



SHARE OUR SELVES NEWS

Spring 2009
www.shareourselves.org

Doing More With Less

GOING GREEN! This phrase has become commonplace as recognition of and responsibility for our personal and corporate impact on the environment has grown. Share Our Selves is no exception. Doing more with less is SOS's mantra these days, protecting the environment and stretching limited resources.

The challenge put to staff and volunteers is how to maintain the breadth and depth of services with the same high quality, while managing resources wisely and meeting pressing needs. The results are impressive as change has quickly reduced costs and increased access to services. All five programs are serving 10 to 40% more clients/patients with a decrease in costs per unit of service. Some examples:

- Plastic food containers have been replaced with paper
- Plastic grocery bags for homeless clients have been replaced with paper
- Volunteers and staff are encouraged to recycle their paper bags by bringing them to SOS to reuse
- Clients are encouraged to bring in their own reusable bags; SOS launched this effort by giving out 650 donated cloth grocery bags
- The clinic is transitioning to Electronic Health Records, reducing chart costs, saving paper, increasing clinic efficiency, increasing clinic connectivity to our surrounding health partners (in particular Hoag Hospital), and increasing patient safety
- Clinic forms have been simplified and when possible are two sided
- Paper and plastic in the staff lounge are discouraged and staff and volunteers are encouraged to bring dishes and utensils from home



The results are impressive as food packaging costs are down 30% and we spend at least 15% less on supplies. Time will demonstrate an even bigger savings. This project is an excellent example of the value of volunteers to SOS, providing the daily service to those we serve and taking the time and interest to increase efficiencies overall. They stretch resources allowing SOS to meet our goal to provide diverse safety net services to struggling OC residents. Increasing our community's safety and security is furthered by their actions. With today's economic woes, that is more important than ever.

You can help - please consider receiving your newsletter via email (see back of newsletter for more information).

Thank you for your support!

Reflections

SOS has long had a standard of reducing waste and being good stewards of all that we do. Our model for this effort was first said by Elizabeth Seaton, founder of the Sisters of Charity in the United States, "Live simply that others may simply live." This call to action resonates on a neighborhood, community, country, and global level, as it reminds us that to be agents of change we must begin with ourselves.

To be agents of change requires SOS to have the support of our volunteers, donors, staff, and clients. As you will see in our newsletter lead article this integration of effort can result in a greater good. How exciting to begin on a small basis, such as the transition to less costly paper products, and see the energy and excitement of all those who made it happen.

One step at a time, one effort to be simple, and in doing so it continues to carry forth the SOS message of hope. For thirty nine years SOS has seen the words of Elizabeth Seaton as a call to action. I applaud all you who join us in seeing the beauty of those words.

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 the Comprehensive CARE Center and for unrestricted support
- ♦ **Eberhard Foundation** for generous support of Social Services
- ♦ **St. Joseph Health System Employee Campaign** for continuing generous gifts by the employees
- ♦ **Orange County Community Foundation** for generous support of Social Services
- ♦ **Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation** for generous support of the SOS Free Dental Clinic
- ♦ **Womenade Newport Beach** for generous support of Case Management
- ♦ **Wienerschnitzel Restaurants** for quarterly donation of hot dogs, buns, and orange juice
- ♦ **Hyundai Motor America** for holding a food drive to benefit the SOS Food Pantry and donating office furniture
- ♦ **Curves Costa Mesa** for donating 1,354.5 pounds during their 8th annual food drive for SOS.



Zafar Brooks, Hyundai Motor America, presents full food drive bins to SOS

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
- ♦ Big Ron's Auto Body & Ed Delgado for refurbishing our blue van

Congratulations!

SOS congratulates supporters and staff who have recently been honored: **Alan Greeley**, Chef/Owner of The Golden Truffle, received the Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce Community Spirit Award. **Larry Kugelman**, SOS Board Member, received a Community Leader Award from the OC Human Relations Commission. SOS Comprehensive CARE Center Director, **Patricia Lenahan**, was awarded the Santa Ana Police Department Chief's Award in recognition and appreciation for volunteer efforts to the Family Violence Emergency Response Team. Patricia and her team rode with uniformed officers on weekends and during peak hours to provide immediate referrals & support to victims of domestic violence.

