



SHARE OUR SELVES NEWS

Fall 2011

www.shareourselves.org

SOS in Action:

Responding to the Needs of Our Community

Our community needs us now more than ever. As the economy continues to remain in flux and unemployment rates remain high, the demand for the most basic of needs – food, shelter, medical and dental care – are at an all time high. As mentioned in a September 14, 2011 article on the front page of the *Los Angeles Times Business Section*, nearly 1 in 5 California residents lack health insurance and roughly “6 million Californians live below the federal poverty line of \$22,113 for a family of four in 2010.” As one of the largest providers of safety net services in Orange County, Share Our Selves aims to meet the challenge of providing assistance to the most vulnerable populations living in our community.

When demands increase, our staff, volunteers and donors respond with action. In the most recent year the SOS family came together to provide:

- 2,513 backpacks filled with school supplies for students from low income families
- 56,957 bags of food to clients in need of food assistance
- 1,545 families with 5,260 children with gifts and food for the holidays
- 14,065 Financial Aid Visits – to keep families in their homes & utilities turned on
- 10,961 patient visits in the SOS Medical Clinic
- 6,768 patient visits in the SOS Dental Clinic



Join us in helping our neighbors in need. Even a small donation makes a big difference. Here's how you can help:

- \$25 provides hygiene products for 5 homeless individuals
- \$30 provides food for 10 families
- \$45 buys three clients a one week bus pass
- \$60 pays one family's utility bill
- \$100 provides eyeglasses for one patient
- \$242 provides lab tests for 100 medical patients
- \$500 provides rental assistance for a family at risk of losing their apartment
- \$780 provides upper and lower dentures for 3 uninsured patients
- \$2,000 provides medical care for a chronically ill patient for 1 year
- Adopt A Family for the holidays (see green insert inside)
- Donate grocery gift cards for our Thanksgiving Food Distribution Program

Together we can make a difference.

Reflections

Time has once again arrived and we find ourselves sending out the notice for our Adopt A Family program and, for me, I am sure 2011 only started a few days ago.

How fast is the journey of one year? I measure it by the number of people continuing to come to SOS as my office is situated in a position to see people and hear their stories. I see seniors, young families, homeless, mentally challenged, women, men, and young adults requesting food, emergency financial relief, medical, and dental care. I see a newborn child of six days resting in their Mother's arms as she seeks assistance with a utility bill and the tears that flow when we pay the shut off notice for their electricity. I have seen a father's illness cripple a family and watched them find direction as a case manager navigates them through the maze of resources, links them to assistance, and touches their hands to assure them we will not abandon them during their time of need. I have seen far too many persons whose self worth has been challenged by a job loss, foreclosure on their home, illness that is left untreated. I have simply seen too much hurt this year. Therefore, I am asking all of you to see through my eyes and trust I tell you the truth. I hope you will once again share your good will toward men and allow SOS to be your compass for good.

The need for your financial support weighs heavy on my heart as I know you have been most faithful to SOS but I simply must ask you once again to give and I pledge your gift will be a point of healing for those we touch.

As always I keep you close in my heart

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

- ♦ **WWW Foundation**, in support of the SOS Food Pantry
- ♦ **Health Resources and Services Administration**, to establish a school-based comprehensive oral health project in Santa Ana in collaboration with El Sol Science and Arts Academy and Healthy Smiles for Kids in Orange County
- ♦ **The Crevier Family Foundation**, for general operating support
- ♦ **Hoag Rehabilitation Department** for holding a food drive to benefit the SOS Food Pantry
- ♦ **Newport Harbor High School SOS Boosters Club** 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
- ♦ Lab West for support of the SOS Clinic Lab

SOS Women's Health Initiative

The SOS Women's Health Initiative (WHI), directed by Nancy Pierre-Paul, NP, and Medical Clinic were selected by the American Cancer Society, California Division, Inc. to receive the Division's highest honor, the Special Recognition Award in the area of Prevention and

Early Detection. The Program provides breast, gynecologic and colon health screenings to 600 women annually and provides critical linkage services to cancer screening, re-screening, diagnostics and treatment. The WHI breast health care project remains the only free breast care project in Orange County and is generously funded by Hoag Hospital, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Allergan, PIMCO, Marisla, and Margaret E. Oser Foundations.



Nancy Pierre-Paul, NP, assists a patient in the SOS Medical Clinic

Volunteer Corner

SOS volunteers are amazing! Our volunteers give countless hours serving their neighbors in need, and always with a smile on their face and with a heart that keeps giving. THANK YOU for all you do!

If you have been thinking about joining our volunteer team, we have several opportunities in the upcoming holiday season:

Thanksgiving Food Distribution: We'll be pre-packing hundreds of food bags on Saturday, November 19th, and holding a special food distribution on November 21st, 22nd and 23rd. We need plenty of help!

