



Share Our Selves News

September 2014

Sleep Out on Superior

Bringing awareness to hunger and homelessness in Orange County

Did you know that on any given night in Orange County, almost 4,300 people are homeless? As we tuck ourselves into our warm beds, with sturdy roofs over our heads, there are individuals and families with small children hunkering down for the night in parks, on the beach, in cars, and under freeway on-ramps and bridges. These less fortunate neighbors of ours did not choose their current circumstance. They are often victims of job loss or underemployment, domestic violence, veterans with few resources at their disposal, or suffering from severe mental illness.

Our mission at Share Our Selves calls for us to be advocates for systemic change – addressing the conditions of poverty and working tirelessly to break the cycle of homelessness in our community. We are committed to actualizing our mission, and we invite you to join us by participating in the **1st Annual Sleep Out on Superior** on Friday, November 21st – Saturday, November 22nd; an all-night program and sleep-out to bring awareness to the issues of hunger and homelessness in Orange County.

We are coordinating our efforts with National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. This weeklong

effort is held annually the week before Thanksgiving to encourage us to remember and assist those who have less to be thankful for. By committing to sleeping outside for one night, you will be joining a local and national movement.

More than 40% of homeless individuals in Orange County are without shelter. As you turn off the light tonight and drift off into a carefree and relaxing sleep, remember that these are simple luxuries not everyone has. We hope you will join us at Sleep Out on Superior. Together we can bring awareness to these issues and make our community safer, healthier, and happier for all. Please visit our website at www.shareourselves.org/events for information and to sign up for this worthwhile event.



Reflections



Dear friends,

I would like to extend my personal invitation for you to join me at Sleep Out on Superior as we demonstrate solidarity with the homeless. I hope to see you in November.

With gratitude always,

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!

- **Thank you to Claire Allison (13)**, for donating her American Girl Doll collection to our Birthday Bags program
- **Thank you to the SOS A-Team and Star Team**, for hosting the annual summer luau.

Awards & Grants

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

- **CalOptima Circle of Care Award**, for going above and beyond in the delivery of health care services to CalOptima members
- **Cotton Family Foundation**, in support of the SOS Children & Family Health Center
- **HRSA Public Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative (PSPC) Exceptional Team Award, 2013-2014**
Kaiser Permanente, in support of the medical clinic and behavioral health
- **County of Orange Health Care Agency**, in support of the medical clinic
- **Blue Shield Foundation**, in support of the medical clinic
- **Resnick Foundation**, in support of the food pantry



SOS Staff helps collect school supplies at the OC Fair's We Care Wednesday School Supply Drive

19th Annual Back to School Program

Record number of backpacks and supplies distributed to families in need

Through our 19th Annual Back to School Program, SOS distributed over 3,700 backpacks filled with school supplies to local students from low-income families. SOS was fortunate to once again be part of this year's OC Fair's We Care Wednesday School Supply Drive. Fairgoers donated over 160,000 school supplies, valuing over \$67,150, to Share Our Selves. We extend a heartfelt thank you to the OC Fair and to everyone who came out to support the drive. Thank you to this year's donors who hosted drives and donated school supplies:

Agility • American Capital Group • Bon Terra Psomas • CH2MHill • Fairview Community Church • Hoag Administration Department • Hoag Emergency Department • Hoag IT • Hoag Nightingales • Hoag Radiation/Oncology • IAWP Orange Empire • National Charity League – Newport Chapter • OC Community Associations Institute • OC Fair • Optum Rx • Presbyterian Church of the Covenant • St. Joseph Health – We Care Committee • Travelers of Gullivers • VACO Orange Co. • Village Green Foods • UnitedHealthcare • Wescom Credit Union • Many families and students!

We'd also like to thank everyone who supported our program by donating funds and supplies, and volunteering to help sort and distribute backpacks. Your support ensures that many kids will have a great start to the school year!

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.

We have recently seen an increase in the number of working homeless families who are living in motels and are unable to get out of their current situations. The In My Lifetime grant funds have been used to assist homeless families with children to get back into permanent housing and learn new life skills needed to sustain self-sufficiency.

A family with three children moved from Santa Barbara after accepting a job that offered them great opportunity. Unfortunately, soon after the family moved, the company went bankrupt. After exhausting all of their savings, the family had no choice but to move into a motel for two years - making it very difficult to save to get their own apartment. SOS was able to assist the family by giving them a deposit and first month's rent on an apartment, by turning on their utilities, and by providing them with food. SOS also urged them to attend the budgeting classes offered by Wells Fargo to help the family develop a monthly budget for rent and basic expenses. This family is grateful for the assistance SOS gave them, and they feel so fortunate to now have warm meals and sleep in their own beds in the privacy of their own home.

