



# SHARE OUR SELVES NEWS

Winter 2010  
www.shareourselves.org

## Why SOS?

In the 12 months since the financial crisis rocked the world's economy, charities have had to cut budgets, lay off staff, and find ways to do more with less. Many in the field tell us that the worse is not over, that foundation giving will continue to slide and donor fatigue will set in as charities escalate requests and those who might typically give find themselves financially strapped.

Of course, the other side of the coin, at least for safety net organizations such as SOS, is that the need has greatly increased. Housing, hunger, and healthcare issues strain family stability as many have lost jobs and health insurance.

Thank you from everyone at SOS. As charity dollars have become scarcer, giving has become more focused. You have continued your support and new friends have embraced our mission. All SOS programs have experienced an increased need and responded with expanded services. Staff and volunteers have worked together to reduce costs, increase efficiencies, and better manage the flow of those seeking assistance. We invite you all to visit. You will see a redesigned waiting room that seats 30% more people, a medical clinic rapid triage working to quickly assess the walk-in needs presented each morning, and expanded financial assistance to accommodate 30% more families each week. Food packaging costs have been reduced, copying costs have been slashed, and every department is held accountable to demonstrate increased efficiencies in order to keep the dollars focused on the community need.



Examples of what your gifts have accomplished:

- John was a real estate agent who quickly saw his income drop to below the federal poverty level. To cut costs, he dropped his medical insurance. Soon after, he was diagnosed with diabetes, which quickly advanced with no treatment. He could barely get out of bed by the time he arrived at SOS. The day he arrived, he got an insulin shot and much needed additional medications. His children were signed up with Healthy Families and he and his wife with the county healthcare program, MSI. The SOS Legal Clinic is working to forestall foreclosure on their home. He and his family are receiving counseling at the SOS Comprehensive CARE Center.
- Ed and his wife are both college educated, longtime homeowners, who had jobs in finance. Both lost their jobs. They took whatever odd jobs they could find. In less than a year, their home was foreclosed. They moved into a motel, sometimes landing in their car. Ed found a new job and SOS provided the security deposit and first month's rent on an apartment. To help them get established, SOS provided food and transportation assistance.

Thank you for trusting SOS to make the critical difference. We wish you all peace and prosperity in the New Year.

## Reflections

I often struggle with how to start a New Year. Should I consider all my mistakes of the last year and reflect on how to change for this year? Should I build on my successes of last year and make sure they continue. Or should I simply say "it is a new beginning."

I know I prefer the latter.

I believe my choice of a new beginning relates to my work with SOS and the daily encounters I have with staff, volunteers, patients, and clients. I see volunteers well into their eighties excited by life, full of expectations, and delighted to have another year to make life better for others. Staff who turn their jobs of healing and service into daily acts of kindness and compassion. Clients and patients who despite the changes in their lives continue to renew hope within themselves and their families. They do not bow to the loss of a job, home, or failing health, but believe in a "new beginning."

Given all of the above I have no choice but to forgive myself for my failures, celebrate my successes, and know that in doing the work of SOS I am always gifted with a "new beginning."

Please visit or call me anytime this year as I truly value meeting all of you who also share in the work of SOS.

Blessings to all,

*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

- ♦ **The California Endowment** for generous support of the Comprehensive CARE Center
- ♦ **Edwards Lifesciences Fund** for generous support of the Free Medical Clinic
- ♦ **Pacific Life Foundation** for generous support of the Free Medical Clinic
- ♦ **Susan G. Komen for the Cure** for generous support of the Women's Clinic
- ♦ **Orange County United Way Bridge the Gap Fund** for generous support of the Free Medical Clinic
- ♦ **Orange County United Way** for generous support of Social Services and the Free Medical Clinic
- ♦ **County of Orange** for dedicating funds for Oral Health
- ♦ **Orange Coast Dental X-Ray lab, Cypress College, Dr. James Kloss, Dr. Jeffrey Elo and Dr. Nina Nielsen** for their continued support of the Dental Clinic
- ♦ **Weight Watchers of Fountain Valley** for donating food from their Lose For Good food drive to the SOS Food Pantry
- ♦ **Fountain Valley Women's Club** for holding a holiday food and toy drive
- ♦ **Schulein Fit Enterprises, Athletic Club for Women II** for holding a food drive to benefit the SOS Food Pantry

