



SHARE OUR SELVES NEWS

Winter 2013

A Story of Hope

Mr. H is in the pre-heart transplant program at Cedar Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles. He passed all of the prerequisite requirements, but was unable to pass the dental exam because he could not afford the work he needed. He received disability income from The Veterans Administration, but was being charged steep co-pay fees for his costly heart medication from his disability checks. The fees, sometimes up to \$500 a month, often left Mr. H forced to choose between rent and medication. Some weeks he would pay for a few nights in a motel, and other times he would sleep in his car. Mr. H went to various dental schools and tried to explain that if he could not get the work done, he would be rejected from the transplant program. He was despondent – no school would help him, nor would the V.A. since his illnesses had not occurred while on active duty. He did not qualify for programs at any other nonprofit organizations he tried. In his words, “I had lost hope. I was going to be rejected, and over the next six months I would die.”

Mr. H was referred to SOS as a last possible option. “I said a prayer, and went in to your facility expecting to be rejected. Ms. Gomez was different from other administrators from the first hello. She asked good questions, and had a good grasp of my situation.” Yadira Gomez, Senior Case Manager, and the Case Management Care Coordination team linked him with Wells Fargo for financial counseling to have a better understanding of what he would be able to afford for his care. “When Ms. Gomez came back with a new figure, I almost broke down out of gratitude.” From there the team helped enroll Mr. H in a prescription assistance program to lessen his financial burden. He was provided with transportation on multiple occasions to his appointments at Cedar Sinai. SOS also assisted with finding him housing through Veterans First, and he is no longer homeless. Our Dental Team provided him excellent care and Mr. H is now has a renewed sense of hope and is awaiting his transplant.

In Mr. H’s words, “I thanked God for directing me to your door, and was filled with hope and renewed determination to fight on...I have a chance at life, getting off disability, to once again become a productive member of society. You cannot imagine the feeling of being given the gift of life...[After] surviving the operation, and returning to a productive life, I intend to be a regular contributor to your organization. Your initials are truly apt. God bless you and your wonderful group and may others without hope find their way to your door.”

Reflections

I received a call last year from a longtime supporter and volunteer to SOS during a very difficult time in their life. This friend was challenged with cancer, its treatment, and the fragility of life that becomes so real as one fights their way back to well-being. We had a lovely conversation about their plans for the future and desire to make sure I understood how impressed they were with our case management team and specifically, Yadira Gomez, our Senior Case Manager. In their words, “never did I realize how difficult it would be for people to overcome catastrophic conditions of illness until I became the patient. I have family, friends, insurance, financial security, a home and yet none of this stopped the suffering I experienced in my cancer treatment both physically and emotionally.”

Our supporter, who prefers to remain anonymous, could not stop thinking about the powerful nature of our case management team. They understood how SOS can become the center of hope and support to those who do not feel the security needed during the long road of returning to well-being. As a result, the volunteer asked her family to agree to a change in their will and family trust, since they wanted to donate to SOS now and support the work of our team. In other words, I said, you want to do this “In Your Lifetime” not after you are gone.” We both had moments of emotions and once again our donor said “please tell this story so others might want to do what I have chosen to do.”

I can never fully express the emotions I experienced in this encounter, or as I write this today, but this was a profound moment. Most of us will be called to an extraordinary time where we realize true healing for ourselves and others begins with a gentle touch, kindness, loving actions, and a renewal of hope. Thank you to our volunteer for giving me this moment. You remain ever in my heart, and may we know great joy in 2013.

Karen L. McGinn
Executive Director

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.