If you are interested in making a gift in your lifetime, please contact Kathleen Bruski, kbruski@shareourselves.org or 949.270.2132.

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers Do Make a Difference

It has been another busy summer here at SOS and a BIG Thank You goes out to all of our weekly volunteers and our visiting volunteers. Because of your many hours of service we were able to feed more than 1,200 families and individuals each week. With your service we collected over 33 bins of back to school supplies and stuffed over 3700 backpacks. With your friendly smiles and generous hearts, our clients and patients felt cared-for, respected, and hopeful. Volunteers DO make a difference!

As fall approaches, new volunteer opportunities will arise. Please contact the Volunteer Services Department if you are interested in helping out with clerical duties, on the food line, with our Thanksgiving food distribution in November, with our Celebrity Chef event November 7th, with our Adopt a Family project, or coordinating an offsite group project. We encourage you to check us out and become part of our team!!

Julie Neja - jneja@shareourselves.org or 949.270.2113



Christopher Te, a volunteer from CSUF, sorts school supplies at the OC Fair's We Care Wednesday School Supply Drive

1st Annual SOS Vision & Values Awards

Recognizing SOS team members for their exemplary work

On Friday, August 1st, the entire SOS team gathered at the beautiful Balboa Harborside Pavilion in Newport Beach for an afternoon of fun at the first Vision & Values Awards luncheon. This event recognized the staff members that best represent the SOS Core Values of Dignity, Service, Excellence, and Justice. There was also a Visionary Award honoree who best exemplifies our forward-thinking mission by taking risks, standing by their vision with confidence and passion, and being willing to experiment in order to allow for breakthroughs in creativity and discovery.

This year's honorees were most deserving of their recognition and we are truly fortunate to have them on our team at SOS:

- DIGNITY – Lidia Jauregui-Campos, Eligibility Specialist
- SERVICE – Yadira Gomez, Senior Case Manager
- EXCELLENCE – Mary Ann Huntsman, Director of Clinical Pharmacy Services
- JUSTICE – Veronica Rodarte, Social Services Programs Coordinator
- VISIONARY – Karen L. McGlinn, Executive Director

Honorees were presented with plaques, and there are also perpetual plaques for each value on display at SOS to enjoy for years to come. It was a wonderful afternoon and staff appreciated the the opportunity to celebrate each other and the successes of the year. For a complete list of nominees, visit our website at www.shareourselves.org.

Top: Justice Honoree Veronica Rodarte and Dignity Honoree Lidia Jauregui-Campos, with and Rebecca Alcaraz; Middle: Excellence Honoree Mary Ann Huntsman, Pharm D, BCACP, CDE, with Jeremy Elkins; Bottom: Service Honoree Yadira Gomez (right) with Elizabeth Hopkins



Celebrity Chef Dinner

A Night Under the Stars - November 7

A group 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. This year's theme, "A Night under the Stars," is a reminder that so many of our neighbors live in uncertain conditions, without a permanent roof over their heads. Proceeds from the Celebrity Chef Dinner support the SOS Food Pantry and Comprehensive Service Center, which provides food and needed services for approximately 250 individuals and families a day. See back page for more information.



Last year's SOS Celebrity Chefs

SOS Community Health Fair

Celebrating National Health Center Week

As part of National Health Center Week, SOS held its first Community Health & Wellness Fair in August. Over 200 people attended the event, which featured health screenings, Back to School Program registration, agency referrals, children's activities and a farmer's market with vegetable plants grown by the Organic Gardening Club. Our community partners, Orange County Healthy Care Agency, Public Law Center, and Wells Fargo, were also onsite to assist our clients with public health services, legal aid, and banking and budgeting information. Attendees were given a reusable insulated bag filled with informational brochures, dental hygiene items, and food products. It was a great day of serving our community!



Children enjoy the farmer's market and activities

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Save the Date
24th Annual Celebrity Chef Dinner
A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS
Friday, November 7, 2014
Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach

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

For information, contact Elizabeth Hopkins at
 949.270.2137 or ehopkins@shareourselves.org.
 Tickets can be purchased online at
 shareourselves.org/events

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)
- Thanksgiving food items – stuffing, canned vegetables, rice, cornbread mix
- Hygiene kit items – socks, travel size toiletries

Facility Requests

- 2 small indoor workspace heaters
- 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:

- October 6 Community Monday at Red Table – 10% of your bill will be donated to SOS – 16821 Algonquin, HB
- November 7 24th Annual Celebrity Chef Dinner
- November 21-22 Sleep Out on Superior
- November 24-26 Thanksgiving Food Distribution Program
- December 15-18 Adopt A Family Program
- April 16, 2015 Wild & Crazy Taco Night

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