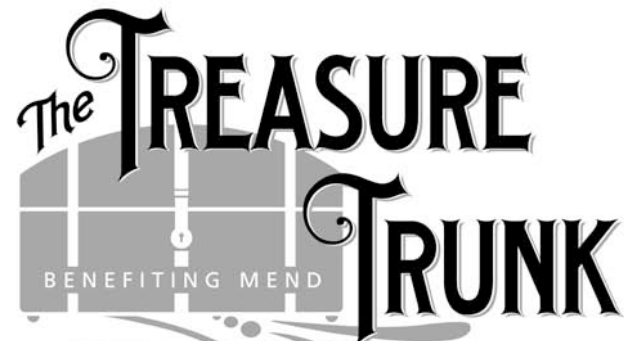
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Granada Hills, CA 91344

(In the Ralphs/Mann Theatre shopping center)

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Thurs - Sat • 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sun • Noon to 5 p.m.

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www.mendpoverty.org