



Share
Our
Selves

PERSONALIZED
CARE FOR
THE ORANGE
COUNTY
COMMUNITY

Share Our
Selves
News
September 2013

National Health Center Week

The week of August 11th, Share Our Selves joined over 1,000 community health centers around the country in celebrating National Health Center Week. President Obama issued a proclamation in support of the week and the critical role centers like SOS play in providing affordable, high-quality preventive and primary health care to millions of Americans. National Health Center Week is a time to celebrate the incredible strides we are making in offering expanded access to care for the vulnerable populations in our community.

To celebrate National Health Center Week, SOS organized the *SOS Poster Parade: A Celebration of Services*. Our team used their creativity to design posters showcasing the diverse services available for our patients and clients. Each team was also asked to assemble a handout to go along with their poster. Behavioral Health, Social Services, the Medical and Dental Clinics, Food Pantry and Eligibility teams all participated.

The posters were judged by an impartial panel based on their creativity and visuals, educational information, and details about the program. The results were impressive and showed how much talent our staff has! While they were all great, the Pharmacy department's poster and handout came in first. The competition was fierce, but the Pharmacy team demonstrated a lot of creativity, especially when it came to their handout, an inventive card for patients to keep in their wallets with their prescriptions written down so they know what to take, and when.

This activity was a great way for our employees to think about how SOS aids the community, and their department's role within the organization. It also provided our clients and patients the opportunity to learn more about us and connect with our employees through their posters, employee profiles, and photos posted throughout our center.

We enjoyed being a part of National Health Center Week 2013, and hope our event, one of 1,400 events staged nationwide, played a small role in helping to increase the visibility of community health centers. We look forward to celebrating the great work that SOS is doing in Orange County again next year!



Reflections

My friend, Patricia, stopped by to visit with me this week. I have often talked of her both in this newsletter and in many venues where I've had the opportunity to speak about homelessness.

Patricia was born and raised in Santa Ana and attended local schools there. She is a street person who considers Anaheim her home. Her hair is disheveled, her clothes are dirty, and her precious belongings are in plastic bags. She sleeps during the day because nights are dangerous. Her mind is quick, her smile is infectious despite the absence of teeth, and her eyes sparkle when she talks of times past.

Patricia has no shoes and wears only paper booties provided by the hospital because her feet have been ravaged by her physical ailments and years of failed healthcare. We talked about her wounds and I suggested she come to our health center for care so we could address her overall health. Patricia said she will think about this opportunity, but made no commitment. I hope she does choose our center for her care because she will be treated as a whole person. Comprehensive care of the body, mind, and spirit is the mission of SOS.

I personally want my friend to receive incredible care. Patricia makes me a better person as she reminds me that gentle acts of kindness matter, and that making time to listen and laugh with someone is always a good choice. Patricia always thanks me for caring. This last time she told me I was beautiful and left my office with tears in her eyes. How very lucky I am to have such a friend.

Karen L. McGlinn
Executive Director

Thank You

Thank you to the many donors, community groups, and corporations who support SOS. We appreciate all you do to make a difference! Recent donations include:

- **Emily Anastos and Nataly ShayanSmith, Girl Scout Troup 871 – Pegasus School**, for donating children's books and handmade bookmarks to SOS as part of their Silver Project
- **St. Joseph's Hospital**, for holding a children's book drive to benefit SOS
- **The Groves Service Club**, for donating food to the Food Pantry

Grants

SOS recently received generous funding for our programs from the following:

- **Baxter International Foundation**, in support of the Medical Clinic.
- **Cotton Family Foundation**, in support of the SOS Food Pantry
- **Orange County Health Care Agency**, in support of the Medical Clinic
- **Health Resources and Services Administration**, in support of Outreach & Enrollment



Members of the Assistance League of Newport-Mesa Assisteens help sort the over 145,000 school supplies donated during We Care Wednesday at the OC Fair, benefitting the SOS Back to School Program

Back to School Program

More supplies collected than ever before at OC Fair's We Care Wednesday

Through our 18th Annual Back to School Program, SOS distributed over 2,700 backpacks filled with school supplies to local students from low-income families. SOS was fortunate to once again be a part of this year's OC Fair's We Care Wednesday School Supply Drive. Fair goers donated over 145, 000 school supply items to Share Our Selves. A heartfelt thank you to the OC Fair and to everyone who came out to support the drive. We'd also like to thank everyone who supported our Back to School Program by hosting drives, donating supplies, and helping to sort and distribute backpacks:

Assistance League of Newport Mesa - Assisteens • Banana Republic • Corona del Mar High School Football • Girl Scout Troop 1596 • Hoag Hospital • International Association of Workforce Professionals • JAMS • Marriott Corporate Offices • National Charity League • National League of Young Men • Nicholas Academic Center • OC Fair • Optum Rx – Cypress • PIMCO • Presbyterian Church of the Covenant • Rainbow Rising Meadow Park • Shorepoint Insurance Services • St. Joseph Health • Ultra-Wall Inc. • Waters Family Chiropractic • Many families and students!

In My Lifetime

Stories of Case Management Success

A generous supporter of SOS decided that instead of waiting until later in life to make a contribution to Share Our Selves, she wanted to do it now in order to see the results of her gift in her lifetime. As a result, the In My Lifetime grant was set up to support the SOS Case Management program. This section of the newsletter is dedicated to sharing stories of case management successes.