Adopt-A-Family Gift Packing and Distribution: Held at the OC Fair & Event Center on December 20th, 21st, and 22nd. It will take many hands to make Christmas a reality for those who might otherwise go without.

As always, weekly opportunities are available on the **Food Line**, in the **Kitchen** and at the **Front Desk in Social Services**. We're also looking for **Drivers** to pick up food from local merchants and deliver to SOS. Contact us if you'd like to be a "regular" or are interested in being a sub!

Please contact Julie Larson to discuss opportunities!!
jlarson@shareourselves.org or 949-270-2113

Back to School Program

The 16th Annual Back to School backpack distribution was held at SOS from August 24th to August 26th! Families arrived each day to receive backpacks filled with school supplies. With over 113,000

school supplies collected at the OC Fair's We Care Wednesday Back to School Drive, and the help of many volunteers, we were able to distribute a grand total of 2,513 backpacks to students from low-income Orange County families. Additional backpacks and supplies were shared with local teachers and family resource centers. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Back to School Program!



Save the Date - 1st Annual Food Truck Rally & Christmas Carnival

Join us on December 8th, from 6:00pm-8:30pm, for a fun family event and kick-off to the holiday season! A selection of Orange County's most popular food trucks will be on hand to serve up tastes of their delicious specialties. There will be holiday crafts, cookie decorating, and carnival games for children. Santa will be available for photos! Get ready for this fabulous event that will be fun for ALL ages! Adult Ticket: \$35
Children's Ticket: \$15, Children 3 and under: FREE! To purchase tickets, please contact Jina Song at (949) 270-2134 or jsong@shareourselves.org.



Star Team BBQ



In August, SOS A-Team, Star Team, and their guests attended a BBQ at the beautiful bay front home of Jerry and Kathy Thompson. The annual summer event is a way to recognize and thank the Star Team members for their contribution to SOS. A big thank you to the A-Team and Star Team members for their continuous support!

Ludwig & Carol Uri enjoy the beautiful view during the annual Star Team BBQ

SOS Redesign Reception

On August 19th, contributors to the SOS redesign project and SOS supporters came together to celebrate the completion of the redesign of our facilities. The project was a remarkable collaboration that brought the design and construction community together to create a functional, patient-centric design.

The official celebration marked the completion of over a year of planning and four months of construction. A patient using the remodeled clinic for the first time said, "I feel so rich now," which is the feeling we hope all of our patients experience.



The new clinic reception area

We would like to thank the close to 90 contributors who donated their products, services, and time to help create a beautiful, warm, and inviting place for our patients and clients. A special thank you to The Winery Restaurant for providing the delicious

food for the event! Please feel free to visit SOS and take a tour!

SOS Board of Directors

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Ways to Benefit SOS

- ◆ Donate grocery gift cards for our Thanksgiving Food Distribution Program
- ◆ Donate your vehicle. Download the form on our website.
- ◆ Renew & register your Ralphs card at www.ralphs.com and use the SOS number 84538. Cards must be renewed as of September 1st.
- ◆ Register Vons grocery cards, credit or debit cards with eScrip at www.escrip.com and use the number 150239969.
- ◆ Make a donation in honor of someone's special day - consider donating a gift to SOS in honor of a special birthday, anniversary, wedding, or holiday.

For details, call Veronica Rodarte at SOS, 949-270-2142

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SAVE THE DATE...SAVE THE DATE

1st Annual SOS Food Truck Rally & Christmas Carnival

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Share Our Selves

6:00pm-8:30pm

Food Trucks • Crafts • Games • Cookie Decorating
Santa & More!

For more information, contact Jina Song at
949-270-2134 • jsong@shareourselves.org
www.shareourselves.org

Wish List

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

- Winter coats, blankets, sleeping bags, socks
- Soft Toothbrushes and Dental Adhesives
- Baby Items - Clothing, food, and diapers in all sizes
- Birthday Boxes for Children, Hygiene Kits 32 matching waste baskets
- Food - Merchants, our volunteers will pick up your donated food. Hold a food drive in your neighborhood.

A few wishes for our newly redesigned building!

- Large long break room table 110 - 120 in. long, 35 in. wide
- 3 XL planted trees in pots
- 4 industrial size matching trash cans
- 2 mountable safes
- 1 industrial size fan

For more information on donating any of the items above, please email vontiveros@shareourselves.org.

Calendar of Events

November 11	Celebrity Chef Dinner
November 21-23	Thanksgiving Food Drive
December 8	SOS Food Truck Rally & Christmas Carnival - 6:00pm-8:30pm
December 19-22	42nd Adopt A Family Program

For more information on these events, please contact Elizabeth Evans at 949-270-2137 or efevans@shareourselves.org, or visit our website at www.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.