



SHARE OUR SELVES NEWS

Winter 2009
www.shareourselves.org

Introducing the new SOS Family Center!

Share Our Selves is excited to welcome Families Costa Mesa to the SOS family! The new SOS Family Center brings a fifth core program to the Orange County community. Social Services, the Free Medical Clinic, the Free Dental Clinic, and the Comprehensive CARE Center (counseling and case management) will continue providing vital safety net services to struggling Orange County families with the addition of many new services for families with young children at the SOS Family Center.

The excellent programming Families Costa Mesa has provided for 14 years will continue and expand under SOS's influence. Current programming at the SOS Family Center includes prenatal and breast feeding classes, parenting classes (including a Boot Camp for new Dads), health insurance enrollment, and Mommy and Me classes. Having two sites will increase the ability of all SOS programs to increase educational outreach to our community.

The SOS Family Center provides a direct link for young parents to the many additional services at SOS – helping them start their families with a strong foundation. This wonderful opportunity enhances Share Our Selves' mission to provide care for the entire family – from infancy through adulthood.

Karen McGlenn, Executive Director of Share Our Selves says, "I am excited by the model SOS is establishing by uniting with the nonprofit, Families Costa Mesa, to provide comprehensive, integrated, high quality services to all those in need. We celebrate this change."

"We are very excited to be merging with Share Our Selves. SOS is a tremendous agency with a long-standing history, and we are honored to be a part of it. We have always felt like we were part of their family, but now it is official," states Maribel Baez, Program Director of Families Costa Mesa, who will oversee the SOS Family Center.

This new merger is an excellent example of SOS responding to the needs of the community. In the current economic strife, the ability to offer multiple services at one agency is a model of efficiency and sustainability. Thank you all for your outstanding loyal support, allowing Share Our Selves to not only continue our current programs that impact the health and well being of our community, but to grow new programs and reach those who are building the future of our communities.



Reflections

Recently, I heard an interview with an Academy Award nominee who is being billed as a comeback story. He said that often in the worst of times his only friend and comfort was his dog. This struck a chord with me because I understood the isolation he felt and how simply the presence of an animal could allow him to hold on to hope.

I believe I understand this loneliness and isolation because of my work with SOS and my conversations with the clients and patients who seek our help on a daily basis. Those who find their way to our doors or call us on the phone most often these days say, "I have never had to seek this help before so where do I begin." It is in these moments that the true spirit of SOS can guide, navigate, heal, and provide hope.

In these days of economic challenges, layoffs, lost jobs, healthcare reductions or elimination, we as SOS, our volunteers, staff, and all you who read this letter, are called to a spirit of transformation and hope.

I am honored to be with you in this journey and we as SOS shall not waiver in our care for people.

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

- ♦ **Weight Watchers** of Fountain Valley for donating over 2,000 pounds of food from their Lose For Good food drive to the SOS Food Pantry
- ♦ **Newport Rib Company** for donating a portion of the proceeds from their 25 Days of Charity to SOS
- ♦ **FastFrame Newport Beach** for generously donating their expert framing services. Also visit the other Orange County FastFrame locations in Costa Mesa, Dana Point, Irvine, Mission Viejo, Orange, and Tustin
- ♦ **Women Looking Forward**, an auxiliary group of Orange County United Way, for their donations of clothing, food, household and baby items from their Trick the Trolley holiday event
- ♦ **Newport Center United Methodist Church** for including SOS in their Alternative Christmas Store
- ♦ **Y-Guides of the Dolphin Nation** for donating contributions from their Beach Clean-up and Fundraiser to SOS
- ♦ **San Clemente AYSO Region 111**, headed by Scott Levin, for donating over 660 jackets and sweaters to SOS.
- ♦ **Black, Starr & Frost** for hosting a men's shopping night for SOS supporters at their beautiful store, and for donating a portion of their sales to SOS
- ♦ **George Hoag Family Foundation** for support of Electronic Health Records
- ♦ **Weingart Foundation** for support of Electronic Health Records
- ♦ **Susan G. Komen for the Cure** for support of the SOS Free Medical Clinic Women's Initiative
- ♦ **The Organizational Development Services Program** for support of the CQI Program (Continuous Quality Improvement)



Weight Watchers Lose For Good Food Drive



Women Looking Forward loaded up the trolley and delivered goods 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