### 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

### KTLA Season of Caring Food Drive



*KTLA's Allie MacKay reports from the CM Fire Department with volunteer, Erica Simmons*

On November 24, 2009, SOS partnered with KTLA, Costa Mesa Fire Department, and local Ralphs grocery stores for the 2nd Annual Season of Sharing Food Drive. This was the first year that Orange County participated in the drive.

What an amazing day! With

the generous support of our community, SOS collected 20,500 pounds of food at the fire stations and grocery stores. Thank you to KTLA for including us in such a great event, and additional thanks to CMFD and Ralphs!

## Room at the Inn

### In Honor of Jean Forbath, Founder of SOS

Our Room at the Inn program was most appreciated by our single homeless individuals and families. We provided a minimum of one week's lodging to assure there was warmth and comfort for all during this special season. The smiles and hugs were most genuine and we thank all of you who supported this new program.



## Volunteer News

A big THANK YOU to all of those who volunteered on behalf of SOS throughout the holiday season! With the help of so many, we were able to distribute more Thanksgiving food bags than



*Volunteers help prepare Thanksgiving food bags for our clients*

ever before. We collected food with the KTLA Food Drive, we created holiday magic at Festival of Trees, we provided Christmas gifts and food to struggling families through Adopt a Family, AND we kept up with the high volume of food and financial requests throughout the month of December. SOS volunteers are tireless and we are so grateful for your efforts during such a busy time of year!!



*A volunteer carries bags of fresh produce to be included in the Thanksgiving food bags*

Looking ahead to the New Year, we are in need of weekly volunteers in the following areas: Food Pick-up (Drivers), Clothing Store, Children's Corner, Clerical Support, and Food Line and Kitchen volunteers. Volunteering at SOS is an amazing opportunity to help people in need in our own backyard. There is something for everyone and we guarantee that you will benefit in ways you never dreamed possible.

We hope you'll consider becoming part of the team!! Please contact Julie Larson at [jl Larson@shareourselves.org](mailto:jl Larson@shareourselves.org) to arrange a tour and/or discuss volunteer opportunities.

## 19th Celebrity Chef Dinner - SOS Sunday Supper Club

The 19th Annual Celebrity Chef Dinner in October was a delicious success! Twelve generous local chefs created an amazing five course dinner for more than 300 guests. The event, held at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa, raised over \$233,000 to support the SOS Orange Aid Project. Guests were transported back in time to the SOS Sunday Supper Club. Food Pantry volunteer, Lou D'Ambrosio, crooned songs by Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett as guests mingled during the reception and silent auction. The live auction, emceed by actor and voice over personality Michael Villani, featured exciting dining packages from the chefs. A huge thank you to our generous chefs, sponsors, Celebrity Chef Dinner Committee & volunteers for making this event a huge success:



- ♦ **Chefs** - Bert Agor, Ruth's Chris Steak House; Franco Barone, Antonello Ristorante; David Man, The Island Hotel; Alan Greeley, The Golden Truffle; Carlito Jocson, Yard House; Louie Jocson, Pacific Prime, Inc.; Michael Kang, 5'; Chad Krahling, Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa; Rich Mead, Sage Restaurant and Sage on the Coast; Ken Mukai, Yoshi's Sushi; Alessandro Pirozzi, Cucina Alessá; Paul Squicciarini, Orange County Wine & Food Center
- ♦ **Sponsors** - Taco Bell Corporation, Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian, Fred Siegel Foundation, St. Joseph Health System, Ernie and Annick Klatte, Frome Family Foundation, Richard and Helen Wrate, Michael and Diane Stephens, Nancy and Geoffrey Stack, Azonic Insurance Agency, Inc., Christopher L. Blank, In Memory of Ed Hirschman, Link, Murrel & Co., Wm. Gary Crouch, Newport Beach Plaza Retirement Community, Anonymous, Faris Lee Investments, Kavanaugh Family Fund, Larry and Dulcie Kugelman; National Services Group; Patrick Chen M.D., Alfreda and Melvin Posin, Barbara and Bob Boies, Cindy Kipers, Eileen Murphy, Newport Emergency Medical Group, Inc.
- ♦ **Event Sponsors** - Andy Templeton Photography, BC Displays and Signage, Bill Chico and His Traveling Trio, Black, Starr & Frost, Coast Mailing Services, LA & SF Specialty Produce, Louis D'Ambrosio, Polito Farms, PSAV Presentation Services
- ♦ **Beverage Sponsors** - Absolut, Chateau Ste. Michelle, Henry Wine Group, Martin Ray Winery, MillerCoors. Southern Wine & Spirits of America, Inc., The Kang Family, Trefethen Family Vineyards, Wine Warehouse