Thank You

Foundation and Community Support

- Margaret E. Oser Fund for Women, in support of the Social Services Rental Assistance Program
- Ueberroth Family Foundation, in support of the Dental Clinic
- Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Orange County, in support of the Women's Health Initiative



Leyda Rivera, Medical Assistant, and Nancy Pierre-Paul, Family Nurse Practitioner, at the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Orange County Grants Award Breakfast

Fall Food Drives

United Healthcare • Harbor Day School • Hyundai • The Camp • Lincoln Elementary • Newport Harbor High School • Sowers Middle School • Our Lady of Mount Carmel • BDO • OC Health • CMHS • Hoag Conference • Hoag Radiology • Talbert Medical • Temple Beth Shalom • Carden Hall • Vivante on the Coast • Ramsey Family • University of Wisconsin Alumni, Orange County Chapter

Staff Spotlight

Dr. Diane Beyaoju

Throughout her 28 years in dentistry, Dr. Beyajou has been dedicated to helping the underserved. She has been at SOS since 2000 and shown her dedication to our organization with her perfect attendance, great quality of work and willingness to help patients with dental emergencies in addition to her regular work load. Dr. Beyaoju embodies the mission of SOS and treats all patients with dignity and respect.



Dr. Diane Beyaoju

Volunteer Corner

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all who have given of their time and talents to serve those in need this past year. Thank you to the over 1300 volunteers who have worked regular weekly shifts, or have helped with our season program and special events. It has been an amazing year!

As our programs continue to expand, so do our volunteer needs. We are currently looking for a volunteer interpreter to assist at the SOS-EI Sol Wellness Center Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8am-5pm.

If you've been considering becoming a volunteer or would like information regarding group or individual projects, now is the perfect time to check us out! Please contact Julie Larson at 949.270.2113 or jl Larson@shareourselves.org. Happy New Year!



Harrison Stern, Boy Scout Troop 339, built a new volunteer sign-in station at SOS for his Eagle Project

Volunteer Spotlight

Dr. James Kloss

An endodontist with 40 years of experience, Dr. Kloss started treating SOS patients pro-bono at his private practice 20 years ago. Since he sold his practice he has been coming onsite every Tuesday for the past 10 years without missing a day. Dr. Kloss is planning to fully retire from dentistry in 2013, and Tuesdays will not be the same without him at SOS. We are forever grateful to his work.



Dr. James Kloss with SOS Dental Director, Dr. Jila Nikkhah

Please Join Us in Welcoming Our New Providers

Dan H. Aguilera, PhD, LCSW, is an experienced LCSW, who will be develop our Behavioral Health Program and deliver counseling to our patients. **Asdghig Daderian, MD**, is a Family Medicine physician who will spend time both at our Costa Mesa and El Sol locations. **Marisa Wayt, MS, PA-C**, is a seasoned Physician Assistant will provide care at both SOS Costa Mesa and the SOS and Peace Center Health Clinic.

22nd Celebrity Chef Dinner



Share Our Selves' 22nd Annual Celebrity Chef Dinner was a delicious success! The event highlighted 12 outstanding local chefs who are committed to providing food for the most vulnerable populations in Orange County. Approximately 280 guests attended the event at the gorgeous Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort & Spa which netted over \$187,000 to support the SOS Food Pantry.

Guests enjoyed sushi and elegant passed hors d'oeuvres while mingling during the reception and silent auction. The dinner included five exquisite courses paired with specialty wines generously donated by Taft Street Winery, Thompkin Cellars, Francis Ford Coppola Winery, Trefethen Family Vineyards, Windsor Oaks Vineyards & Winery, Martin Ray Winery, and Quady Winery. Each delectable course was prepared by a team of chefs. The live auction, emceed by Jim Nye the Auction Guy, featured exciting dining packages from the chefs, a Golf & Spa Package from Pelican Hill and week-long stay and fly-fishing at the Montana Sporting Club. As the auction ended, Chef Alessandro Pirozzi jumped backed on stage to spontaneously auction off the watch he was wearing – valued at more than \$7,000. He told a touching story about coveting the watch as young man in Italy, and finally being able to purchase one of his own as his career took off.

