



SHARE OUR SELVES NEWS

Winter, 2008
www.shareourselves.org

SOS Mission

Recently I received the following letter and I found myself wanting to share the poignancy of this letter with all of you who support the SOS mission. We have been given approval to publish their family photograph and I know you will feel as I do that you have seen the face of SOS. The beauty of the family and story will linger long in your heart.

“On behalf of my late wife, Ana Maria, and my children, Simon age 6 and Nicholas 18 months, I am writing to express my gratitude to your organization for your most kind generosity and support; and to commend Miss Yadira Gomez in particular for her concern and understanding.



This past July, Ana Maria, age 34, the mother of my two boys, was diagnosed with an extremely rare form of bone cancer. While she underwent intensive treatment with the doctors doing all they could, the cancer advanced to such a degree that there was nothing more that could be done.

She passed away November 14, 2007.

During the 4 months that she had to endure the deterioration of her health day after day, we were recommended to SOS for the assistance that we so desperately needed, in terms of basic living essentials. Your organization has provided us with not only monetary help, but with other requested benefits and aid from other organizations that serve families in need.

My family is a real example of how the mission and purpose of SOS is so worth helping and maintaining, so that your noble mission may continue to provide families like ours a helping hand when we most need it.”

Thank you to all who have found SOS to be “a noble mission.” Your kindness and caring shall be a lasting expression of good and I continue to be humbled as we partner in creating a safe harbor for the vulnerable in our community.

Reflections - Another Side of Orange County

Based on Orange County's high cost of living, the California Budget Project estimates that even with the increase in minimum wage to \$8.00 on hour, the minimum wage only covers 26% of income needed to cover basic expenses of a family of three.

- ♦ \$23.81 per hour is the minimum needed to afford a one bedroom apartment in Orange County.
- ♦ 80% of a minimum wage earners income often must go for housing.
- ♦ \$1,485 is the average cost of a 2-bedroom rental in Orange County, with a 4% vacancy rate.
- ♦ 22.6% of Orange County residents have no health insurance, one of the highest rates in the nation.
- ♦ 35,000 Orange County residents are homeless, many are families with children – most have jobs.
- ♦ More than 10% of Orange County residents live in poverty. 39% of Orange County's children qualify for free or reduced price lunch.

In 2006, The Rockefeller Institute of Government listed Santa Ana as number one on their index of urban hardship. The lack of county services, lack of health insurance, high housing costs, and prevalence of low paying jobs makes life difficult for Orange County's low-income families.

“I never expected that my family would be in this dire situation,” a comment heard daily by SOS staff and volunteers from those we serve.

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.

Corporate Sponsors

- ♦ **S.D. Deacon** for reconstructing the exterior wall of EMS. Your dedication to SOS is truly appreciated – thank you!
- ♦ Thank you Melanie Wagner and Karen Wiley of **Pacific Life Insurance Co.** for organizing a “birthday in a box” drive benefiting the children of SOS. Over 125 birthday boxes were donated!
- ♦ Hoag Memorial Hospital, SOS’s safety net partner.



The Hoag Hospital Family with the beautiful Hoag Christmas Tree!

Foundation and Community Support

- ♦ Croul Family Foundation for support of the Food Pantry
- ♦ Susan G. Komen for the Cure for support of the Clinic
- ♦ Boeing Employees Community Fund for support of Case Management
- ♦ Allergan Foundation for support of the SOS pharmacy
- ♦ Blue Shield Foundation of CA for support of the Clinic
- ♦ CA Endowment for continuing support of the CCC
- ♦ Ducks Cares for support of the Medical Clinic
- ♦ Edwards Life Sciences Fund for support of the Clinic
- ♦ United Way for continuing support of the Clinic
- ♦ University of Wisconsin Alumni Group for generous annual support

Services Donors

- ♦ Coast Mailing for donating mailing costs
- ♦ Mesa Center Automotive for van maintenance
- ♦ United Direct Marketing for donating mailing costs
- ♦ Westcliff Medical Lab for support of the SOS Lab

Sharing Chefs

- ♦ Pescadou Bistro
- ♦ Mayur Cuisine
- ♦ SOS A-Team

Celebrity Chefs

- ♦ **Chefs** - Franco Barone, Antonello Ristorante; Lauren Brazier, Laguna Culinary Arts; Donald Lockhart and Bruno Egea, Fairmont Hotel; Scott Floyd, Salt Creek Grille; Chris Garnier, Roy’s Newport Beach; Alan Greeley, The Golden Truffle; Carlito Jocson, Yard House; Louie Jocson; Michael Kang, 5’; Richard Mead, Sage & Sage on the Coast; Ken Mukai, Yoshi’s Sushi; Jason Pena, Orange Hill; Paul Squicciarini, Centerra Wines
- ♦ **Sponsors** - Taco Bell Corp; Hoag Memorial Hospital; Fred Siegal Foundation; St. Joseph Health System; Rutan & Tucker; Frome Family Foundation; Michael & Diane Stevens; White Apron Meats; Dennis & Janet Shannon, Citrus Motors; Wm Gary Crouch, Link Murrel; Anne & Ed Hirschman, Comprehensive Pharmacy Services; Sheri & Ted Hoover, Panera Bread; Bob & Gini Robins, Theodore Robins Ford; Jill & Matt Stewart; Mark Smitt & Ann McInnis