SOS is grateful for your support and commitment to making our community a better place!

Wild & Crazy Taco Night Heroes

Chefs - **Franco Barone**, Antonello Ristorante; **David Bentley**, Stella's Serious Italian Restaurant & Lounge; **Dennis Brask**, Five Crowns; **Paul Buchanan**, Primal Alchemy; **Mark Cleveland and Tanya Fuqua**, Avanti Cafe; **Jeff Dobkin and Jason Coulston**, The Hidden Kitchen; **Alan Greeley**, The Golden Truffle; **Tom Hope**, TAPS Fish House & Brewery; **Carlito Jocson**, Yard House; **Louie Jocson**, Family Tree Produce & Pacific Prime ; **Michael Kang**, 5'; **Jason Kordas**, Jason's Downtown Restaurant; **Chad Krahling**, Hilton, Costa Mesa/Orange County; **David Man**, The Island Hotel; **Rich Mead**, Sage Restaurant & Sage on the Coast; **Lalo Morales**, Rusty Pelican; **Pascal Olhats**, Tradition by Pascal; **Scott Robbe**, Salt Creek Grille; **Michael Rossi**, Ambrosia at OC Pavilion; **Adrien Sbrana**, Sam & Harry's; **Don Schoenburg**, Leatherby's Cafe Rouge; **Paul Squicciarini**, Orange County Food & Wine Center; **Panera Bread**

Orange Aid Sponsors - Anonymous; Azonic Insurance Agency, Inc.; Christopher Blank; Patrick Chen, M.D.; Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian; Larry and Dulcie Kugelman; Link, Murrel & Co., Wm. Gary Crouch; Newport Beach Plaza Retirement Community; Rutan & Tucker; St. Joseph Health System; Michael & Diane Stephens; Taco Bell Corporation

Event Sponsors - American Beverage; Andy Templeton Photography; BC Display & Signage; Burns & Associates; Campanelli & Associates; Classic Party Rentals; Coast Mailing Services; Costco Wholesale; David Ballard Electrical; Elegant by Design; Family Tree Produce; Galardi Group, Inc.; Global Parking System; Hi-Time Wine Cellars; Ingardia Brothers Produce, Inc.; L.A. Specialty Produce; La Tradicion Brand Manager; MillerCoors; OC Custom Wine; Pacific Prime, Inc.; Penjoyan Produce; Primrose Ice Company; J.R. Simplot Company; Southern Wine & Spirits; Taco Bell Corporation; The Patron Spirits Co.; Visser's Florist; Yosemite Water; Yvette Garcia & Mary Gallegos

Underwriters - Anonymous; Marcia BMarthaler; E.A. Beck & Co.; Barbara & Bob Boies; Jack & Mary Ellen Glaser; Robert & Diana Leaverton Charitable Gift Fund

Committee - Dr. Eric Alcouloumre; Minnie Ballard; Sheri Blackwood; Kathleen Bruski; Shannon Burns; Phil Campanelli; Ashley Carlton; Cyndy Cheek; Bill Cowles; Leslie Cowles; Katherine D'Zmura; Elaine Echenique; Jeff Eile; Jeannine Eile; Elizabeth Evans; Emily Evans; Keri Follmer; Yvette Garcia; Karen Harrington; Bill Hennigan; Julie Larson; Karen McGlenn; Scott McKown; Mary Moyer; Ryan Murillo; Patty Nesbit; Kris Olah; Cindy Schrank; Louise Stewardson

16th Annual Wild & Crazy Taco Night

With 22 of Orange County's finest chefs and more than 650 guests, the 16th Annual Wild & Crazy Taco Night was a great success! This year's event raised \$33,030 to support the SOS Orange Aid Project – helping feed OC residents at risk of going hungry.

The VIP pre-event was a festive affair – Participating guests got early entrance into the tent, and the opportunity to sample seven chef's tacos before the rush.



