



# SHARE OUR SELVES NEWS

Spring 2008  
www.shareourselves.org

## Food For Thought

*"I want to thank you, and each of the people I spoke with at SOS when I came in seeking help. My husband and I are both off work to battle his cancer. You treated me so kindly. I left your office with gas and food cards, and bags of groceries. I came home and shared with my husband what a blessing my whole experience had been. It was my first visit to a food bank."*

*"Thank you for the yummy roast beef sandwich and the bag of groceries and your sincere consideration of assistance. I may not be remembered because of the many you serve, but please remember my children and I in your prayers while I finish my education."*

SOS received a generous donation with a note from a client who was unemployed for a time. *"Visiting your center caused me to always realize how blessed I was, even in the midst of my own circumstances... The kindness I encountered always brought me to tears... I will never forget how you served and gave of yourselves."*

The above quotes are typical of the gratitude expressed each day from those we serve. For 38 years SOS Social Services has been a "safety net" for the homeless, seniors, unemployed, and working poor families residing in Orange County. They find themselves in dire straights, struggling to maintain their housing and feed their children. A job loss, a catastrophic illness, a fixed income amid escalating costs, are but a few of the reasons previously self-sufficient families seek assistance to help maintain stability while getting back on their feet.



The SOS Food Pantry is a vital part of Social Services, providing 180+ bags of groceries each day to those who are hungry or food insecure. Forty sites in the community donate food, many places of worship make sandwiches for our homeless clients and hold food drives, schools and youth groups also have food drives, and restaurants hold fund raisers for the program. As is typical of many SOS programs, the Orange Aid Program, picking up perishable food in the community, is the result of volunteers identifying a problem and coming up with the solution.

The Food Research and Action Center, based in Washington DC, produced a comprehensive report, State of the States: 2006, A Profile of Food and Nutrition Programs Across the Nation, detailing the extent and the impact of hunger and food insecurity in America. Requests for food assistance increased 8% from 2000 to 2006. In California, 12.4% of the population is hungry or food insecure, with Orange County the second highest in the state suffering from food insecurity or hunger. According to the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, this is due to our County's high housing costs, high cost of living, and the lack of participation in federal aid programs. Lack of nutritious food in the household contributes to childhood obesity, problems in school, and family instability. The SOS Food Pantry, with your support, positively impacts this situation every day. Consider how you might help.

## Reflections

In the wake of our wonderful Wild and Crazy Taco Night, where some of the most premier chefs in our county cook for all of us, I am reminded of a picture I saw recently in the newspaper. It featured a child in Africa picking the grains of wheat off the ground that had fallen out of a relief bag of food delivered to a village. Children had walked miles to get this meager allocation of grain. I cannot get this image out of my mind. I know I do not need to mention to all reading this column about the incredible food supply we have available to us in the United States, but I thought this was an appropriate time to mention what a wonderful job our food pantry does in providing food security to anyone at risk of going hungry.

We distribute food bags consisting of both purchased and donated foods to those in need, and in doing so, we participate in the food security network of our county; assuring those who are at risk will not need to worry about their food needs. This entire operation is volunteer staffed and many wonderful relationships have been formed between clients and volunteers.

This food pantry, called the Orange Aid Project, benefits from the work of our chefs as these gentlemen are committed to assuring no one goes hungry in our community. I have much respect for their artistry with food, their welcoming hospitality, and the tenacity they have shown in embracing this mission with SOS. Such is the power of those who seek to do good for their fellow man.

*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

- ♦ **Maximum Results Training Leadership Academy 2** for donating 2,500 books to the Children's Corner! LA2 is a leadership group whose vision is that "every child in need has book in hand, a dream in mind and is a leader at heart." The books were delivered to SOS on April 11th to a room full of excited children!



- ♦ **UCI Challenge for Charity, The Paul Merage School of Business** for their continuous fund-raising and volunteer efforts. UCI competes against 8 other west coast business schools to see who can raise the most money and volunteer hours. SOS is grateful to be the local charity that UCI C4C supports!