Festival of Trees

- ♦ **Sponsors** - Anaheim Ducks/Honda Center, BC Displays, Coast Mailing, Daily Pilot, Goode Time Carolers, Hilton Hotels Corp., Hoag Hospital, Johnny Rockets, Mater Dei HS, Mark Wood Entertainment, Monique Rea, Orange Coast Magazine, Orange County Paralegal Association, Panera Bread, Penn-Mayflower Moving & Storage, PSAV Presentation Services, R.W.B. Party Props, Stella Graphics, and William Swinnerton aka Santa.
- ♦ **Designers** – ABC Bridal Consultants, Bonne Fleur, Elegant by Design, Fresco Design Concepts, Newport Harbor HS, Orange County Fair & Event Center, Sally Hicks, The Spiraled Stem, Toulouse the Moose, The Lab/The Camp, and Trinity Bay Interiors.

SOS Volunteers

With the help of many hands, families in poverty had meals on the table and gifts for their children this holiday season. Our food pantry volunteers packed and distributed 300+ food bags daily leading into Thanksgiving and Christmas. SOS bustled with activity and the holiday spirit was felt by all. Thank you to all who gave of themselves!!!

Be on the look out for a notice of Volunteer Day this Spring. This will be a day of volunteer recognition, important SOS updates, and an opportunity to tour the facility. The SOS volunteer team is one of a kind and this will be a great opportunity to meet many of the 100s of volunteers who are the heart and soul SOS.

If you are interested in joining the SOS team, contact Volunteer Services Manager, Julie Larson, at jl Larson@shareourselves.org or 1-949-650-0640 ext. 227.

SOS Celebrity Chefs Dinner & Auction

On October 27 at the Fairmont Hotel NB, 14 of Orange County's premiere chefs wowed 360 guests with an exquisite 5-course dinner paired



with fine wines. KOCE Co-Anchor and long time SOS supporter, Ed Arnold, auctioned off exciting chef events all donated by the SOS Celebrity Chefs.

Over \$250,000 was raised and all proceeds benefit the SOS Orange Aide Project, feeding Orange County residents living in poverty. Founded by a volunteer

committee, including Chef Michael Kang, this Project feeds up to 1,000 families each week through a network of local restaurants and grocery stores.

Heart felt appreciation goes to our chefs and amazing volunteers.



Festival of Trees

The 2nd Annual Festival of Trees at the Hilton OC/Costa Mesa, was simply amazing! 24 uniquely decorated trees created a winter wonderland. Open House evenings kicked off the Festival with families and community groups including Girl's Inc., Human Options, and Girl



Scouts, enjoying face painting by Oasis Arts, cookie decorating, crafts, and hot chocolate. Mater Dei HS Chamber Singers, Costa Mesa Cheer, and Author Monique Rea of Toulouse the Moose entertained one and all. Of course Santa was down from the North Pole!

The Celebration Dinner on the final evening of the event was a sell-out! The buffet was beautifully presented and the children enjoyed a buffet just for them! Entertainment was provided by the Goode Time Carolers and Mark Wood Entertainment. Guests left the evening with smiles and laughter and many with a beautiful Christmas tree.

A-Team Sharing Chef Dinners

The 12th Annual SOS A-Team Sharing Chef Dinners were once again a big hit. Guests were treated to "Thanksgiving French Style" compliments of Chef Jacques de Quillien of Pescadou Bistro in Newport Beach. We then moved on to Mayur Cuisine of India in Corona del Mar where Host Mr. Singh, presented "Christmas in India".



SOS Board of Trustees

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Ways to Benefit SOS

- ♦ Register your Ralphs card at www.ralphs.com/ccprogram.htm and use the SOS number 84538.
- ♦ Register other grocery cards or credit cards with eScrip at 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, 1-949-515-5400, 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, 1-949-515-5400, ext. 31.



Share Our Selves

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www.shareourselves.org

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SAVE THE DATE...SAVE THE DATE

WILD & CRAZY TACO NIGHT



April 17, 2008
5:30 - 7:30 PM
Share Our Selves



1550 Superior Avenue Costa Mesa

Don't miss this annual tradition of great chefs, great tacos and great fun with friends! For more information on this event, please contact Ashley Bennett at 1-949-515-5400 x34 or www.shareourselves.org

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 with Newsletter in the subject line.

Calendar of Events

March 15, 2008	Anaheim Ducks - SOS Game Night! Ducks vs. Blues @7:00 PM
April 17, 2008	15th Annual Wild & Crazy Taco Night
May 21, 2008	SOS Star Team Onion Luncheon
August 2008	SOS Major Donor Thank You
August 2008	SOS Star Team Annual BBQ
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 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 Kathleen Bruski at 1-949-515-5400 x32 or visit our website, www.shareourselves.org.