



# SHARE OUR SELVES NEWS

Spring 2012

## A Story of Success: Martha Rivera

After her father lost his job nearly 10 years ago, Martha and her family began coming to SOS for assistance. They needed multiple resources and food. Martha, the first generation of her family born in the US, and the first to go to college, came to SOS on her own as a sophomore at Chapman University. She had been living at home, commuting to school and working three jobs. The money she earned in her work-study positions went towards supporting her family - \$3,000 a year for a family of six. Martha knew she needed to move on campus to reduce the amount of time and money she was spending on commuting. She was given aid for student housing, but needed a \$600 deposit to move in. She tried several resource centers and was turned away because she was single, a student, and requesting money for student housing. "Coming to SOS was a last ditch effort. Either I found help, or I was ready to drop out of school to work full time," said Martha.

SOS helped Martha with the initial deposit, and she has been able to recycle the same \$600 for her last 3 housing deposits. Martha is now a senior and is excited to graduate this month with a double major in Psychology and Spanish, and a minor in Women's Studies. "Coming to SOS meant everything. It took a lot of stress off my shoulders, and I've had way smoother ride because of SOS." Martha has kept in touch with Veronica Rodarte, SOS Social Services Programs Coordinator, and recently dropped by with some good news - she has been accepted to graduate school and will be attending Harvard next fall to receive her Master in Education. "I am so excited about my choice because I truly feel that I will be able to get a great education, meet leaders and create change." When she finishes at Harvard, she has also been accepted into the Ph.D. program in Education at Claremont Graduate University. She also shared that after years of on again-off again work, her father just landed a full-time job as a building manager.



SOS Social Services Program Coordinator, Veronica Rodarte, with Martha Rivera

"When I first met Martha, I realized that SOS had the incredible opportunity to help equip a future leader. Martha's is an inspirational story of hard work and overcoming struggle. She will surely do great things in the community and I'm glad SOS was able to help along the way," noted Veronica. We are so proud of Martha and all of her accomplishments. We look forward to all of her continued success!

### Our Mission:

We are servants who provide care and assistance to those in need and act as advocates for systemic change.

### Our Core Values:

Dignity. Service. Excellence. Justice.

## Reflections by Karen

May is the month we traditionally honor our Mothers and is most often a lovely day for women who have cherished this most special role in their lives. This is a particularly poignant time for me as my Mother, Nelda, passed away in March and the loss is still so difficult to absorb. Nelda was ninety years old and lived to see her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, and no matter how rich the life, I, as her daughter, simply lost my Mom. A Mom who loved her family, cared for others, and always saw the good in other people. I was so gifted to share in the life of such a beautiful woman.

I see Mothers every day coming to SOS and lately I have taken more notice of their heroic efforts to make sure bills are paid, food is in the pantry, and the stress of poverty does not touch their children. These are Moms who believe in their children, and know that hope is fragile. So they humble themselves, and ask for help even when it hurts. I know they must be Mothers, much like mine, who believe their children are precious, and given opportunity will succeed. These are Mothers who despite life-ending illnesses have indomitable spirits and seek to pass wisdom to their children as they know their time has been shortened. I see Mothers of many cultures, economic levels, education, and religions and all share the common bond of precious care for their children.

How really pure is a Mother's message to her child. Have the strength to love deeply, the courage to sacrifice self, and the vision to see the beauty that unfolds in your life. How powerful the message and how often it seems so difficult to simply do, but how much it could change our world.

Keep me in your thoughts as I do you in mine,

Karen L. McGlinn  
SOS Executive Director

## Thank You

### Foundation and Community Support

- **California Healthcare Foundation**, in support of the Medical Clinic
- **TJX Foundation**, in support of the Food Pantry
- **California Wellness Foundation**, in support of Case Management
- **UCI Medical Center, Institute for Clinical & Translational Science**, in support of the pharmacy
- **Cardinal Health Foundation**, IHI Scholarship
- **City of Santa Ana Social Services**, in support of SOS Social Services

### Food Drives, Easter Baskets and More

- Food Drives - Catherine Pierce, Curves Fountain Valley, Eastside MOPS, Fairview Community Church, Hebrew Academy, 4th grade class, Huntington Beach Long Board Crew Surf Club, Lincoln Elementary, Mariners Elementary School, Molly Brenner, NHHS SOS Booster Club, Nightingales – Hoag Hospital, OCC Food Riders, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Toshiba Golf Classic
- Hygiene Socks - Delta Kappa Gamma
- Girl Scout Cookies - Mariners Elementary
- PB&J Sandwiches - St. Killians - 1200 a week!
- Easter Baskets - United Healthcare, Linda Sizemore (UCI), St. Joachim's, Harbor Day, Linda Boyd & Volunteers
- Birthday Boxes - Saddleback High School
- Bike Rack - OCC Food Riders Club - Carl Morgan and Tyler Smutz
- Vegetable Plants - Organic Gardeners, Martha Wida & Pam Chapman
- Thursday Morning Club



