



# Share Our Selves News

January 2015

## SOS Children & Family Health Center

Expanding health care to Orange County children and families

Since 1970, SOS has been committed to growing and evolving to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in Orange County. SOS has always assured our commitment to delivering high quality, patient-centered care and supportive services. December 1, 2014 marked yet another milestone in our organization's history of service, with the opening of the SOS Children & Family Health Center in Newport Beach.

This was the culmination of a two and a half year collaborative process with CHOC to transition the previous Children's Clinic in Costa Mesa into the SOS system of care. Through the supportive services of Hoag, SOS has designed and leased a beautiful seven room clinic in a Hoag facility conveniently located for the children of the Newport-Mesa community. The center is designed to provide comprehensive primary care for children, women, and families, with additional services including, sports physicals, immunizations, sick/walk-in visits, pre-natal care, insurance eligibility assistance, and counseling – continuing SOS's hallmark of caring for each individual's body, mind, and spirit.

Our mission statement calls for us to be advocates for systemic change, and our newest center represents transformational change and care; assuring that our children will become

the healthy adults of the future. With the support of CHOC, Hoag, the SOS Board of Directors, and you, we are committed to improving the health outcomes of children - affecting lasting change and enriching the lives of those whom you so generously support.

Please contact us to schedule a tour of the SOS Children & Family Health Center, and take a moment to learn more about all four of our service locations, at [www.shareourselves.org](http://www.shareourselves.org).



Opening day at the SOS Children & Family Health Center. Top: Nurse Practitioner, Deirdre Fitz-William, meets with the first patient at the new center; Bottom: Dr. José Mayorga, Chief Medical Officer; Dr. Teresa Hollander, Director of Pediatrics; and Jeremy Elkins, Chief Operating Officer.

## Reflections

Welcome to 2015, and all the promise that a new beginning brings to each of us. It is in this spirit of renewal and promise that SOS so proudly announces our newest location for care of the children in our community.

As many of you know, I am the mother of five grown children, with eleven grandchildren, and the 12<sup>th</sup> on the way this July. When asked what I did to prepare for my role with SOS, I have stated, "raising five children." The wonderful role of motherhood prepares us to see the world through the eyes of others, have patience, be tenacious of spirit, and find humor in the daily routine of life. It is with this in mind that I thank each and every one of you who has supported SOS so faithfully throughout the years. Together we build opportunity for all mothers to know the joy of raising healthy, inquisitive, smart, and talented children. Who knows? Maybe the next great generation of leaders, inventors, peacemakers, and healers, will be one of the children of our SOS Children & Family Health Center. As always I wish you many blessings for this year and hold all of you close to my heart.

**Karen L. McGlinn**  
Chief Executive Officer

## 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 Tyler Woolley**, for building a donation sign-in and drop off station as part of his Eagle Scout Service Project.

## Awards & Grants

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

- **Disney VoluntEARS**, in support of the Adopt A Family Program
- **Edwards LifeSciences Fund**, in support of the medical clinic
- **Hoag Community Benefits**, in support of the medical clinic
- **Marisla Foundation**, in support of women's health
- **Kaiser Permanente**, in support of the medical clinic and behavioral health
- **Pacific Life Foundation**, in support of the dental clinic
- **Shady Canyon Golf Club**, in support of the Food Pantry
- **St. Joseph Health**, in support of SOS Social Services
- **Susan G. Komen Orange County**, in support of women's health services
- **wwwFoundation**, for core support



*A family receives food for the holiday through Share Our Selves' Thanksgiving Food Distribution Program*

## A Season of Thanks

### Fall food drives and volunteers help over 1,400 families

SOS has much to be thankful for due to the tremendous show of community support we receive throughout the year – especially around the holidays. This year, 1,411 Thanksgiving food bags were distributed the three days before Thanksgiving. The bags were filled with everything needed for a delicious dinner, including chickens, produce, rolls, stuffing, pies, and more. 154 volunteers provided 457 hours of service to fill and distribute the bags to our grateful clients. We would like to extend our thanks to the numerous schools, businesses, and groups that held fall food drives to benefit SOS, including:

AMEC • Carden Hall • Hoag Radiation Oncology • Lincoln Elementary • Monticello Apartments • Newport Elementary • Newport Harbor High School • Rockreation Costa Mesa • Toyota • United Methodist Church

We would also like to thank the many individuals and companies who came and volunteered their time, including:

e-Gumball • HOM Sothebys • Marriott • PIMCO • Yard House • St. Joseph

## 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.*

A 24-year-old woman, with a stage 5 kidney disease, was discharged from the hospital into SOS's care. She, her husband, and 7-year-old son, were homeless and sleeping in their car. The husband was unemployed, they had very limited resources, and no family support. After meeting with an SOS medical provider, she was referred to the SOS Case Management Program. The family worked closely with our Case Manager to get connected to greatly needed services. The family was linked to CalWORKS, referred to a transitional shelter, and the One Stop Center to assist the husband with finding employment. Additionally, SOS provided the family with motel assistance, gas gift cards, Target cards and financial assistance to help with the mom's dialysis treatment three times a week.

