



SHARE OUR SELVES NEWS

Summer 2009
www.shareourselves.org

Shared Pain?

California has a budget, or at least as this is written, the state has a budget. Whether there will still be a budget by the time you actually read this is anybody's guess. It is projected that lawsuits will fly as the state attempts to balance the budget by taking dedicated funds (think transportation, schools, redevelopment) and city and county funds. Courts have struck down such deals in the past. Many also expect the short fall will return by October as state unemployment stays at over 11%.

Let's look ahead. Whether or not this particular budget passes, the final budget will mean cuts to many services to the residents of the state of California. Yes, the pain will be shared. However, the pain by those who have the least will be felt the most. \$3 billion is scheduled to be cut from health and human services and social services. Programs receiving less include Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, CalWorks, SSI, and In-Home Supportive Services. This translates to less access to healthcare for low-income adults and children, less supportive services (childcare for example) for young parents enrolled in job training or education, less support for those with disabilities, and less support for those who wish to keep a family member needing extensive care, at home.

The pain will be felt by struggling families already living on the edge, by the newly unemployed who lost health insurance along with their job, by seniors, and by the disabled. Everyone visiting an Emergency Room will feel the pain as wait time increases as more and more access healthcare via the ER. Today the pain is felt by John, a struggling real estate agent who dropped his health insurance to stretch his dollars and was then diagnosed with Diabetes. It's felt by Kathy, a single mother who was just laid off from her job, and depleted her savings to pay bills and buy food for her daughter.



Safety net agencies, of which SOS is one of the largest in Orange County, have already experienced an increase of up to 50% in requests for services. This will increase. And because everyone is experiencing the economic downturn, this increase in services comes at a time when most nonprofits are experiencing a downturn in funding from government, foundations, and individuals.

SOS is fortunate to have a broad base of support. However, revenue is down slightly and in a normal year that would not be significant in terms of level of services. The issue for SOS is the increased demand for services. As shared in the last newsletter, increased efficiencies has allowed SOS to effectively increase services, to do more with less. As the recession continues and as need increases, we are hopeful that you, our loyal supporters, will consider the needs and generously donate to SOS's programs: medical, dental, counseling and case management, food, financial assistance, clothing, legal aid, education, family supportive services, and special seasonal programs (Back to School and Adopt a Family) all depend on the community's contribution of time, talent, and treasure.

Consider how you might help.

Reflections

I just returned from the wedding of my youngest daughter and the memories are still sweet in my mind. The joy of the celebration, the happiness of families and friends, the limitless hope the young couple feels for the future.

As I returned to SOS, I was struck by the reality that so many other young couples have had their visions and hope damaged by the economic reality of today's times. They have lost their homes, jobs, insurance, and sense of well being. This vulnerable state has robbed them of the security they cherish for their children, and in many cases has taken the joy from their homes.

Indeed this is a difficult time to be young and see the future as endless. But, I believe this is the job of SOS - to restore hope, inspire those who are hurting to once again rise above the difficult, and protect the children who are most at risk. We do this through you and because of you.

I pledge we will not give up in doing what is right and making sure our young generation continues to believe in the future. Happy summer days to all of you.

As always you are in my thoughts.

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

- **Eberhard Equipment** for donating trucks, forklifts and drivers to help transport donations from the OC Fair's We Care Wednesdays drives. We couldn't have done it without your help!
- **California Wellness Foundation** for generous support of the dental clinic.
- **George Hoag Family Foundation** for generous support of Social Services.
- **County of Orange** for generous support of the medical and dental clinics.
- **Harbor Mesa Lions** for continuing generous support.
- **Wine Lab Newport Beach** for hosting the first SOS wine tasting fundraiser. Keep an eye out for future events at the Wine Lab!
- Thank you to **NapaStyle** and **Chef Michael Chiarello** for choosing SOS as the nonprofit partner for their July 14th event.



Charlie Rosenau from Eberhard Equipment loads a pallet of food onto the truck



Services Donors

- Dr. Jeffrey Elo and Dr. James Kloss for their continuous support of the dental clinic
- Lynda Greer and Rod Schmidgall of Resources Global Professionals in Irvine for donating their space planning services to install new cubicles in the SOS Annex
- 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

Congratulations!

The **Anaheim Ducks** have been chosen as the 2009 National Philanthropy Day Outstanding Large Corporation. They will be recognized at a luncheon in November. Congrats and thank you to the Ducks for their generous contributions to SOS and to the entire community!



SOS was awarded CalOptima's Mary K. Dewane Safety Net Award for outstanding service to the Orange County Community.

OC Super Fair

We Care Wednesdays a Super Success!