Celebrity Chef Dinner

- ♦ **Chefs** - **Franco Barone**, Antonello Ristorante; **Bill Bracken**, The Island Hotel; **Alan Greeley**, The Golden Truffle; **Carlito Jocson**, Yard House; **Louie Jocson**, Frieda's Inc. & Family Tree Produce; **Michael Kang**, 5'; **Chad Krahling**, Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa; **Donald Lockhart**, Fairmont Newport Beach; **Matthew Mattison**, Orange Hill; **Rich Mead**, Sage Restaurant & Sage on the Coast; **Ken Mukai**, Yoshi's Sushi; **Adrien Sbrana**, Sam & Harry's at the Newport Beach Marriott; **Paul Squicciarini**, Orange County Wine & Food Center
- ♦ **Sponsors** - Taco Bell Corporation; Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian; Kavanaugh Family Fund; Fred Siegel Foundation; St. Joseph Health System; Rutan & Tucker, LLP; Frome Family Foundation; Fluidmaster, Inc.; National Services Group; Michael & Diane Stephens; Nancy & Geoffrey Stack; Dennis & Janet Shannon, Citrus Motors; Azonic Insurance Agency, Inc.; Newport Beach Plaza Retirement Community; Richard & Jane Taylor; Anne & Ed Hirschman, Comprehensive Pharmacy Services; Link, Murrel & Co., Wm. Gary Crouch

Festival of Trees

- ♦ **Designers** - Trinity Bay Interiors; Elegant by Design; Fresco Design Concepts; Newport Harbor High School ASB; Tangram Interiors; Karen Fabian Design; Living Landscapes; Orange County Fair & Event Center; South Coast Plaza; Laguna College of Art & Design; April Helliwell; Bonne Fleur; The Spiraled Stem; Prizant Design; Peg Berens Interior Design; The Lab/The Camp
- ♦ **Sponsors** - Hilton Hotels Corporation; Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian; The Anaheim Ducks & Honda Center; Panera Bread; Linda & Robin Boyd; Penn-Mayflower Moving and Storage; Coast Mailing Services; Mark Wood Entertainment; BC Displays and Signage; William Swinnerton aka Santa; PrintMasters; McCord Designs; R.W.B. Party Props; Andy Templeton Photography; Monique Rea; St. John The Baptist Handbell Choir; St. John the Baptist Middle School Choir; A Fantasy Fiesta Face Painting and More!
- ♦ **Media Sponsor** - Daily Pilot

Volunteer Spotlight

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SOS HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERS!!!!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who gave of themselves throughout the holiday season! Your generous gift of time helped us meet the medical and dental needs of our clients as well as helped to feed record numbers of hungry families. Through your Adopt A Family donations, many were able to celebrate Christmas with lovely gifts and holiday treats. The holiday season is a time for sharing and you truly Shared Yourself!

With spring just around the corner, we will be met with new challenges and new opportunities. Interested in becoming a part of the SOS team? Please contact Julie Larson at jl Larson@shareourselves.org or 949-650-0640, ext. 227.

18th Annual Celebrity Chef Dinner

On October 11th, thirteen outstanding local chefs created a magnificent five course dinner for 312 SOS supporters. Each delicious course was paired with a fine wine. The 18th annual event featured a silent auction and a live auction, emceed by longtime SOS supporter, KOCE Co-anchor Ed Arnold, for private dinners prepared by the chefs.



Our Amazing Celebrity Chefs

The dinner was held at the beautiful Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa. \$261,000 was raised to support the Orange Aid Project, which collects retrievable food from restaurants, grocery stores, bakeries, and caterers to distribute to low income Orange County residents. The Orange Aid Project and the need to provide food to the food insecure in our county was the true focus of the evening.



The Celebrity Chef Committee

A huge thank you to the generous chefs, committee members, and volunteers who made this year's Celebrity Chef Dinner a tremendous success!

3rd Annual AAF Family Festival of Trees

The 3rd Annual Adopt A Family Festival of Trees event was held at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa from December 2nd-4th. The event featured 26 gorgeously designed Christmas trees available for silent auction bidding, and three nights of holiday entertainment and activities. This year's event raised \$21,697.88 for Share Our Selves programs.

The first evening was a holiday reception hosted by the SOS Board of Directors. Board Members, Festival of Trees sponsors, tree designers, and guests mingled among the beautifully decorated and themed trees, enjoyed carols sung by St. John the Baptist



The Festival of Trees Committee with Santa

Middle School Choir, and delicious hors d'oeuvres prepared by the Hilton.

The Free Community Open House Night was a busy and fun event for the kids! More than 150 children enjoyed face painting, crafts, cookie decorating and Santa!



Festival of Trees Volunteers

The Family Celebration Night on December 4th was a festive affair. Guests feasted on a holiday buffet, while the younger attendees enjoyed a kid-sized buffet of all their favorites. The tree auction was in full swing, with bids being placed until the last minute. Mark Wood of Mark Wood Entertainment entertained the crowd with holiday songs and brought the kids on stage to join him. It was a wonderful beginning to the holiday season!

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

Patricia Harrigan, SOS Volunteer
Doug Heller, Vice President of Finance, Anaheim Ducks

Michael Kang, Restaurateur, 5¹ 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

Gayle Pierce, Director of Admissions, UCI Medical School, UCI

Sr. Suzanne Sassus, Senior Vice President, Sponsorship, St. Joseph Health System
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 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.