Another highlight of the evening was a performance by the El Sol Rockers, a group of students from El Sol Science & Arts Academy in Santa Ana. The lively performers had guests dancing in their seats to such songs as "Hotel California," "Little Talks," and "Rolling in the Deep." In the fall of 2010, SOS collaborated with the El Sol Science and Arts Academy, a charter school, to open the SOS – El Sol Wellness Center. The Center provides social services, screening and urgent care to students and families in the El Sol community. For the fourth year, the Yard House announced a special promotion during dinner where guests could donate a minimum of \$25 to SOS, and the restaurant would provide the donor with a Yard House gift certificate for \$25 a month.

A huge thank you to our generous chefs, sponsors, Celebrity Chef Dinner Committee & volunteers for making this event a tremendous success!

SOS Board of Directors

CHAIR

Dr. Gwyn Parry, Director, Community Medicine, Hoag Hospital
Sara Flores, Educator, El Sol Science and Arts Academy
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Gabriela Robles, Executive Director, St. Joseph Health System Foundation
Michael Stephens, Retired President, Hoag Hospital

Ways to Benefit SOS

- 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.
- 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 every September 1st.
- 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 43 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 Elizabeth Evans at efevans@shareourselves.org or 949.270.2137.

43rd Annual SOS Adopt A Family Program

Thank you to the donors, volunteers, and community members who made this program such a great success. This year we were able to deliver Christmas gifts and a bountiful meal to 1,546 families with over 4,954 children from 66 local schools. Our amazing volunteers put in over 2,236 hours over many months organizing this incredible community program. We sincerely appreciate the generosity of the many families, companies, and organizations that adopted families and held food and toy drives, as well as the numerous volunteers who worked tirelessly at the OC Fair, packing and sorting boxes of gifts and food.

The 2012 Adopt A Family Committee



Adopt A Family 2012 Highlights

- 1,546 Families Served
- 4,954 Children
- 2,949 Adults
- 66 Participating Schools
- 502 Total Number of Donors
- 2,236 Total Volunteer Hours



Volunteers help unload a donor's car



A child with her gifts under the tree



Volunteers wrap extra gifts

We extend a sincere thank you to the Orange County Fair & Event Center!

A sampling of the thank you notes, cards and letters we've received from adopted families:

- *I write this letter in name of my family to thank you for making our wish of going to Disneyland a reality. We had a very entertaining and happy day. Many thanks for all the help you provided us. Thank you, Thank you! On behalf of my entire family we wish you a happy and prosperous New year.*
- *We want to thank you for giving our children the joy of Christmas. I don't have words to tell you how much I appreciate it. May God give you and your family double blessings. You will be in our prayers always, and once again, thank you to all who made my children smile.*
- *Thank you for your help with gifts this year. My husband hasn't worked in 5 months. We were fortunate enough to have people like you in my life. Our sincere thanks for the Christmas gifts.*

The following groups adopted 5+ families each - Thank you for your dedication to the Adopt A Family Program!

Anaheim Ducks & Honda Center; Baxter Healthcare; CVS Pharmacy; Estancia High School; Harbor Day School; Hot Topic; Hyundai Motor America; Junior League of Orange County; Lincoln Elementary; Memorial Care Medical Group; Jonathan Morrison; Oakley, Inc.; Opus Community Foundation; Our Lady of Mount Carmel; Pacific Sunwear; Reliance Steel and Aluminum; Sares-Regis Group; Shorebreak Hotel; St. John the Baptist Catholic Church; Taco Bell; Taylor Morrison; The Pegasus School; UnitedHealthcare; Volt Workforce Solutions; Wescom WeCare Foundation

Many thanks to the following companies for their extra support:

The Mitzvah Club, BJ's Restaurants, Our Daily Bread, Penjoyan, Roosters, Super Pollo



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SAVE THE DATE...SAVE THE DATE

Wild & Crazy Taco Night

Thursday, April 11, 2013
Share Our Selves

VIP Pre-Party: 4:30pm-5:30pm
General Event: 5:30pm-7:30pm
VIP Tickets: \$150 General: \$70

For more information, contact Elizabeth Evans
949.270.2137 • efevans@shareourselves.org

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 small café style tables with chairs for our staff break room
- 2 medium sized matching indoor trash cans

For more information on donating any of the items above, please contact Vanessa Ontiveros, Facilities Manager, at 949.270.2150 or vontiveros@shareourselves.org.

