



SHARE OUR SELVES NEWS

Fall 2008
www.shareourselves.org

Adopt A Family

An Orange County Holiday Tradition

This holiday season will mark the 39th year of Share Our Selves annual Adopt A Family program. This wonderful holiday tradition embraces many struggling Orange County families by providing gifts and food for the holidays. This year, the Adopt A Family program is hoping to connect donors with more than 1,500 families with children recommended to us by Costa Mesa and Santa Ana schools. The kindness and compassion of our donors helps ensure that the holidays will be a little brighter for these families. Last year, more than 500 donor organizations and individuals contributed to our program which assisted over 1,350 families.

Every family's story is unique. Here is an example of a family that received assistance because of generous donors like you:

Virginia and Robert came to SOS when Virginia was pregnant. Robert was being treated for testicular cancer, and it was spreading quickly. Robert is the primary provider, but due to his cancer treatment he will be disabled for many months. The family is faced with great financial and emotional hardships. Robert's prognosis is not good. The family has been linked to several organizations that have been able to help with their rent, but they do not have extra funds for Christmas. They need help so their child will have gifts to unwrap this year.

To participate in the Adopt A Family program, we simply ask that you agree to provide each child in the family with at least two new gifts or provide a complete holiday dinner for the family, or ideally, provide both.

If you would like to join the hundreds of families and organizations that make Adopt A Family part of their annual holiday tradition, please fill out and return the enclosed form. Once we have matched you to a family, we will send you information on the children's ages and sizes, and more detailed instructions for delivery. Donations will be collected on December 18th at the Orange County Fair and Event Center, who once again have generously offered the use of their facilities for this wonderful program.

Instead of adopting a family, maybe you or your organization would rather host a holiday food or toy drive. Each year we have a number of families that are not matched to donors and we never let these children go without. You can help by collecting nonperishable food items, new unwrapped toys, or gift cards to Ralphs or Target.

For more information, visit our website, www.shareourselves.org, or please contact Vanessa Ontiveros at AAF2008@shareourselves.org, or 949-515-7316.

Reflections

I cannot enter the holiday season without being reminded of the hope our Adopt A Family Program brings to children. Please listen to their words - your hearts will be opened.

Many joys throughout the season and blessings to you and your families.

Thank you for the toys that you give to us. I will love them so much. -Eduard

Dear Santa, thank you for the gifts that you gave me. I was a happy girl this year, and thank you for bringing gifts to my house. Love, Jenny

Thank you for all that you gave me. I am happy with everything. And I like to study a lot. Thank you. I'm going to be happy this merry Christmas. -Hector

Dear Santa and Family, I'm really thankful for all the gifts you send to me. I hope you had a nice Christmas and a really happy new year! Love, Heidi



Tara L. Mc

We are servants who provide free care and assistance to those in need and act as advocates for systemic change.

Thank You

Thank you to all the following.

Foundation and Community Support

- Ueberroth Family Foundation for generous support of Case Management and for many years of generous gifts
- www Foundation for generous support of the Dental Clinic
- Allergan Foundation for generous support of the Eye Clinic
- California Endowment for generous support of the Comprehensive CARE Center
- Orange County United Way for generous support of the Medical Clinic
- Integrated Behavioral Health Project of the The Tides Center and California Endowment for generous support of the Comprehensive CARE Center
- Blue Shield Foundation for generous support of the Clinics
- The Foundation of the Family of C.M. and Edna Peyton Cotton for generous support of the Social Services Program

Services Donors

- Coast Mailing for donating mailing costs
- David Ballard Electrical for electrical service
- Mesa Center Automotive for van maintenance
- Westcliff Medical Lab for support of the SOS Lab

Newport Rib Company 25 Days of Charities

Dine at Newport Rib Company from November 6-30th and earn money for SOS! Check the SOS box on the back of your menu, and 20% of your bill will be donated back to us. Thanks Newport Rib Company! www.ribcompany.com



Holiday Volunteers - Sign Up Now!

Looking for Holiday Volunteer Opportunities? Our food pantry is in need of extra hands to pack groceries before the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

If you are interested in helping out on November 24th, 25th or 26th OR on December 18th, 19th, 22nd or 23rd, please contact Julie Larson at 949-650-0186 ext. 227 or jl Larson@shareourselves.org.

The Adopt A Family program is also in need of volunteers at the Orange County Fair and Event Center on December 16th, 17th and 18th between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. If you would like more information, please contact Vanessa Ontiveros at 949-515-7316.

A big THANK YOU to our summer volunteers - SOS volunteers are the BEST!!!

Star Team Barbeque

On Sunday, August 17, the SOS A-Team, Star Team, and their guests attended a lovely BBQ at the home of Jerry and Kathy Thompson. The annual summer event is a fun and festive way to honor and thank the Star Team members. Chef Don Schoenburg and his wife Christi Carter of Christi's of Huntington Beach provided a delicious BBQ buffet. Guests enjoyed dinner and a lively auction and raffle while taking in the beautiful view of the bay. Thank you A-Team and Star Team members for your ongoing support of SOS!

SOS Board Wine Tasting Event

The SOS Board of Directors and their invited guests came together to enjoy a wonderful wine tasting hosted by Board Member Ernie Klatte and his wife, Annick. The Klatte's beautiful garden was the setting for this event, which increased awareness of our mission and brought many new friends to SOS. Chef Don Schoenburg prepared a delicious array of appetizers that were enthusiastically enjoyed by the guests. It was a wonderful afternoon! Thank you Ernie and Annick for hosting this special event!