On July 15, over 13,000 OC Fair patrons participated in the Food Drive benefiting Share Our Selves and Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County. Fair guests, who brought five cans or nonperishable food items, received free admission into the fair and one free carnival ride. Share Our Selves collected 42,280 pounds of donated food at the main entrance to the Fair.



Volunteers collected 34 pallets of food at the OC Fair's main gate

SOS was also the recipient of donations from the Toy Drive and School Supply drives on July 29th and August 5th. A huge thank you to the OC Fair, all those who contributed to the We Care Wednesday drives, our amazing team of volunteers and Eberhard Equipment! It truly was a community effort.

Volunteer Spotlight!

A special thank you goes out to all of the summer volunteers, the "regulars" and the summer crew, who have endured the heat to meet the needs of our clients. **SOS VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BEST!**

We would like to recognize our future medical, dental and pharmacy providers. Congratulations on your accomplishments, and thank you for the time you've given to SOS and the community. Best wishes as you move forward on your career paths!

St. George's University, Amanda Khosravi – School of Medicine, David Ni – School of Medicine **University of New South Wales**, Eric Doelitzsch – Masters of Public Health **Western University**, Janine Ng – School of Pharmacy, Brian Riding – PA Program **University of Southern California**, Jane Suh – School of Pharmacy, Ben Kaska – Keck School of Medicine Primary Care Physician Assistant Program **Temple University**, Chris Cheong – School of Dentistry, Tiffany Shaw – School of Medicine **Meharry Medical School**, Francisco Vega **Tufts University**, Allison Sarff – School of Medicine **University of the Pacific**, Greer McMichael – School of Dentistry **UCLA Robert Bahn** – School of Dentistry **A.T. Still University (ATSU) - Phoenix**, Brad Stoker - School of Osteopathic Medicine **University of San Francisco**, James Vu – School of Pharmacy

15th Annual Star Team Onion Luncheon



A-Team President, Kathy Thompson (center), with Star Team members Catherine Emmi and Greg Hjartarson

On Wednesday, May 20th, 80 SOS Star Team members, SOS A-Team members and their guests attended the 15th Annual SOS Star Team Luncheon, held at the beautiful Five Crowns Restaurant in Corona Del Mar. The luncheon honored the members of the Star

Team, a support guild of

Share Our Selves. The fundraising efforts of the guild directly benefit the life sustaining services SOS provides to Orange County residents living in poverty. From the generosity of the Star Team's membership and the luncheon, approximately \$58,040 was raised to support Share Our Selves' programs. This year's luncheon was the most successful in the 15 year history of the event.



Once again Rita Sprinkel outbid the other guests for the famous bag of onions

19th Annual Celebrity Chef Dinner

Save the Date for the SOS Sunday Supper Club

On October 11th, swing on into the Sunday Supper Club for an evening of swanky sophistication and fine dining! Twelve of Orange County's most generous chefs will again team up to prepare an exquisite five course dinner paired with specialty wines. This year's event will be held at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa. The evening will include a silent auction and live auction where the chefs will offer exciting dining packages. You won't want to miss this great night! For more information, contact Ashley Carlton at 949-515-5400, ext. 34 or acarlton@shareourselves.org.



Chefs Alan Greeley and Paul Squicciarini will once again lend their amazing culinary talents to the event

Round it up America



Yard House Restaurants has launched Round it up America™, a new program created to help feed the needs of local charities. The pay it forward concept is simple and invites guests of Yard House to "round up" their restaurant check to the nearest dollar with the remaining change donated to local charities, and

they have included SOS in the launch of this program! Visit one of the Orange County Yard House locations, enjoy a great meal, and Round it up America! Find out more at www.rounditupamerica.org.

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

BACK TO SCHOOL

August 29, 2009

Share Our Selves

1550 Superior Avenue, Costa Mesa

Donations for this event are still needed! We are collecting backpacks, pencils, rulers, spiral notebooks, crayons, paper, calculators, markers, lunch bags, folders, erasers and gift cards for new school uniforms. Please help send kids back to school with a great start! Contact Vanessa Ontiveros, 949-642-3451 ext. 257

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
- Volunteers to paint the inside of Clinic & donate paint and supplies
- 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.

Calendar of Events

August 6	SOS Open House 8:00am-1:30pm
August 16	Star Team Annual BBQ
August 23	Major Donor Thank You Event
August 29	Back to School Backpack Drive
October 11	19th Annual Celebrity Chef Dinner - Sunday Supper Club
November 5	SOS Open House 8:00am-1:30pm
November 16-20	Thanksgiving Food Drive
December 1-3	4th Annual Festival of Trees
December 14-17	Adopt A Family

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.

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