## 4th Annual Festival of Trees



The Festival of Trees event was held at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa from December 1st-3rd. The festive event featured beautifully designed Christmas trees available for silent auction bidding, and three nights of holiday entertainment and activities. This year's event raised \$26, 850 for the SOS Family Center.

- ♦ **Sponsors** - Anaheim Ducks & Honda Center, Hilton Hotels Corporation, Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian, Elaine Keck, Linda and Robin Boyd, Richard and Jane Taylor, Daily Pilot, Kristin A. Erickson
- ♦ **Tree Designers** - ATELIER, Bonne Fleur Floral & Special Events Designs, Elegant by Design, Karen Fabian Designs, Les Deux Ames, Living Landscapes, Lori Weinraub, Molly Wood Garden Design, Peg Berens Interior Design, Prizant Design, Sally Hicks, Tangram Interiors, The Lab/The Camp
- ♦ **Gingerbread House Designers** - Blackmarket Bakery and the Advanced Baking and Pastry Students from Cypress College, Hilton Anaheim, Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa, Julie Lancia, Lisa Mertins Illustration, Palm Terrace at The Island Hotel, Surf & Sand Resort
- ♦ **Event Sponsors** - Andy Templeton Photography, Artist Donna with All Ways Entertainment, Artist Kari Ivey with Kari Ivey Face and Body Painting, Arty Brush Strokes Face and Body Painting, BC Displays and Signage, El Sol Academy, Epiphany Books, Mark Wood Entertainment, McCord Designs, Penguin Book Group, Penn-Mayflower Moving and Storage, St. John the Baptist Handbell Choir, Steve Breen, William Swinnerton aka SANTA!

## SOS Board of Directors

### CHAIR

- Dr. Gwyn Parry, Director, Community Medicine, Hoag Hospital  
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  
Ernest Klatte, III, Partner, Rutan & Tucker  
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## SOS Trustee Council

- Jean Forbath, Founder, Share Our Selves  
Michael Kang, Restaurateur, 5' Restaurant  
Timothy C. Tyson, Chairman and CEO, Aptuit, Inc.

## Ways to Benefit SOS

- ♦ Donate your vehicle. Download the form on our website.
- ♦ Renew & register your Ralphs card at [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com) and use the SOS number 84538. All cards must be renewed.
- ♦ Register Vons grocery cards, credit or debit cards with eScrip at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and use the number 150239969.
- ♦ Donate old toner cartridges, iPods, laptops and cell phones to SOS. We recycle them for cash. Please visit our website for a list of accepted toner cartridges. [www.shareourselves.org/donateNow.html](http://www.shareourselves.org/donateNow.html)

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

# SOS Adopt A Family Program - 40 Years of Sharing

What a great way to honor 40 years of sharing during the holidays – 1,755 grateful families were the recipients of beautiful Christmas gifts and bountiful holiday food items this year, thanks to the generosity of so many wonderful donors! It is inspiring to note that even in a year of economic hardship, 263 additional families were added to the list of recipients, making this our biggest year of holiday giving to date!

A heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to our 584 donors – your outpouring of support brought Christmas to 6,438 children and their families. THANK YOU to our amazing Adopt A Family Committee members and team of volunteers, who spent over 2,900 hours in an effort to help families from 72 local schools in our community celebrate the holiday season.

It truly warms the heart to see that the spirit of Christmas is alive and well right here in Orange County. The beauty of SOS is that we are COMMUNITY STRONG and carry that spirit on throughout the year in our ongoing programs!



*Karen Harrington and Karen McGlenn greet donors as they come to deliver their gifts and food*



*AAF Committee members at the Fairgrounds*



*Building 10 - packed full of gifts, toys, food and more!*



*The amazing and dedicated Adopt A Family Committee*



*Volunteers help donors unload their cars*



*Volunteers assemble new bikes for many lucky children*

## Adopt A Family Memories - Past and Present

- Amy and I have been volunteering at SOS AAF for 20 years. We started out at St. John's. We remember how crowded it got with so many more toys, gifts and families. I remember the year of rain and how the wind would have everything blowing. The AAF Committee has gotten so much more efficient as time and a better facility became available. Thanks for all the gifts that you have given to the local families. Susan & Amy Milslagle
- Each year we adopt a family at work so the whole office can participate. This year instead of just dropping off our gifts I stayed to help along with one of our volunteers. It was a wonderful experience. It truly makes you realize how lucky we are that there are so many caring people in OC. Thank you, Cindy Brenneman, Susan G Komen for the Cure

## A sampling of the many thank you notes we have received from adopted families:

- "It is in times like these that people show that they really care. Thanks for making this Christmas a little happier for us. My kids are very excited to see what's inside their packages. We wish you the best this Holiday."
- "Thank you very, very much for helping my families. The stress and sorrow has changed to tears of joy." -Sandy Torres, James Madison Elementary representative.

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 thanks to the OC Fair & Event Center, for again generously hosting the final and most critical week of AAF. SOS thanks the following restaurants who donated lunch for the AAF hard working volunteers at the Fair: Side Street Café, A Superior Sandwich, Taco Mesa, and Taco Bell. Thank you to the Roosters and Nobel Viking Charities for the Holiday food boxes. Thank you to Penjoyan for the wonderful fresh produce for our unadopted families. A special thanks to Jeff Gasper for the gift of an AAF documentary coming soon. Thank you to SOY, Costa Mesa High School and Pegasus School, for their help in unloading and loading cars on Delivery Day, OC Woodworkers Association and OC Scroll Association for their donation of wonderful hand crafted toys, and Triple A Container for their generous discount. A special thank you to Hot Topic, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and United Health Care for adopting so many families!



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## SAVE THE DATE...SAVE THE DATE

### Wild & Crazy Taco Night



April 15, 2010  
**\*\*New Location\*\***



Orange County Wine & Food Center  
1570 Scenic Avenue, Costa Mesa

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

## Wish List

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

- Small refrigerator for Family Center
- Rosetta Stone Spanish Instruction software for Clinic
- Sleeping bags, blankets and winter jackets
- Baby Items - clothing, food, & diapers in all sizes
- Birthday Boxes for Children, Hygiene Kits
- For ideas on how to help from home or ideas for youth leaders, email Julie Larson at [jl Larson@shareourselves.org](mailto:jl Larson@shareourselves.org)

## 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](mailto:efevans@shareourselves.org).

## Calendar of Events

February 4	Open House 8:00am-1:00pm
February 18	Legacy Society and Guardian Donor Recognition Tea
April 15	17th Annual Wild & Crazy Taco Night - 4:30pm-7:30pm
May 6	Open House 8:00am-1:00pm
May 19	A Team Onion Luncheon
August	Major Donor Thank You Event
August	Star Team Annual BBQ
August 5	Open House 8:00am-1:00pm
August 28	15th Annual Back to School Day
October 9	20th Annual Celebrity Chef Dinner
November 15-19	Thanksgiving Food Drive
Nov. 30-Dec. 2	5th Annual Festival of Trees

For more information on these events, please call Ashley Carlton at 949-515-5400, ext. 34 or visit our website, [www.shareourselves.org](http://www.shareourselves.org).