- ♦ **Rangoni Shoes** in South Coast Plaza for hosting a food drive at their store to benefit the SOS food pantry. An SOS supporter and avid Rangoni Shoes shopper suggested that the storeowners hold a food drive. They graciously welcomed the idea and it was a wonderful opportunity to shop and support a great cause!
- ♦ Ueberroth Family Foundation for generous support of Case Management
- ♦ Emergency Food and Shelter Program for support of the Food Pantry and Financial Aid 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

### Wild & Crazy Taco Night Heroes

- ♦ **Chefs** - **Stephane Beaucamp**, Manhattan Supper Club; **Bill Bracken**, The Island Hotel; **Laurent Brazier**, Laguna Culinary Arts, Inc.; **Paul Buchanan**, Primal Alchemy; **Yves Fournier**, Hyatt Regency Newport Beach; **Alan Greeley**, The Golden Truffle; **Tom Hope**, TAPS Fish House & Brewery; **Lawrence Hutchinson**, The Green Parrot; **Carlito Jocson**, Yard House; **Louie Jocson**, Frieda's Inc., Family Tree Produce & White Apron Quality Meats; **Michael Kang**, 5'; **Jason Kordas**, Jason's Downtown Restaurant; **Chad Krahling**, Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa; **Matthew Mattison**, Orange Hill; **Rich Mead**, Sage Restaurant & Sage on the Coast; **Louie Moya**, Stella's Serious Italian Restaurant & Lounge; **Pascal Olhats**, Tradition by Pascal; **Scott Robbe**, Salt Creek Grille; **Michael Rossi**, Ambrosia; **Adrien Sbrano**, Sam & Harry's at the Newport Beach Marriott Resort; **Paul Squicciarini**, Centerra Wines; **Panera Bread**
- ♦ **Orange Aid Sponsors** - Taco Bell Corporation; Hoag Memorial Hospital; Kavanaugh Family Fund; Fred Siegel Foundation; St. Joseph Health System; Rutan & Tucker LLP; Michael & Diane Stephens; Fluidmaster Inc.; National Services Group; Azonic Insurance Agency Inc.; Ed & Anne Hirschman; Link, Murrel & Co - Wm Gary Crouch; Newport Beach Plaza Retirement Community; Southland Commercial Interiors Inc.
- ♦ **Event Sponsors** - David Ballard Electrical; BC Displays & Signage; Burns & Associates; Campanelli & Associates; Capistrano's; Classic Party Rentals; Coast Mailing Services; CruiseOne; Elite Spice Inc.; Family Tree Produce; Frieda's Inc.; Michael Rutt Photography; Parking Company of America; Printmasters; Miller International Brands; Mood for Food; Future Brands; Sauza Hornitos Tequila; Simplot; Superior Anhauser Foods; Trader Joes; Tres Generaciones Tequila; Videocam Inc.; White Apron Quality Meats; Wynnstar
- ♦ **Committee** - Eric Alcouloumre; Minnie Ballard; Sheri Blackwood; Kathleen Bruski; Phil Campanelli; Carol Campbell; Ashley Carlton; Cyndy Cheek; Erin Clancy; Bill Cowles; Leslie Cowles; Elaine Echenique; Elizabeth Evans; Emily Evans; Laura Flores; Yvette Garcia; Karen Harrington; Bill Hennigan; Julie Larson; Karen McGlenn; Scott McKown; Mary Moyer; Ryan Murillo; Patty Nesbit; Elizabeth Parkinson; Cindy Schrank; Louise Stewardson; Teri Williams; Mark Wilson

## SOS Wild & Crazy Taco Night

The 15th Annual Wild & Crazy Taco Night, held on site at SOS on April 17th, was a big success! With 22 chefs participating, and more than 700 guests in attendance, the event raised \$33,000 to support the Orange Aid Project.

The first ever VIP pre-party was a sold out affair - 100 lucky guests started the taco tasting early with Chefs Paul Buchanan and Pascal Olhats demonstrating how to make their unique pork belly and beef tongue taco choices. Future Brands talked tequila and mixed refreshing margaritas for the thirsty crowd.