Calendar of Events

April 11	20th Annual Wild & Crazy Taco Night
May	SOS Star Team Onion Luncheon
November	23rd Annual Celebrity Chef Dinner
August	Donor Appreciation Event
August	SOS Star Team BBQ

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.

Join the Conversation

Facebook: facebook.com/shareourselves
Twitter: [@shareourselves](https://twitter.com/shareourselves)

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 Katie Santore at ksantore@shareourselves.org.

Share Our Selves 20th Annual Wild & Crazy Taco Night™

Benefiting the SOS Orange Aid Project

April 11, 2013

Sponsorship Opportunities

_____ **\$10,000+, Habanero** (\$8,500 is tax deductible), entitles you:

- 10 VIP tickets to **Wild & Crazy Taco Night**
- Recognition on **Wild & Crazy Taco Night** event signage
- Receive recognition in the SOS newsletter (reaching over 21,000 individuals and businesses)

_____ **\$7,500+, Mariachi** (\$6,300 is tax deductible), entitles you:

- 8 VIP tickets to **Wild & Crazy Taco Night**
- Recognition on **Wild & Crazy Taco Night** event signage
- Receive recognition in the SOS newsletter (reaching over 21,000 individuals and businesses)

_____ **\$5,000+, Piñata** (\$4,100 is tax deductible), entitles you:

- 6 VIP tickets to **Wild & Crazy Taco Night**
- Recognition on **Wild & Crazy Taco Night** event signage
- Receive recognition in the SOS newsletter (reaching over 21,000 individuals and businesses)

_____ **\$2,500+, Cactus** (\$1,620 is tax deductible), entitles you:

- 4 VIP tickets to **Wild & Crazy Taco Night** and 4 general admission tickets
- Recognition on **Wild & Crazy Taco Night** event signage
- Receive recognition in the SOS newsletter (reaching over 21,000 individuals and businesses)

_____ **\$1,000+, Sombrero** (\$710 is tax deductible), entitles you:

- 2 VIP tickets to **Wild & Crazy Taco Night** and 2 general admission tickets
- Recognition on **Wild & Crazy Taco Night** event signage
- Receive recognition in the SOS newsletter (reaching over 21,000 individuals and businesses)

Service Underwriting Opportunities

Medical care for a chronically ill patient for 1 year	\$2,000
Upper and lower dentures for 3 uninsured patients	\$780
Groceries for 225 Families	\$500
Fill a prescription for 25 uninsured patients	\$299
Eyeglasses for one patient (excluding medical visit)	\$100
Pay one family's utility bill	\$60
Buy three clients a one week bus pass	\$45

Wild & Crazy Taco Night Underwriting Opportunities

Rentals	\$2,000
T-Shirts	\$1,200
Invitations	\$1,100
Postage	\$900
Graphic Designer	\$500
Entertainment	\$325
Decorations	\$150

\$3 provides a bag of groceries for one family. Bags of groceries include fresh produce, dairy and protein.

I would like to purchase _____ bags of groceries at \$3 each.

My total contribution is \$_____ .

_____ **Underwriter:** I would like to underwrite _____ or \$_____

All sponsors and underwriters of \$150 and above will be listed on our website, in the SOS newsletter (reaching 21,000 households & businesses), and on Taco Night event signage.

All Underwriting Opportunities are 100% tax deductible

Name (as you would like it published) _____

Title / Business / Contact _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____ Web Site _____

Please make checks payable to **Share Our Selves** and send to: **Share Our Selves, 1550 Superior Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627**

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Deadline for sponsors for Taco Night publicity & signage is March 18, 2013

Questions please call Elizabeth Evans at 949.270.2137 or Katie Santore at 949.270.2134

Share Our Selves Federal Tax ID # 95-3222316