*Children excitedly pick out their Easter Baskets*



*Bike racks, built by members of the OCC Food Riders Club, are installed at SOS*

### Services Donors

- Briggs Electric for electrical services
- Coast Mailing for mailing services
- David Ballard Electrical for electrical service
- Lab West for support of the SOS Clinic Lab
- Mesa Center Automotive for van maintenance

## Volunteer Corner

Spring has sprung and our volunteers are in full force here at SOS! A big THANK YOU to all of our Weekly and Visiting Volunteers - YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

A special congratulations to our unsung heroes – The Volunteer Drivers of SOS! Our lead driver, Bob Jordan, represented our team and was recognized at the Spirit of Volunteerism



*Volunteer Driver, Bob Jordan with Carolyn Gregg, SOS Donor Development Manager*

Awards. Every week these 18 devoted individuals head

out early to pick up food items from local merchants. Their work often goes unnoticed as they pull up to our warehouse doors, unload their bounty, grab a cup of coffee, and head back out - often times for a second load. The next time you see one of our drivers, take a minute to introduce yourself and thank them for their efforts.

There is always room for new volunteers in our SOS family! I encourage you to contact me to set up a tour and discuss opportunities that might be a good fit. In addition to our weekly volunteer positions, we'll be looking for volunteers to help us collect Back to School items at the Orange County Fair on Wednesday, August 8th, and to help us sort and pack school items the two weeks following our collection. Make your summer plans early to become part of this wonderful program. Happy Spring and we hope to hear from you soon!

Julie Larson • [jl Larson@shareourselves.org](mailto:jl Larson@shareourselves.org) • 949.270.2113

## 17th Annual Back to School Program

### Backpack Underwriting Opportunity

- \$25 provides a new backpack & supplies to 5 kids
- \$50 provides a new backpack & supplies to 10 kids
- \$100 provides a new backpack & supplies to 20 kids
- \$500 provides a new backpack & supplies to 100 kids

We are gearing up for our 17th Annual Back to School Backpack Distribution and we need your help to make it happen! Also, please remember to join us on August 8, 2012, at the OC Fair & Event Center for We Care Wednesday, benefiting SOS. A school supply donation of \$3 or more will get you free admission to the fair and one carnival ride. See you there!

## Crazy Delicious Fun at Wild & Crazy Taco Night



With 26 chefs and 700 guests, Share Our Selves' 19th Annual Wild & Crazy Taco Night on Thursday, April 19th, at Share Our Selves, was a record-breaking success! Orange County's finest chefs lent their amazing culinary talents to this fun community event which netted over \$66,000 to support the SOS Orange Aid Project – helping feed OC residents at risk of going hungry.

Guests enjoyed Tres Sietes Tequila margaritas, TAPS beer, a DJ and wild & crazy tacos like alligator, duck fries and steak tartar. Longtime SOS volunteer, Chris Siegfried was the lucky winner of the opportunity drawing prize – Dine Around OC – a collection of gift cards generously donated by participating Wild & Crazy Taco Night chefs and restaurants! Thank you to our amazing chefs, sponsors, guests, committee and volunteers!

### PARTICIPATING CHEFS

Franco Barone (Il Barone Ristorante) • Nelson Barillas (The Catch) • Paul Buchanan (Primal Alchemy) • Mark Cleveland & Tanya Fuqua (Avanti Café) • Greg Daniels (taco asylum) • Yves Fournier (Andrei's Conscious Cuisine) • Mark Gagnon (Newport Beach Plaza) • Manny Gonzales (TAPS Fish House & Brewery) • Salvatore Gonzales (Newport Rib Company) • Alan Greeley (The Golden Truffle) • Carlito Jocson (Yard House) • Louie Jocson (Red Table Restaurant) • Rachel Klemek (Blackmarket Bakery) • Rich Mead (Canyon & Sage) • David Man (Island Hotel) • Orange Hill • Alessandro Pirozzi (Cucina Alessa) • Chris Reischl (Atrium Hotel - Waterfalls Restaurant) • Ted Rodriguez (Flavor Rush Food Truck) • Chris Savage (Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach) • Deborah Schneider (SOL Cocina) • Lou Tista (Rasta Taco) • Ryan Wilson (Five Crowns) • Marco Zapien (Melissa's Produce) • Melissa's Produce • ViJay's Cheesecakes