39th Annual SOS Adopt A Family Program

The 2008 Adopt A Family Program was an outstanding success, thanks to the generous support of our donors, volunteers and the community. This year, we were able to adopt 1,519 families - a 12% increase from last year!

We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the 559 donors, and our amazing team of volunteers who spent 2,100 hours to make this program such a tremendous success. The outpouring of support for this year's Adopt A Family program provided a happy holiday for not only the 1,519 families, but the 5,419 children within those families and 72 local schools in our community.



Volunteers sort through toys for unadopted families



Volunteers organize the many food donations



Donors line up to deliver gifts for their adopted families



Volunteers load up gifts to be delivered to the families

A few of the families that benefited from the AAF program this year:

- A single mother with two children who just received Section 8 housing after sharing a bedroom with her children at her mother's home for the past eight years. She is finishing up her teaching degree at Cal State Long Beach. Income and support are minimal, and the children's father is absent.
- Peter is a carpenter, but was just laid off due to the current economy. His wife, Blanca, is a homemaker and volunteers at the children's school. They are in a bind financially, and did not know how they were going to survive the holidays.
- Irma is a single mother whose son has developmental disabilities. She works hard to support her son, but needed some help this Christmas.

A sampling of the many thank you notes we have received from adopted families and local schools:

- *Thank you for all of the presents. We are so grateful. We all wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. You really read my mind with the Guinness World Record book. I enjoy reading it. We all love our presents and are grateful you chose us.*
- *Today I want to thank the people who have been generous and kind and have given my children a wonderful Christmas. I do not know you, but from your generosity I have the feeling you are kind. I want to thank you once again, and I hope you have a nice Christmas and a Happy New Year.*
- *Dear Friends, It's with sincere and deep gratitude that we thank you very, very much for your deep concern for the needy children of Santa Ana. As each year passes, we continue to witness the poverty and struggle of our Madison families. And this season, the need has increased tremendously. We found many more families not able to have a home of their own and are renting rooms and garages...Because of caring and giving people such as yourselves, the 30 Madison families will be able to have a Christmas. The Children will be able to have Christmas with gifts and happiness. The parents will be able to have a Christmas with relief, joy and peace.*

Thank you for your dedication to the Adopt A Family program. It is your support that allows this program to provide for the needs of families in our community. **A special thank you goes out to the Orange County Fair & Event Center**, for once again generously hosting the final and most critical week of the AAF program. We couldn't do it without you! SOS thanks the following sponsors who fed the AAF volunteers at the Fairgrounds: A Superior Sandwich, Beach Pit BBQ, Panera Bread, Side Street Café, Taco Bell, Taco Mesa, and Anthony Juliano/Fuji Film. Thank you Star-Box, Inc. for supplying boxes for transporting gifts & food. Thank you to the Roosters for donating 125 turkeys and food boxes from their annual Holiday Food Drive. Thank you Penjoyan Produce for donating produce for our unadopted families.

The following groups each adopted five or more families!

Anaheim Ducks & Honda Center, Baxter Healthcare, Bristol Park Medical Group, Brower, Miller & Cole, Canyon High School, Diedrich Coffee, Estancia High School, GE Money, Grippo Malia, Harbor Day School, Katy Harvie, Hoag Hospital, Informative Services Dept., Hot Topic, Hyundai Motor America, Lincoln Elementary, LPA Inc., Newport Beach Jaycees, Newport Harbor HS, Orange Coast UU Church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Our Lady Queen of Angels, Pacific Sunwear, Paragon BioMedical, Penco Engineering, Sares-Regis Group, South Coast Performing Arts, Butera/Ciganovich, Taco Bell, UnitedHealth Group, Volt, Wallace Air Cargo, Wonderware Corp.



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949-642-3451
www.shareourselves.org

Change of Service Requested

SAVE THE DATE...SAVE THE DATE

Wild & Crazy Taco Night



April 30, 2009
Share Our Selves



1550 Superior Avenue, Costa Mesa

Don't miss this annual tradition of great chefs, unique tacos and fun with friends! For more information on this event, please contact Ashley Carlton at 949-515-5400, ext. 34 or acarlton@shareourselves.org

Wish List

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

- Flat Screen TV
- 4 Stanchions for the Social Services lobby
- 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
- 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

February 5, 2009	Open House - 7:30am-1:30pm
March 6, 2009	SOS Anaheim Ducks Family Night
April 30, 2009	Wild & Crazy Taco Night
May 7, 2009	Open House - 7:30am-1:30pm
August 6, 2009	Open House - 7:30am-1:30pm
August 2009	Major Donor Thank You
August 2009	Star Team Annual BBQ
August 26, 2009	Back to School Backpack Drive
October 10, 2009	Celebrity Chef Dinner
November 16-20, 2009	Thanksgiving Food Drive
December 1-3, 2009	4th Annual Festival of Trees
December 14-17, 2009	Adopt A Family

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