



Share Our Selves News

May 2014

Being the change they want to see

The Walti family teaches their children about the importance of giving

In lieu of gifts for her fourth birthday, Kaily Walti and her family asked that her friends bring a gift to donate to Share Our Selves, to distribute to children having birthdays whose families are enduring hardships. When Kaily and her mom, Marie, dropped off the gifts at SOS, they took a tour to explain to Kaily where the gifts would be going and whom they would help. We were touched by the kindness of the Walti family, and Kaily's selflessness at such a young age. SOS sent Kaily a note and small gift to show our appreciation. Marie Walti, Kaily's mom, offered to share their story "in hopes that maybe someone else might be inspired to do things a little differently." Below are her beautiful words:

Thank you for the kind note and gifts for Kaily. She enjoyed the Disney princess pens and notebook! We read her the note and again explained how sharing her birthday gifts with others helped to provide necessities like food and medical services. She seemed pretty excited to know that people who have very little can eat some treats because of her.

To be honest, our church inspired us to think differently a couple of Christmases ago. The charge was to look at our Christmas budgets and not spend differently, but reallocate our budgets in a more outward-focused fashion.

We are trying to adopt that philosophy toward life. We are trying to be the change we want to see. It was a message that changed us and if that message can inspire anyone else, then Amen!

We are trying to teach our kids that it often involves a sacrifice, like giving up birthday gifts, to ensure that someone's needs can be met. They are young, so they can only understand in bits and pieces, but we believe little seeds now can sprout big things later. We want our kids to understand how much they already have and that many other families struggle just to have the basics. We know that Share Our Selves' ministry is to help those in need. It is an honor and privilege to partner with such a wonderful organization, which also happens to be in our backyard. Thank you for all that you do to reach out to those in need. We love what you are doing.

Thank you to Kaily and the Walti family for their generosity. Many kids will have happy birthdays this year because of you.



Reflections

Our lead story is a wonderful testimony to the beautiful nature of children and the loving guidance of parents. How easily children understand that sharing and caring for others is a good and right choice in their lives, especially when they have their parents to show them the way.

We, as adults, have much we can learn from our children if we can see through their eyes. Certainly, their joyfulness, excitement in learning, and gentle acts of kindness touch us daily, whether it is our own children or others we observe. How many times have you seen a child bring a smile to the face of an elderly person, tell an unforgettable story, see cultural diversity as wonderful, and know their hug can heal a heart?

The protection of our children is one of the profound messages of SOS. We must always be vigilant in our efforts to assure children have safe housing, access to healthcare, a good education, and parents who love and cherish them. We do this together through many of the programs of SOS, and we are most grateful to all of you and your support. Our children are our future and for me that is quite a hopeful note.

As always I keep you close in my heart,

Karen L. McGlenn
Executive Director

Thank You

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

- **Bob Schmiedeke**, for donating \$10,000 in memory of his wife, Clarine.
- **Armando Galindo, Jr.**, for donating \$10,000 in memory of his father, Armando Galindo, Sr.
- **Bill Holmes**, for donating \$10,000 in support of Share Our Selves' services
- **Cal State Fullerton Mihalo School of Business**, for donating 1,200 pounds of handpicked oranges from the orange groves on campus
- **The Hal Rosoff Family**, for donating a used van for food pantry pickups
- **SOS volunteers, Randie and Gary Starling**, for donating a new American flag for our flagpole.



Bob Schmiedeke, pictured with SOS Executive Director, Karen McGlenn, generously donated \$10,000 to Share Our Selves in March.

Grants

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

- **Orange County Community Foundation, ReachOut OC**, for funding a Patient Navigator position at the SOS-El Sol Wellness Center
- **County of Orange Health Care Agency**, in support of the medical clinic
- **St. Joseph Health Community Partnership Fund**, in support of the SOS-El Sol Wellness Center
- **Western Digital**, in support of our comprehensive service center

Volunteer Spotlight

CONGRATULATIONS to Trisha Harrington and Kathy Lewis, the recipients of the 2014 Spirit of Volunteerism award. Your long-time commitment to our mission is an inspiration to us all.

Looking for a summer volunteer opportunity? As our food pantry volunteers take summer vacations, we are in need of help to cover their shifts. This is the perfect time to "sample" our volunteer experience or get community service hours for school.

Our Back to School Backpack Distribution Program will provide weekday opportunities for those interested in helping to provide school supplies for children of our struggling families. Adult volunteers are needed at the OC Fair on August 6th to help collect supplies at the "We Care Wednesday" drive. Adult and student volunteers are needed to sort supplies, fill backpacks and distribute to families from August 11th to August 29th.

Please contact Julie Larson Neja for more information or to sign up to volunteer: Jlarson@shareourselves.org or 949.270.2113.

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.

