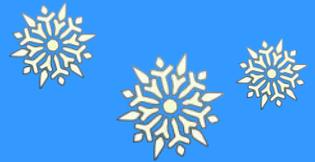


# The Outreach



A Newsletter from Siuslaw Outreach Services

Winter 2016 Volume 8 Issue 1



1576 W. 12th Street, PO Box 19000  
Florence, OR 97439  
(541) 997-2816

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Story	2
Rotary Club Spreads	2
Holiday Cheer	
That Special Someone	2
Girl Power	3
Letter from the President	3
Generous Gift	3
Year in Review	4

## Upcoming Events and Activities;

**6th Annual Siuslaw Open Golf Tournament: TBA**



“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)

## Board Members Answer The Call

The SOS Board of Directors recently held a board retreat to reflect on what SOS had been able to accomplish over the past few years as well as prepare for the challenges of the coming year. SOS saw some exciting as well as



some concerning events in 2015. The SOS building underwent some major renovations, the endowment fund was increased and community partnerships improved. The board also saw an increase in need in the community. SOS saw a 12% increase in requests for emergency vouchers, 20% in after hours emergency calls and 40% increase in request for housing assistance. Reported occurrences of domestic violence and sexual assault remained steady.

The Board of Directors also elected four new board members, bringing the total board roster to eleven.

Jennifer French is an artist and author who also volunteers for Florence Food Share and the new Public Art Committee. Ms. French is also a long term care ombudsman and is a founder of Backstreet Gallery. Bart Mealer is a retired utility operations

manager who also volunteers for the Chamber of Commerce, Friends of Florence, and Siuslaw Public Library. Mr. Mealer is also the President of the Florence FoodShare Board. Ann O’Connell is a retired attorney and social worker who also volunteers for the League of Women

Voters, CASA, Habitat for Humanity, and SOS. Thomas Turner is the Florence Police Chief, former Lane County Sheriff, and member of Florence Rotary.

For 2015-16, the new board officers are Sharon Stiles, President, Judy Schwartz, Vice-President, Lori Gates, Treasurer, and Don Chapin, Secretary. Continuing board members are Past-President Jane Yecny, Diane Bailiff, and David Dumas.

Siuslaw Outreach Services is honored to have such distinguished community leaders on its board.



New Board Members;  
Tom Turner, Jennifer French,  
Ann O’Connell, Bart Mealer

## SHS Interact Club Donates



Jaden Haley and Rotarian Liz Farm presented Siuslaw Outreach Services with an estimated 200+ pairs of new socks. With Co-Chair Amelia Spires and 30 high school volunteers they were able fill a number of large boxes with brand new socks for all ages. Jaden reported that their group had placed collection boxes at Banner Bank, the FEC, and the High School. The club is sponsored by the Florence Rotary Club, which had already provided numerous donations to SOS during the holiday season.

“This is a wonderful donation for us, and the value is really quite high” said Executive Director David Wiegand. “We have so many low income or homeless persons visit who are in need of socks, especially during the cold wet winter months. It seems like we have never had enough before today. We are so impressed by the generosity of these students.”

# 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](http://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.



## A Survivor's Story

Recently, just before closing the office for the day, Joanna, a woman in her 30's came to our office with 2 small children hiding from her abuser. She had just got in her vehicle and left without a plan except to just get away. She got into town on a very cold and stormy afternoon. Out of money and worried for the safety of her children, she asked a community member for help. They suggested going to SOS because they had once helped them. They

had very little with them at the time. All that was asked for was a safe place to gain some rest and to make a safety plan for the 3 of them. By the end of the day, with the help of SOS and Food Share, this young family had gained a safe home, food, clothing, all household needs and even some toys for the children.

Now, that family has a safe, stable place to stay, access to food and the woman

was able to get an interview for a potential job. SOS is continuing to work with her to continue to be safe from her abuser as well as provide education to help her remain safe and self-sufficient.



## Florence Rotary Spreads Holiday Cheer

The Florence Rotary Club gathered cold weather items, clothing, and holiday gift items during November and December. Crystal Farnsworth and Janet Huston delivered 8 sleeping bags, 2 tents, and a huge bag of socks, clothing, toys, games, and other personal items to Siuslaw Outreach Services. The sleeping bags and tents are the kinds of items SOS provides year around but the other items are particularly needed during the holiday season. Janet Huston also decorated the Christmas tree as yet another Rotary Club donation, and it

was auctioned off at the Festival of Trees to benefit the Military Museum. Sue Gilday, who purchased the tree, then donated it to SOS. Other volunteers, including Mayor Henry, delivered the tree to SOS.

"Our thanks to all of the many donors who made this possible. We are so appreciative of all of these gifts, especially now during what is typically our busiest time of the year. Last December we had 827 walk-ins at our office, and so many of our clients were able to have

a better holiday because of the generosity of this community." said Executive Director David Wiegan.



## Looking for that special someone

SOS is looking for that special someone who would like to make a difference!

We are looking for a few individuals who enjoy brightening someone's day, doing a variety of office work, answering phone calls and helping with special projects. We are especially looking for someone to fill our

morning shifts one day per week, 3 to 4 hours each time.