### ORANGE AID SPONSORS

*Premiere Sponsor* - Taco Bell Corporation • *Cactus* – Bob and Anne Cress • Frome Family Foundation • Nancy and Geoffrey Stack Family Foundation • William and Nancy Thompson • *Sombrero* – BISNAR CHASE • Christopher L. Blank, E.W. Klatte, M.D. • Jay and Hennie Lichman • Jane and Richard Taylor

### UNDERWRITERS

Barbara and Bob Boies • Cindy and Todd Kipers • Frank and Gale Robitaille • Jane and Richard Taylor • Kimberley Yourman • My-D Pins & Collectibles • Michael and Diane Stephens

### EVENT SPONSORS

Andy Templeton Photography, BC Display & Signage, Burns & Associates, Ballard Electrical, Classic Party Rentals, Coast Mailing Service, Hi Times Wine Cellars, Melissa's Produce, Sparkletts, TAPS Fish House & Brewery, Tres Sietes Tequila

### COMMITTEE

Minnie Ballard • Maryann Beckman • Gaye Besler • Sheri Blackwood • Shannon Burns • Bill Cowles • Elizabeth Evans • Carolyn Gregg • Kelly Harvey • Helen Kinsey • Julie Larson • Mary Moyer • Patty Nesbit • Debbie Springer • Cindy Tuch

## SOS Board of Directors

### CHAIR

Dr. Gwyn Parry, Director, Community Medicine, Hoag Hospital  
Sara Flores, Educator, El Sol Science and Arts Academy  
Patricia Harrigan, SOS Volunteer  
Ernest Klatte, III, Partner, Rutan & Tucker  
Larry Kugelman, Retired President, The Health Plan of America  
Kathy Lewis, Retired President, PSD, Western Digital Corp.  
Marjoria Lopez, Volunteer, Senior Center of Costa Mesa  
Gabriela Robles, Executive Director, St. Joseph Health System Foundation  
Michael Stephens, Retired President, Hoag Hospital

### 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. Cards must be renewed as of September 1st.
- 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.
- Become a Pantry Partner. Sign up for a month and hold a food drive in your office. The group that brings in the highest number of items will win 10 tickets to the 20th Annual SOS Wild & Crazy Taco Night held Spring 2013.

SOS transforms individual lives and is critical to sustaining a quality of life for all Orange County residents. SOS has a 42 year legacy of helping those in need, of people sharing of themselves. You can sustain that legacy by including SOS in your estate—creating a legacy of your own.

For details, contact Carolyn Gregg at [cgregg@shareourselves.org](mailto:cgregg@shareourselves.org) or 949.270.2131.



1550 Superior Avenue  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
949.270.2100  
www.shareourselves.org  
Change of Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Santa Ana, CA  
Permit No. 4039

## SAVE THE DATE...SAVE THE DATE

### Back to School Program August

Volunteers are needed to stuff backpacks and sort supplies. Scouts, church groups and other community organizations are welcome. It's a great way for high school students to collect community service hours! For information on volunteering please contact Julie Larson at [jl Larson@shareourselves.org](mailto:jl Larson@shareourselves.org) • 949.270.2113

## Wish List

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

- Soft Toothbrushes and Dental Adhesives
- Baby Items - Clothing, food, and diapers in all sizes
- Birthday Boxes for Children - cake mix, party favors, etc.
- Food - Merchants, our volunteers will pick up your donated food. Hold a food drive in your neighborhood (canned goods and dry goods)
- Hotels & Motels - consider donating toiletry items or half-full shampoos, lotions, etc. We will pick them up from you.

A few wishes for our campus!

- 3 medium sized outdoor plants
- 4 industrial size matching trash cans
- 2 large indoor trash cans
- Window tinting for Social Services

For more information on donating any of the items above, please email [vontiveros@shareourselves.org](mailto:vontiveros@shareourselves.org) or call 949.270.2150.

## Calendar of Events

May 16	A-Team Onion Luncheon
August 8	We Care Wednesday at the OC Fair
August 22, 23, 24	Back to School Backpack Distribution
August	Donor Appreciation Event
August	Star Team BBQ
November 9	22nd Annual Celebrity Chef Dinner

For more information on these events, please contact Elizabeth Evans at 949.270.2137 or [efevans@shareourselves.org](mailto:efevans@shareourselves.org), or visit our website at [www.shareourselves.org](http://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](mailto:efevans@shareourselves.org).