Guests enjoy the wine tasting hosted by Ernie Klatte (right)

Major Donor Appreciation



Host Bob McCaffrey with Jean Forbath, Founder of SOS

On Sunday, August 24, Bob McCaffrey graciously opened his beautiful Balboa Island home, Casa Revilo, for a reception to honor Share Our Selves' major supporters. Over 100 guests attended the afternoon event and were treated to a scrumptious spread generously donated by Avanti Cafe in Costa Mesa. Dr. Richard Afable, President and CEO of Hoag Hospital, spoke to the group about the current state of health care in Orange County. He proposed that the Hoag-SOS partnership is the model to emulate as a solution to the lack of health care services for the vulnerable in Orange County. SOS would like to thank the major supporters who embrace SOS, our guest speaker Dr. Afable, Avanti Cafe, and Bob McCaffrey for hosting the event!



Karen McGlenn, Executive Director of SOS, with Dr. Richard Afable, President and CEO of Hoag Hospital



The 3rd Annual SOS Adopt A Family Festival of Trees will again take place at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa. Beginning Monday, November 17th, the beautifully decorated trees will be displayed in the hotel lobby for those who want to get an early preview of the trees available for purchase and a jump

start on the bidding! The silent auction opens November 17th and closes December 4th.

Wednesday, December 3rd, is our Free Open House Evening from 5-7 p.m. Children will have holiday crafts and ornaments to make and decorate, and Santa will be available for photos! The evening will also feature the St. John the Baptist Handbell Choir, and Monique Rea, author of *Toulouse the Moose*.

The Family Celebration Night is December 4th from 6:00-8:30 p.m. There will be an elegant dinner buffet, children's buffet, and holiday entertainment provided by Mark Wood. Applications for Adopt A Family will also be available. To reserve a spot for your family, please complete the enclosed form!

SOS Back to School Day

The 13th Annual Back to School program was the most successful ever! On August 23, over 1,100 backpacks filled with school supplies were given to students from low-income Orange County families. Families began lining up at 5:00 a.m. for this event which helps send children and teens back to school with a positive start. Over the following weeks backpacks were continuously distributed to SOS clients.

To date, more than 1,650 backpacks were given out - the most in SOS history! Thank you to everyone who donated bags and supplies and who volunteered! Your generosity has ensured that many students will have a great start to the new school year!



Student proudly show off their Elmo and Hannah Montana backpacks

SOS Madres Militares Go to Washington



Madres Militares support group visit the U.S. House of Representatives

In July, 12 women from the Madres Militares (Military Mothers' support group) traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in the Marine Parents United Conference. The group attended a lunch hosted by Loretta Sanchez, at the U.S. Capitol building, and had the honor of laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Our group was honored for being the only Hispanic Support Group in

the nation by Colonel James Hash of Quantico, VA and Hilda Moreno was recognized as "Military Mother of the Year" for her great support to our troops. Congratulations military moms for all you do to support your sons and daughters and the rest of our U.S. troops!

SOS Board of Trustees

Mary Cappellini, Author, Educational Consultant

Jean Forbath, Founder, Share Our Selves
Dr. Jack Glaser, VP of Theology & Ethics, St. Joseph Health System

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Ways to Benefit SOS

- ◆ Renew & register your Ralphs card at www.ralphs.com and use the SOS number 84538.
- ◆ Register Vons grocery cards, credit or debit cards with eScrip at www.escrip.com and use the number 150239969.
- ◆ Donate old printer toner cartridges, iPods, laptops and cell phones to SOS. We recycle them for cash.
- ◆ Donate your vehicle. Download the form on our website.

For details, call Kathleen Bruski at SOS, 949-515-5400, ext. 32

- ◆ Consider a Charitable Gift Annuity, which provides you with guaranteed income for life, a tax deduction, and a generous gift to SOS.
- ◆ Think about naming SOS as a beneficiary in your will or life insurance.

For details, call Karen Harrington at SOS, 949-515-5400, ext. 31.



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1550 Superior Avenue,
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
949-642-3451
www.shareourselves.org

Change of Service Requested

SAVE THE DATE...SAVE THE DATE AAF FESTIVAL OF TREES



December 2-4, 2008
Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa
3050 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa



Bring your children and grandchildren and celebrate the holidays with SOS. This is a fun and festive opportunity to share your many blessings with the community. Details inside.

Wish List

The need for support continues all year. Here is how you can help:

- Sleeping bags, blankets, & winter jackets
- Food (merchants - consider joining the Orange Aid Project - our volunteers will pick up your donated food)
- Baby items - clothing, food, & diapers
- Birthday Boxes for Children
- Hygiene kits
- Formal dresses for Marine Corps Ball
- For ideas on how to help from home or ideas for youth leaders, call Julie Larson at 1-949-650-0640, ext. 227.

Go Green!

Go green and save SOS mailing costs! If you would like to receive newsletters and event invitations via email, please send an email to efevans@shareourselves.org with Newsletter in the subject line.

Calendar of Events

October 11	18th Annual Celebrity Chef Dinner
November	A-Team Sharing Chef Dinner
November 5	SOS Open House 7:30am-1:30pm
November 6-30	Newport Rib Company 25 Days of Charity (Details Inside)
November 17-21	Thanksgiving Food Drive
December 2-4	3rd Annual Festival of Trees
December 11	Black, Starr & Frost Men's Shopping Event (By Invitation only)
December 15-18	Adopt A Family
March 6, 2009	SOS Anaheim Ducks Family Night

For more information on these events, please call Ashley Carlton at 1-949-515-5400 ext. 34 or visit our website, www.shareourselves.org.