We are also in great need of Crisis Line Operators; these volunteers carry a cell phone and answer after hours calls to assist those in the community. Dependable, reliable and concerned volunteers are needed to fill a few positions. All training is pro-

vided. Just bring your open heart and a little time!

If you feel like this is your calling, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Lori at the office or call 541-997-2816. COME BE A PART OF OUR TEAM!



On Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, Bettina Hannigan held the Second Annual “Girlfriends Party” to benefit Si-uslaw Outreach Services and provide needed items for the shelter home. The Hope House shelter provides a safe place for survivors of domestic violence. The many generous donations included new and used clothing; cleaning supplies; towels, blankets; feminine hygiene products; hair brushes, combs and clips; travel supplies; food; bathroom supplies; Christmas decorations; perfume; shower gels; sham-

# GIRL POWER



poo; conditioner; hand and body lotions; razors, shave cream; makeup; toys; games; books; gift cards, cash, checks, stuffed animals;

hats; gloves; coats; and purses. A floral arrangement provided by Florence In Bloom was raffled off and generated another \$140. Ms.

Hannigan provided wonderful treats and eggnog. One of the attendees said: “We also had a raucous and animated white elephant gift exchange”.

“SOS is so appreciative of Bettina putting on this event for us – this is an amazing example of the Florence generosity” said Executive Director David Wiegan. A Third Annual Girlfriends Party is tentatively scheduled for the first Sunday in December, 2016.

## Generous Gift

Siuslaw Outreach Services has received a donation of \$100,000 from John and Patricia Hardison. The funds are designated for the SOS endowment fund to provide for victims of domestic violence. The funds will be invested in the name of the John and Patricia Hardison Charitable Fund, and only the proceeds will be used.

The Hardisons expressed a desire that their donation would encourage others to also contribute, and also that they really love Florence and hope their efforts are beneficial.

“This is truly an extraordinary gift for SOS, and we will ensure that the funds are used appropriately” said Executive Director David Wiegan. “With the ongoing volatility affecting a number of our funding sources, we are very concerned with building up our endowment fund so that we can weather the inevitable ups and downs in resources that non-profits typically face. So many of the domestic violence victims we serve have needs for relocation costs, emergency shelter, setting up a new place to live, and many other expenses. This fund will help provide for these kinds of needs in perpetuity.”

The board, staff, and volunteers of SOS are so appreciative of their generosity.

## A Note From The President



As a new year comes to an end you may be taking time out to reflect on the past year. I certainly have been. I feel very fortunate to have shelter, food, family and good friends. Some of our Florence folks do not have that same fortune.

At SOS we have consistently found this time of year, a time of rising numbers of those less fortunate. As the new President of the Board for SOS, I want to encourage all of you to reach out and support those less privileged.

I want to also thank the many who support our efforts, from volunteers who give many hours of their time, to the support staff, a great board of directors, and the advocates that reach those coming through our doors. These jobs are not easy and are mentally stressing. You all seem to have a plethora of energy.

I cannot begin to thank all of our patrons and donors who give year after year to support our cause. Thanks for all of your abundance of spirit and your giving nature.

Thanks again and I look forward to serving on the board for another year.

*Sharon Stiles,*

President of the Board of Directors



**Tribute gifts are a special way to celebrate or honor someone important in your life while also supporting SOS.**

We will send a letter recognizing your gift.

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Their Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Their Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# A Year Review In 2015...

<b>Clients Served with Emergency Vouchers, clothing and/or Rent Assistance (unduplicated).....</b>	<b>2350</b>
Males.....	1093
Females.....	1251
Children under 17.....	709
Seniors (62 and older).....	168
Disabled.....	540
Homeless Individuals.....	407
Veterans.....	60
Low Income Households Receiving Housing Assistance..	182
<b>Clients Receiving Domestic Violence Advocacy Services .....</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>Clients Receiving Sexual Assault Advocacy Services.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Clients Receiving Energy Assistance (L.I.H.E.A.P.).....</b>	<b>845</b>
<b>Participants in Self Sufficiency Classes and Workshops.....</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Total Walk-in Visits.....</b>	<b>7201</b>
<b>Sheltered Nights For DV/SA Survivors.....</b>	<b>518</b>
<b>DV/SA Survivors Participating In Support Groups.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Response To After Hours Calls From Police/Hospital...33</b>	
<b>Total Number Of Trained Volunteers.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Total Number Of Volunteer Hours.....</b>	<b>11764</b>

**ESTIMATED TOTAL NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED (unduplicated).....2902**



## 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 and Crisis Line. Stop by or call Lori at 541-997-2816, Ext. 14
- SOS Endowment Fund** is a fund that individuals can contribute to help ensure long-term stability of the organization.
- Tribute Gifts** are a way to make a donation in a friend or loved one's name.
- Items Needed:** Clothing, Sleeping Bags, Tents, Tarps, Rain Gear, Shoes, Socks, Boots and Blankets

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



**SIUSLAW OUTREACH SERVICES**  
PO BOX 19000  
FLORENCE, OR 97439