

The Outreach

A Newsletter from Siuslaw Outreach Services

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Upcoming Events and Activities;

5th Annual Siuslaw Open
Saturday, August 22nd
9:00 am Registration
10:00 am Start
Sandpines Golf Links



"Like" us and "Share" us on your FACEBOOK page to keep up with all the current happenings at SOS. We plan to update our page with news and pictures of our upcoming renovations! Look for us at **Siuslaw Outreach Services** on FACEBOOK. (yes we changed the name)

Supporting Our Homeless Veterans

Siuslaw Outreach Services recognizes the sacrifices of our men and women of the military as well as their immediate families. One of the ways SOS does this is through a partnership with US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), US Department of Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) and with Columbia Care Services. The goal of this partnership is to help homeless veterans find safe and secure housing along with develop skills to become self sufficient. The HUD/VASH along with Columbia Care Services in Eugene help Vets and their family get connected to and enroll in a subsidized housing program called Section 8 Fast Track. This program provides ongoing subsidized rent for as long as the veteran remains in the home. This program goes a long way to help with a veteran's financial stability. However, the program does not help with the move in costs to get into the program. This is an area where SOS can help. Often, SOS will help a HUD/VASH recipient with move-in security deposits and/or utility deposits. A case worker from Columbia Care Services and in some cases a Veteran Support Services



outreach worker will do ongoing case management with that veteran and their family. The challenge with those case workers is they are based out of Eugene and Roseburg. They will visit those clients once per month, sometimes twice. There is not a local office for those services. Individuals must transport themselves to Eugene or Roseburg if they need to meet with a case manager for support or call a hotline. SOS now serves as a type of local liaison for those in the HUD/VASH program, so that they can have that face to face support. SOS staff can also connect them to local veteran groups and individuals to give them additional support. SOS also provides programs that help them develop skills in financial management, stress management and conflict resolution.

Since July 2014, SOS has helped 6 veterans enrolled in the HUD/VASH program and their families either secure housing, help with utilities or help with skill development. In one such case, SOS helped a vet in the HUD/VASH program with move-in deposit, utility deposit, help with finding furniture, food, connection with local vet groups and personal skill development and as a liaison

Denise's Story

(The name in this story has been changed to protect the client's privacy)

Denise is a young woman with 2 children who was a victim of domestic violence several years ago. The abuser used an elaborate scheme to try to get custody of the children but this was unsuccessful. The mother was then physically harmed in front of her children and child protection services became involved. Denise sought ser-

vices from SOS including advocacy, legal aid, parenting classes, budgeting classes, employment-seeking assistance, and a support group. She was also given information on services available from other agencies including one helping with a special needs child.

Denise has secured employment and is providing positive parenting in a home free of domestic violence.

As with all SOS clients, confidentiality is always an uncompromised priority. So many of our clients have stories that we are simply unable to tell, even when names are changed, because in a community our size there could be some identifying characteristics. During 2014 we were involved with 133 different stories of domestic violence, a number which is far too high but which is also similar to the rate of similar incidents in communities all across the country. Telling stories when we can is our attempt to raise awareness of this problem we all need to confront.

Make a difference while you shop

It can be fun and easy to give. Just go shopping!

Fred Meyer

Community Rewards and AmazonSmile match a portion of your spending and



send a check to SOS. Just go to www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and link

SOS to your Rewards Card using number **86049**. When you shop online with Amazon, make sure you click on the AmazonSmile logo and select Siuslaw Outreach Services as the

organization to receive benefits. Neither of these will cost the shopper anything



Roby's Gives Back

On January 28th Roby's Furniture was closed and the whole staff spent the day doing volunteer service at Siuslaw Outreach Services. One crew raked leaves, fertilized plants, trimmed shrubs, and spread barkdust. A second crew painted the entire SOS conference room.

"This was a tremendous donation of service for us, and our

building looks great!" said executive director David Wiegman. "We have said this



Roby's Furniture employees paint SOS Conference Room

many, many times- Florence is an amazing community with a big heart!"

Roby's manager, Dustin Herring, arranged for the day of volunteerism and stated that all of the Roby's stores were participating in their respective communities. The Roby's crews included Dustin Herring, Ryder Herring, Nolan Herring, John Alsop, James Tennison, Tom Hagle, Vanessa Blanken-



Dustin Herring, his sons and Roby's employees spruce up SOS grounds

ship, Tina Ruggles, and Kevin McClellan.

SOS Receives Grants & Donations

Siuslaw Outreach Services has received a grant of \$7,000 from the Templeton Foundation. The grant will be used for the SOS Emergency Voucher Fund. Over the course of a year SOS provides almost 1000 vouchers to persons who are senior, disabled, low income, homeless, or in some kind of emergency situation. They are written to local businesses for fuel, prescriptions, emergency transportation or shelter, propane, utilities, showers, laundry, or other basic needs. Each person requesting assistance is interviewed indi-

vidually and needs are assessed. Siuslaw Outreach Services promotes self-sufficiency with classes and advice on budgeting, planning, banking, and living frugally.

Executive Director David Wiegman said "Our Emergency Voucher Fund was almost depleted by November this year so this grant is especially welcome. Our annual budget requires donations and foundation grants to break even. We also have a number of other grants pending, and the community has

been particularly generous with donations during the holiday season. Although it looks like the economy is finally starting to turn the corner, the number of people seeking assistance has continued to increase each year."