Our Case Management team recently helped a family who had been unexpectedly evicted from their home because the landlord was in foreclosure. They had been homeless for several months, the father was being treated for cancer, and the mother suffered from seizures. The family, whose two children are in college, would plan out the days of the month when they could afford a motel room to coincide with the father's chemotherapy appointments, and on the other days the kids would stay with friends while their parents lived in their car. When our Case Management team met with the family, we were able to place them in a motel for three days while we secured them an apartment, where they now live and are doing well. Below is an excerpt from the thank you letter the father sent to SOS:

"I was going up and down doing everything I possibly can to get my wife her pills and my kids a place to sleep. Of course money was a problem. I had a car payment, my wife's pills, motel bills, and insurance. I was just wondering why all my life I worked and this happened to me, but only God knows why....All the places I would call would not or could not help me, until I received a phone call from the social worker from the hospital to go to SOS."

"At first my wife and I thought this place was going to be like the other places that could not help us. But we were wrong. We had the pleasure to meet the senior case manager. As soon as we spoke with her my soul and my wife were at ease. SOS is the best thing that has happened to my family...All the staff worked so professionally and were so excellent with us, may God bless all of them...As long as I am living I will always pray for the SOS organization and workers."

Volunteer Spotlight

Student volunteers continue on their career paths

What a wild and crazy summer! The needs of the community are great and our volunteers have been here to take on the challenge.

Thank You from the bottom of our hearts – without volunteers, we couldn't deliver the excellent services we provide. As fall approaches, students are heading back to school and we have volunteer vacancies in Social Services. If you've been considering a volunteer position, now would be a GREAT time to make it happen. Please contact Julie Larson for more information:

jlarson@shareourselves.org OR
949.270.2113

With so many heading back to school, we want to take a moment to acknowledge our amazing student volunteers as they move forward on their career paths. They made an impact here at SOS and they are sure to continue to make an impact on the community in the years ahead. Congratulations and best wishes to all!

University of Missouri Kansas City - Eri Joyo – School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania - Melissa Avila – School of Nursing
Western University - Diane Tan – Physician Assistant Program
Ross University - Monica Khalil and Brian Park – School of Medicine
University of Southern California - Alicia Halim – School of Pharmacy
University of California Los Angeles - Frances Yoshikane – School of Dentistry
University of California Berkeley - Nima Beheshti – Masters of Public Health/Nutrition
University of California Los Angeles - Long-Quan Nguyen – School of Dentistry
University of California Irvine - Ben Nguyen and Neema Pithia – School of Medicine
University of Central Florida - Justin Sandhu – College of Medicine
Midwestern University – Illinois - Chau Tran – School of Pharmacy
John Carrol University – Beatrice Uljanic - Non-Profit Administration Masters Program
University of California San Diego - Janice Nguyen – School of Medicine



Clockwise from top: Melissa Avila, Nima Beheshti, Long Quon Nguyen, Janice Nguyen, Eri Joyo

Celebrity Chef Dinner

Don't miss it - Friday, November 8

On Friday, November 8th, 12 of Orange County's most generous chefs will team up to prepare a fabulous five course dinner paired with specialty wines. The event will be held at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach. The evening includes a silent auction and a live auction where the chefs will offer exciting dining packages. Event proceeds will benefit the SOS Food Pantry.

Mark your calendars – you don't want to miss out on this great event! For more information, please contact Elizabeth Evans at 949.270.2137 or efevans@shareourselves.org.



SOS Celebrity Chefs Alessandro Pirozzi, Alan Greeley, and David Man

Summer Events

Celebrating service to Share Our Selves

Summer is time to get together with special friends, enjoy the long warm days, and celebrate the season – we've been doing just that. In August, our donors, volunteers and community partners came together at a brunch held at the home of Karen and John McGlinn. Guests enjoyed good company, food, and conversation in honor of their service to SOS.

Later in the month, the SOS A Team and Star Team members celebrated with a fiesta at the home of Kathy and Jerry 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!



Friends of SOS: Maurice Mamo, Lois Abbott, Steve Fobes, Amy Mamo

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Save the Date
23rd Annual Celebrity Chef Dinner
Friday, November 8, 2013
Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach

12 Talented Local Chefs • Five Course Dinner with Wine Pairings • Live Auction • Silent Auction • Opportunity Drawing

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

Wish List

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

- Baby Items – clothing, food, and diapers in all sizes
- Birthday Boxes for Children – cake mix, party favors, etc.
- Hotels & Motels – consider donating toiletry items or half-full shampoos, lotions, etc.
- Food – Our volunteers will pick up your donated food. Hold a food drive in your neighborhood (canned goods and dry goods)
- Toothbrushes, dental floss, toothpaste

Facility Requests

- Small utility cart
- 4 medium size indoor trash cans
- Manual pallet jack

To donate any of the items above, please contact Vanessa Ontiveros at 949.270.2150 or vontiveros@shareourselves.org.

Calendar of Events

Please join us for our upcoming programs and events:

- November 8 23rd Annual Celebrity Chef Dinner
Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort & Spa
- November 25-27 Thanksgiving Food Distribution
- December 16-19 Adopt A Family Program
- April 10 21st Annual Wild & Crazy Taco Night

For more information on any of our events, please contact Elizabeth Evans at 949.270.2137 or efevans@shareourselves.org or visit our website at www.shareourselves.org.

To receive our newsletter by email, please contact Katie Santore at ksantore@shareourselves.org

