

Martha shares her story

"I get to walk to work and I have my own place now with all my kids," 38 year old Martha Salcedo says.



Six years ago, before she came to MEND, Martha was living on the streets with nowhere to go.

MEND started by providing immediate needs: diapers, food and clothing for her family. "I know what it's like to be hungry, to be cold. I never want my children to go through the things I went through," Martha says. "With the help of MEND, I can provide for my children what they need."

Encouraged to take control of her future, Martha was placed in MEND's job experience program at the Food Bank. Upon completion of her warehouse and food preparation training, she obtained employment.

She now works as a night stocker at the local Walmart which afforded her a home for her and her three sons.

"Without MEND's program and services, I never would have gotten employed and provided for my children. I always recommend MEND to the single mothers who are struggling to make ends meet," says Martha. "I speak fondly about this organization. They have become my second family. They're nice people. They're friendly and helpful."

Giving Hope

2017 IMPACT REPORT

Please call us at [818-686-7320](tel:818-686-7320) or visit our website at www.MendPoverty.Org for ways to give.

Because of you, MEND fed, clothed and attended to the critical health needs of thousands of people in our community, with dignity and respect.



www.MendPoverty.Org

10641 N. San Fernando Road • Pacoima, CA 91331



*Name and photos may have been changed to protect privacy.

Vicente's Story

A resident of the Valley since 1986, Vicente went to work right out of high school. Hardworking, focused and driven to provide for his family, he worked as a delivery driver for several local and national companies.

After sixteen years, problems with his back necessitated surgery which, while successful, left him incapacitated - unable to bend or lift.



No longer able to work at the behest of his doctor, Vicente turned to MEND for help to feed his family. A shy, private and humble man, Vicente struggled with this decision, but after trying and failing month after month to make ends meet, he was ready to accept help. He describes this period in his life as the time when he "stopped dreaming of a good future" for his family.

"To see my kids needing food, clothing or school supplies that I could not provide made me really sad," shares Vicente.

Last summer, Vicente secured a job at Warner Brothers.

Today, he remains employed and is grateful for the support he received that helped him overcome this difficult time in his life.

"Thanks to MEND's help, I was able to provide for my family. I even have new dreams for them!"

The IMPACT You Made in 2017

3,275
Medical
Clinic Visits



4,081
Received toys and
holiday baskets through
the Christmas Program



53,360
Nutritious
food boxes
distributed



705
Job
Trainees



4,880
Dental Clinic
Visits



3,770
Volunteers



1,097
Eye Care
Clinic Visits



10,817
Served at the
Clothing Center



MEND's Life Changing Programs

MEND's Clinics are the last remaining free clinics in the San Fernando Valley. The **Medical Clinic** offers general medicine, diabetes education and treatment, gynecological care, acupuncture and chiropractic care, and more - all delivered with dignity, care and respect.

Our **Eye Care Clinic** provides FREE eye exams, glaucoma screening, prescription glasses and ophthalmology referrals for patients with limited vision or advanced stages of disease. It enables patients to function properly in their daily activities - to be able to read, work, and be independent, especially for those who live alone and/or are elderly.

The **Dental Clinic** accepts Denti-Cal and uninsured patients. In 2017, the Clinic completed almost 5,000 procedures, including 97 dentures, 149 crowns, 135 root canals, 238 fillings, dental implants, bridges, x-rays and dental exams.

MEND's **Clothing Center** exists to provide a continuum of services for severely low income families and individuals and supports them with essentials such as: clothing, shoes, diapers, sleeping bags and blankets, among other items.

The **Food Bank** serves the most vulnerable members of our community. Food boxes are packed according to family size, and are personalized to include specific foods, such as infant formula, low-salt foods, extra protein products and more.

Our **Homeless Care Services** provide homeless men and women services such as, nutritious meals prepared by our Food Bank, food bags with easy-to-prepare-and-eat food, and care kits with necessities such as feminine hygiene products, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, and clothing.



MEND operates a unique community model that harnesses the power of volunteers and partners in the community. In 2017, MEND benefited from the support of 3,770 unduplicated volunteers who contributed an average of 44 hours/each of valuable time. Among them were 638 medical, dental and vision care professionals who donated their time at the Clinics.