The holiday season also saw a number of individuals and organizations raising funds for SOS. Camp Florence held a fundraiser at Fred Meyer; Crossroad Assembly of God held a fundraiser; Bettina Hanigan held an event at her home which generated many

items for the SOS shelter home; the Florence Rotary Club conducted a toy drive and brought over an entire carload of toys; Bi-Mart donated a large container of toys; author Ned Hickson held a book signing for us at Fred Meyer; and Kozy Kitchen raised cash, toys, and coats at the restaurant. SOS is extremely appreciative of all this support from our community, for our community.

Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation Awards SOS

Siuslaw Outreach Services has received a grant of \$10,000 from the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation. The grant will be used for the Emergency Voucher Fund during 2015. This fund can provide vouchers to local businesses for many different kinds of assistance to individuals or families experiencing a temporary emergency. Vouchers can be used for rent or utilities, fuel, shelter, laundry, showers, prescriptions, or food. Last year SOS provided nearly 1000 vouchers to low income, homeless, or other persons in emergency situations.

“We are very thankful to receive this grant again this year” said executive director David Wiegan. “Although we have several sources of funds for our

emergency vouchers, they have to last all year and we had almost run out by November. Each grant and donation for this fund is critically important.”

Eligibility determinations for assistance are made individually on a case-by-case basis. An SOS advocate conducts an assessment and provides information on all other possible resources that may be available. All aid is provided with the emphasis on encouraging self-sufficiency. Victims of domestic/sexual violence, low income families with children, seniors, disabled, and

homeless persons are the most likely to receive an emergency aid voucher.

The Cow Creek people have lived in what is now Southern Oregon for 10,000 years. When violence and disease devastated the tribe in the 1800’s it was reduced to seven

families, which is where the name “Seven Feathers” comes from. When Cow Creek rights were re-instated in the early 1980’s, all of the money was invested in an endowment fund dedicated to the health and welfare of Tribal funds. In 1997, when Seven Feathers Hotel and Casino Resort was built, six percent of the earnings were dedicated for philanthropic purposes. The Tribe formalized this tradition of philanthropy by establishing the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation. Since that time, the Foundation has given nearly \$1 million each year to non-profit organizations located within the Cow Creek homelands and serving children and families in need.



Leah James, David Wiegan, foundation board member Yvonne McCafferty, and SOS board president Jane Yecny



5th Annual Siuslaw Open

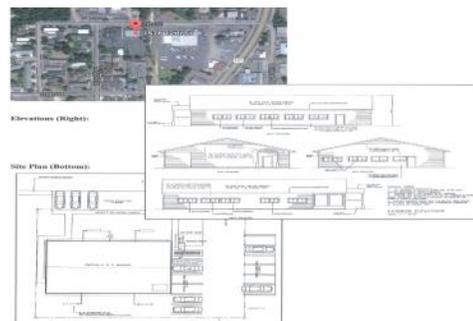
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, August 22, 2015
 9:00 am—Registration
 10:00 am— Shotgun Start
 Sandpines Golf Links



Building Update

The Siuslaw Outreach Services building project includes a new pitched roof, siding, windows, and changing some rooms to double the amount of storage space available for donated clothing and household items. Architect Paul Jensen submitted our plans to the City of Florence Planning Commission and they were approved in October. Our building permit has recently been approved so we have started to solicit bids from several local contractors. Our foundation grants are time-limited so we need to move forward with the project without delay. We anticipate starting with the interior work first and then, depending on the weather, replacing the roof at the first opportunity. Our target date for completion is June 1st.



SOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jane Yecny David Dumas Sharon Stiles Lori Gates David Wiegan
 Stuart Henderson Peg Peters Diane Bailiff Judy Schwartz Don Chapin

Volunteers In Training

Volunteers learned about the upcoming changes at SOS and received the latest training on procedures and policies, all while enjoying a delicious pizza lunch! SOS Volunteers in attendance for our February Volunteer Appreciation and Training meeting pictured from Left –Sue Streit, Patty Umoh, Sandy Lee, Jeanne Kimball, Pam Hamill, Sherry Harvey, Steve Skidmore, Pam Halleman, James Bonisteel. Front row– Leslie Sanders and Brenda McDaniel



SOS Crisis Line Needs You!



SOS is looking for committed volunteers to staff our Focus 4 Crisis Line. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator for more information by calling 541-997-2816 ext. 14 or stop by to see Lori at SOS.

Siuslaw Outreach Service Mission Statement

Siuslaw Outreach Services is a non-profit organization dedicated to assist individuals and families in leading safe, dignified and secure lives by offering a range of services from basic needs to self-empowerment.



To become a financial supporter of SOS, donations can be made by check or:



HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are always looking for **volunteers** for: Front Desk Reception, Donation Sorters, Fund-raising and Crisis Line. Stop by or call Lori at 541-997-2816, Ext. 14

Friends Of SOS: An annual donation of **\$100** or more.

SOS Endowment Fund

Items Needed: Clothing, Sleeping Bags, Tents, Shoes, Socks, Boots, Blankets and Small Household Items

For more information on how you can help or get involved please contact SOS staff at 541-997-2816



SIUSLAW OUTREACH SERVICES

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