One Office Visit Touches Three Generations

A patient was referred to the SOS Case Management team because she was having difficulty following her diabetic treatment plan and covering the cost of necessary medications. After meeting with the patient, the team found that she had many stressors in her life affecting her health, including work, caring for her elderly father, and saving enough to purchase basic necessities such as food and medication. The team felt that a public health nurse (PHN) home visit might be able to better sort through some of the stressors. Then, case management could work with the patient to help meet many of her family's needs through community resources and services at SOS. The PHN made the home visit and discovered that the patient and her teenage son were eligible for medical coverage. Her elderly father she was caring for also had full medical coverage, but had not been seen by a provider for over 10 years - even though he was a known diabetic and wheelchair-bound. Case management pooled together all the resources at SOS to help provide food assistance linkage for the family through Cal Fresh, get their medical insurance reactivated, and get the father seen by a provider to get him back in control of his health. The father was also linked for care at our dental clinic and the family was referred to our Financially Fit program with Wells Fargo. Additionally, the teenage son will be a part of our SOS Senior Student Project, which helps help graduating seniors with college dreams to get necessary apparel items for graduation. The young man is a great student, wrestled for his high school varsity team, and dreams of going to junior college to become a police officer. He is humble about his living situation and still strives to see beyond those obstacles to provide for his mother and do anything he can to reach his dream. Our thanks to the astute provider for thinking beyond a patient not following recommendations, seeking to team with case management, and allowing three generations to be helped and served.

If you are interested in making a gift in your lifetime, please contact Karen Francis, Director of Development, at kfrancis@shareourselves.org or 949.270.2145.

Wild & Crazy Taco Night

21st annual event brought together good friends, food and fun

With 25 chefs and 650 guests, Share Our Selves' 21st Annual Wild & Crazy Taco Night on Thursday, April 10th, at Share Our Selves, was a delicious success! Orange County's finest chefs lent their amazing culinary talents to this community event, which raises funds for the SOS Food Pantry.

The VIP pre-event was a festive affair. Participating guests received early entrance into the event, and the opportunity to sample every chef's taco, Tres Sietes Tequila margaritas, and beer donated by Rudy's Pub & Grill, before the rush.

The general event was as wild & crazy as ever! Guests mingled between the chef stations and bars – enjoying all of the unique tacos, lively chefs and music from DJ Drew Pierce. Event supporter, Kirk Buttermore, was the lucky winner of the opportunity drawing prize – a Rastarita Margarita Party for 50, featuring the Rastarita Mobile Beverage Truck.

This year's tacos had our guest talking! Goose, lamb, Cajun po boy, salmon skin, PB&J with bacon, and even crickets! The chefs outdid themselves with their creativity and mouthwatering tacos, and guests left full and happy.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our chefs, sponsors, underwriters and in-kind donors who make this event possible.

If you loved Wild & Crazy Taco Night, be sure to save the date for this year's Celebrity Chef Dinner on November 7th!



Top to Bottom: ARC Owners Chef Noah Blöm and Marin Howarth, with Sous Chef Dan Dyer; Taco Night committee members Maggie Hayes and Gaye Bessler; 2014 Wild & Crazy Taco Night Chefs

Onion Luncheon

20 years of supporting Share Our Selves

This year's Onion Luncheon on May 21st, marks the 20th anniversary of the SOS A Team and Star Team's support of Share Our Selves. The luncheon, held at the Five Crowns in Corona Del Mar, features a silent and a live auction, and honors the members of the Star Team, a support guild of SOS.

In their two decades of support, the A Team and Star Team have raised \$760,000 for SOS.

Thank you A Team and Star Team for your many years of friendship and support.



A Team founder, Kathy Thompson, with Executive Director, Karen L. McGinn

Retiring Loyal Blue

SOS says goodbye to our trusty blue van

We recently bid adieu to "Loyal Blue," our trusty blue van. She was purchased new and delivered excellence for over 19 years and 178,747 miles. Loyal Blue was the vehicle of choice for Luis Urena, even if it mean carrying around his own radio and fan. She was steady and always up for the challenge, no matter the food pickup or delivery. Loyal Blue enjoyed her daily routes around town to Oh Those Donuts, Panera, Pavillions, Costco, Mother's Market, Pizza Hut and annual food drives, to name a few.

We are grateful for the many years of service she gave to SOS and our community. We were sad to say goodbye, but are excited to welcome our new van, generously donated by the Hal Rosoff Family, to the SOS Family.



Luis and Jesse Urena with their trusty friend, Loyal Blue

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Save the Date
Share Our Selves 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 Neja at jl Larson@shareourselves.org or 949.270.2113

Wish List

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

- Donate your car with You Pick You Save
- Toothbrushes, dental floss, toothpaste
- Baby Items – clothing, food, and diapers in all sizes
- Hotels & Motels – consider donating toiletry items or half-full shampoos, lotions, etc.
- Food – Hold a food drive in your neighborhood (canned goods and dry goods)
- Professional attire for high school seniors getting ready to graduate (slacks, ties, shirts, blouses, skirts, etc.)

Facility Requests

- 2 Industrial fans
- Kitchen aprons

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:

May 21	SOS Star Team Onion Luncheon
May 22	24 Carrots Pop-up Dinner benefitting SOS
August 6	We Care Wednesday School Supply drive at the OC Fair 12:00pm-3:00pm
August 27-29	SOS Back to School Backpack Distribution
August	Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Event
November 7	24 th Annual Celebrity Chef Dinner

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

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