After multiple meetings and care coordination, this woman is now able to attend all her dialysis appointments, her husband is working full time, and the family resides in safe and stable housing.

*If you are interested in making a gift in your lifetime, please contact Kathleen Bruski, [kbruski@shareourselves.org](mailto:kbruski@shareourselves.org) or 949.270.2132.*

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Volunteers Do Make a Difference

Did you know that with the help of our amazing volunteers, Share Our Selves provided over 52,000 bags of groceries in 2014? Thanks to our volunteers, clients and patients were given direct aid, resources, a warm smile, and hope. We would not be the agency we are without the time and talents of our volunteers.

This year, SOS volunteers gave over 30,000 hours of their time to help those in need - that translates into over \$750,000 worth of manpower - an amazing testimony to our team's commitment!

As we enter the new year, please consider if this might be your time to join the ranks of the SOS volunteers. A variety of positions are now available, including driving to pick up food, late shifts at the front desk (2pm to 4pm), committee positions, and much more. To arrange a tour or to get more information on how to get started, contact Julie Neja at 949.270.2113 or [jneja@shareourselves.org](mailto:jneja@shareourselves.org).



*Volunteers help hand out Thanksgiving food bags*

# Sleep Out On Superior

Group sleeps out to bring awareness to homelessness in OC

Our 1st Annual Sleep Out on Superior was truly a special night, shared with new friends and old. The all-night program and sleep out brought the community together to bring awareness to the issues of hunger and homelessness in Orange County. Participants included groups of USC and Cal State Fullerton students, community members, and families with children – the youngest being 5 years old! Over 85 people gathered at our Costa Mesa location to participate in activities such as packing bags of Thanksgiving produce, packing homeless food bags, sorting cans, bagging chickens, and making hygiene kits. We had wonderful speakers – Larry Haynes, CEO of Mercy House, spoke about homelessness in Costa Mesa, and several SOS clients shared their stories with the group. One of the speakers, our client Kathy, said, “Coming to SOS is like coming home to Mom and Dad.”

The evening ended with a screening of “Storied Streets,” an excellent documentary on homelessness across the nation. Over 30 people spent the night in our parking lot, and woke up eager to share their experiences. The group enjoyed breakfast provided by Chef Mark Gagnon of Newport Beach Plaza, before packing up and heading home.

Many thanks to everyone who assisted us with planning this new event, and thank you to those who joined us for the night.

*Top: Participants sort cans for our Thanksgiving Food Distribution; Middle: Chef Mark Gagnon (Newport Beach Plaza) holds a sign where participants wrote why they were sleeping out; Bottom: Close to 30 people spent the night in the SOS parking lot as a show of solidarity for our homeless community members*



## 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrity Chef Dinner – A Night Under the Stars

\$163,000 raised for Food Pantry and Share Our Selves’ Programs

This year’s Celebrity Chef Dinner highlighted 13 outstanding local chefs who are committed to providing food for the most vulnerable populations in OC. 300 people attended the event at the Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach. Guests enjoyed sushi and passed hors d’oeuvres while mingling during the reception and silent auction. Beer, wine and cider was donated by Balearic Beverages, and the “Share the Harvest” signature cocktail was a hit. The elegant dinner included five exquisite courses paired with wines generously donated by Matanzas Creek Winery, Windsor Oaks Vineyards & Winery, Martin Ray Winery, and Quady Winery. Attendees were treated to a performance by the “El Sol Rockers,” a student band from El Sol Science and Arts Academy, a charter school where SOS operates the SOS-El Sol Wellness Center. The live auction featured exciting dining packages from the chefs, and other coveted items. Thank you to our generous chefs, sponsors, Celebrity Chef Dinner Committee & volunteers for making this event a tremendous success!

*Left: Chef Franco Barone (il Barone Ristorante), Chef Adam Feirman (Yard House), and Chef Alessandro Pirozzi (Pirozzi CDM) plate the first course; Right: Nicolas Felix performs with the “El Sol Rockers”*



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## 22<sup>nd</sup> Wild & Crazy Taco Night

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

**Thursday, April 16, 2015**  
 Share Our Selves

VIP Pre-Party: 4:30pm-5:30pm

General Event: 5:30pm-7:30pm

VIP Tickets: \$150 Early Bird General: \$70

(General ticket price increases to \$80 on 4/1. Get yours early!)

Tickets available at [www.shareourselves.org/events](http://www.shareourselves.org/events).

For more information, contact Elizabeth Hopkins •  
 949.270.2137 • [ehopkins@shareourselves.org](mailto:ehopkins@shareourselves.org)

## 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)
- Hygiene kit items – socks, travel size toiletries

### Facility Requests

- 2 lobby chairs and a table
- Small workspace trashcans
- Artwork for administrative office walls

To donate any of the items above, please contact Vanessa Ontiveros at 949.270.2150 or [vontiveros@shareourselves.org](mailto:vontiveros@shareourselves.org).

## Calendar of Events

Please join us for our upcoming programs and events:

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](mailto:ehopkins@shareourselves.org) or visit our website at [www.shareourselves.org](http://www.shareourselves.org).

To receive our newsletter by email, please contact Katie Santore at [ksantore@shareourselves.org](mailto:ksantore@shareourselves.org)



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