Chef Franco Barone, Antonello Ristorante, mingles with Taco Night guests



Chef Michael Kang, 5', serves his beef cheek taco to committee member Mary Moyer

Guests enjoyed Patrón margaritas and La Tradición Liqueur De Horchata beverages. Taco Night Committee member Yvette Garcia and her mother, Mary Gallegos, prepared homemade tortillas and salsas for the hungry crowd.

This year's delicious wild & crazy tacos included octopus, elk flank steak, beef shortrib, quail, pork belly, duck carnitas, and BBQ brisket...yum!

A huge thank you to our chefs, Orange Aid sponsors, event sponsors and underwriters, Taco Night Committee, and volunteers for making this such a wonderful event!

A Gift for the Future

Through the SOS Legacy Society, SOS receives bequests from donors who support SOS through their wills. Another way to support SOS is through a Charitable Gift Annuity. A CGA provides you with guaranteed income for life, a tax deduction, and a generous gift to SOS. You can purchase a CGA with cash, appreciated stocks, or even property. In fact, it is possible to purchase a CGA with rental property, avoid taxes (and tenant headaches!), and in many cases increase your income - income for life! In this economy, a guaranteed return is hard to find. The Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) provides CGAs for SOS. Please call Jeff Swanson at the OCCF, 949-553-4202, ext. 39 for details, or Karen Harrington at SOS, 949-515-5400, ext. 31.

Sharing Seeds of Hope

In an effort to provide our clients with an educational opportunity to grow sustainable food SOS is launching a new program called Sharing Seeds of Hope. Generous volunteers and staff are growing bell pepper, tomato and bean plants at their homes for our clients. The plants will then be given to our clients with care instructions. Our goal is to distribute 75-100 plants every two months to food insecure individuals and families in our community. If you have a green thumb and would like to participate in this project OR you are interested in underwriting project supplies (soil, seeds, pots), please call Ashley Carlton at (949) 515-5400, ext. 34 or email acarlton@shareourselves.org.

SOS Board of Directors

- Mary Cappellini, Author, Educational Consultant
Dr. Jack Glaser, VP of Theology & Ethics, St. Joseph Health System
Patricia Harrigan, SOS Volunteer
Doug Heller, Vice President of Finance, Anaheim Ducks
Michael Kang, Restaurateur, 5' Restaurant
Ernest Klatte, III, Partner, Rutan & Tucker
Larry Kugelman, Retired President, The Health Plan of America
Kathy Lewis, Retired President, PSD, Western Digital Corp.
Mike Lewis, CFO, Collectors Universe
Dr. Gwyn Parry, Director, Community Medicine, Hoag Hospital
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Michael Stephens, Retired President, Hoag Hospital
Matthew Stewart, CEO, National Services Group
Timothy C. Tyson, Retired President and CEO, Valeant Pharmaceuticals International
Bob Warmington, President, Warmington Land Company
Ellen Wright, Retired Educator

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.
- Shop in our online store. Purchase SOS embroidered clothing and merchandise to help SOS! sos.webstore.us.com

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



Staff and volunteers plant tomatoes, peppers, and zucchinis for SOS clients



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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 BACK TO SCHOOL

August 29, 2009
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 way for your high school student to collect community service hours! For information on volunteering please contact Julie Larson at 1-949-650-0640, ext. 227 or jl Larson@shareourselves.org.

Wish List

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

- Volunteer radiologist to read plain films at SOS
- Flat Screen TV for lobby
- Food (merchants - consider joining the Orange Aid Project - our volunteers will pick up your donated food)
- Kid's Round Table for Children's Corner
- School Supplies for Back to School Program
- Baby Items - clothing, food, & diapers
- Birthday Boxes for Children, Hygiene Kits
- 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 - Email Newsletter!



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.

Calendar of Events

May 20	Star Team Onion Luncheon
August 6	SOS Open House 8:00am-1:30pm
August 23	Major Donor Thank You Event
August 29	Back to School Backpack Drive
October 11	NEW DATE!!! 19th Annual Celebrity Chef Dinner
November 5	SOS Open House 7:30am-1:30pm
November 16-20	Thanksgiving Food Drive
December 1-3	Festival of Trees
December 14-17	Adopt A Family

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