The evening's other culinary creations included pork carnitas, Chinese aromatic oxtail, ahi tuna, zucchini blossom, duck confit, venison, and rolled leg of lamb tacos.

A huge thank you to our

generous chefs, Orange Aid sponsors, event sponsors, Taco Night Committee and volunteers for making this such a great night! Many Orange County families will benefit from their generous support.



## Volunteers

**DRIVERS AND FOOD BAGGERS WANTED!!** We are in need of drivers to pick up food items from local merchants once a week. We also have several openings for food repackaging and bagging volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Julie Larson to arrange a tour.



It's time to start thinking about **BACK TO SCHOOL!** We will be collecting glue sticks, pencils, markers, one inch binders, scissors, paper, twin pocket folders, spiral notebooks, lunch bags and backpacks for all ages. Volunteers are needed to stuff bags on August 19, 21 & 22nd

and to distribute them on August 23rd. We will also need Spanish-speaking volunteers on August 23rd.

Thank you to all of our volunteers! We appreciate your commitment to helping those in need!

If you are interested in joining the SOS team, please contact Julie Larson, Volunteer Services Manager, at [jl Larson@shareourselves.org](mailto:jl Larson@shareourselves.org) or 949-650-0186 ext. 227. For more information about Back to School, contact Vanessa Ontiveros, Director of Social Services at 949-642-3451 or [vontiveros@shareourselves.org](mailto:vontiveros@shareourselves.org)

## SOS Board of Trustees

Mary Cappellini, Author, Educational Consultant  
Jean Forbath, Founder, Share Our Selves  
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## Ways to Benefit SOS

- ♦ Register your Ralphs card at [www.ralphs.com/ccprogram.htm](http://www.ralphs.com/ccprogram.htm) and use the SOS number 84538.
- ♦ Register other grocery cards or credit cards with eScrip at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and use the number 150239969.
- ♦ Bring your old printer toner cartridges and cell phones at SOS. We recycle them for cash.
- ♦ Donate your vehicle. It is a safe and easy way to sell your car or boat and support SOS. Call Kathleen Bruski, 949-515-5400, ext. 32, or download the form on the website.
- ♦ Consider a Charitable Gift Annuity, which provides you with guaranteed income for life, a tax deduction, and a generous gift to SOS. For details, call Karen Harrington at SOS, 949-515-5400, ext. 31.



Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Santa Ana, CA  
Permit No. 4039

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

Change of Service Requested

## SAVE THE DATE...SAVE THE DATE

### BACK TO SCHOOL

August 23, 2008

Share Our Selves

1550 Superior Avenue Costa Mesa

English & Spanish speaking volunteers are needed to stuff backpacks and help with distribution. Scouts, Church Groups, and other community organizations are welcome. It's a great opportunity for your high school students to collect community service hours.

## Wish List

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

- Sleeping bags and blankets
- Food (merchants - consider joining the Orange Aid Project - our volunteers will pick up your donated food)
- Financial donation
- Baby items - clothing, food, & diapers
- Hygiene kits
- Backpacks and school supplies
- For ideas on how to help from home or ideas for youth leaders, call Julie Larson at 1-949-650-0640, ext. 227.

## Email Communication

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

## Calendar of Events

May 7, 2008	SOS Open House - 7:30am-1:30pm
May 15, 2008	All Volunteer Inservice
May 21, 2008	SOS Star Team Onion Luncheon
August 2008	SOS Major Donor Thank You
August 2008	SOS Star Team Annual BBQ
August 6, 2008	SOS Open House - 7:30am-1:30pm
August 23, 2008	Back to School BackPack Drive
September 2008	SOS A-Team Sharing Chef Dinner
October 2008	SOS A Team Sharing Chef Dinner
October 11, 2008	18th Annual Celebrity Chefs Dinner
November 5, 2008	SOS Open House - 7:30am-1:30pm
November 17-21	Thanksgiving Food Drive
December 2-4	3rd Annual Festival of Trees
December 15-18	Adopt A Family

For more information on these events, please call Ashley Carlton at 1-949-515-5400 x34 or visit our website, [www.shareourselves.org](http://www.shareourselves.org).