

The Outreach

Fall 2020

A Newsletter from Siuslaw Outreach Services

Volume 9, Issue 6



1576 W. 12th Street
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SOS Mission Statement

'To provide compassionate, respectful and confidential support to people in need.'

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Our Hours:

Monday-Thursday
10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
by appointment only

DATES TO REMEMBER



****March Against****

Domestic Violence

October 4th, 12:30 pm

CLOSED

**November 26th & 27th for
THANKSGIVING**

SOS RESPONDS TO COVID & FIRE CRISIS

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and explosion of forest fires, SOS has once again stepped up. Executive Director, Bob Teter knew that with the unprecedented events of 2020, the requests for assistance with rent and utilities, emergency housing, food and clothing would be greater than ever. Teter has been raising funds and coordinating with partners through the county. Through grants provided by Lane County, Oregon Department of Justice, Ford Family Foundation, Allstate Foundation, United Way, FEMA, and donations from local businesses, groups and individuals, SOS has raised over \$275,000 which goes directly toward rent, utilities, basic need vouchers, emergency hotel stays, gift certificates to local restaurants and clothing. Over the past few months, through these funds, SOS has been able to assist more than 100 households that lost employment due to the pandemic and activity restrictions mandated by Governor Brown, with financial aid to cover multiple months of rent and utilities. SOS was also able to assist seven families displaced the Holiday Farms and Echo Mountain Fires with motel stays, food and clothing. In addition to all this, staff continue to respond to instances of domestic violence that have been on the rise since February.

Staff are greatly concerned for those who have lost their homes in the recent fires. Most homeowners will have insurance to assist them with rebuilding their lives. However, many low-income renters have nowhere to go. Several agencies, including SOS are assisting fire victims who have limited resources. The number of displaced individuals is so great that there are not facilities to keep them housed indefinitely. This, added to an already existing housing shortage has forced several Lane County agencies to work with partners to find creative alternatives. Executive Director, Bob Teter, has been on the phone in recent days with county officials to come up with some possible services. "I am optimistic something can be done, it will just take everyone working together. Unfortunately for those displaced individuals, it can't happen fast enough," Teter said.

To access COVID-19 Assistance Funds, individuals need to contact SOS staff by calling 541-997-2816 to set up an appointment or they may stop by our office on 12th Street between 10:00 am and 3:30 pm Monday through Friday. Applicants will be required to provide documentation that their loss of income occurred after March 1, 2020 and it was directly related to the current pandemic as well as supporting documents related to their specific need. Other eligibility requirements include household income after March 1, 2020 must be not greater than 50% of the Area Median Income and must work and or reside in western Lane County. Due to federal guidelines under CARES ACT, funds will not be accessed after December 4th if funds are still available. Teter noted, "Although the governor has put a moratorium on evictions until the end of September and Lane County Courts will not allow eviction hearing until November or December, this does not mean people can live rent free. They have until the end of the calendar year to pay back any arrears so long as they stay current beginning October 1, 2020. For many, their rent is already 80-90% of their regular take home pay. Those individuals cannot afford to pay above their normal rent rate. Also, landlords and utility companies have bills of their own to pay. It is important for the economy to keep bills paid up. We hope to help with that as best we can." If you would like to learn ways you can help, or inquire about services call the office at 541-997-2816.

Sue's Story

Sue and her six children had been homeless living with her abuser for many years. Every time she would get a job and secure housing, they would have to leave and move further away from her family and friends to hide his abuse. The Oregon State Police eventually got involved and recommended she and her children seek Domestic Violence and sheltering help at SOS. Sue and the children were provided with a multitude of services including Legal Aid to get current and past legal issues taken care of. During this time, she took classes on Domestic Violence and parenting provided by SOS, developed a safety plan for her and her children and set goals to succeed in a safe life without her abuser. She was very grateful to SOS and the community partners for the help and assisting her with her goals.

** These stories are about actual clients assisted at Siuslaw Outreach Services. Their names have been changed for confidentiality. If you have a family member or friend who is experiencing domestic abuse, you can contact us at 541-997-2816. or the 24 hr. Crisis Line at 541-997-4444. All services provided by SOS are compassionate, respectful and confidential.*





Jim Renteria, putting contest winner, receives \$100 from Bob Teter and Golf Committee Chair Justin Young

Chipping In For The Cause

While so many events were cancelled this summer due to the current pandemic, Siuslaw Outreach Services felt confident it could safely go forward with the 10th Annual Siuslaw Open Benefit Golf Tournament presented by **Oregon Pacific Bank, Florence Dental Clinic, Peace Health, Mehllum Family Foundation and Johnston Motors**. Forty-eight golfers and 18 volunteers braved the windy conditions to chip in for the cause on August 29th. Many format changes were made to promote health and safety. Most notably was the presence of masks, worn by all volunteers and many golfers. Each golfer received hand sanitizers in their gift bags. Hand sanitizers were also placed at five locations on the course. The check-in process was expedited with the elimination of mulligans and raffle ticket sales. Instead of a closing dinner, golfers received a "build your own" sub sandwich box. Hyak was on hand once again to provide grilled hot dogs on hole #7. The closing ceremony was also cancelled and winners were notified by text and email. Despite the changes, many reported having a wonderful time. Chrissy Davis said, "The energy was great!" Chuck Johnson said in jest, "Thanks for a great time and making me gain 3lbs with all the wonderful food." First place went to Sam Johnson, Nick Johnson, Rocky Johnson and Lane Johnson with a score of 56. There was a tie for second place between Ty Perry, Chuck Johnson, Jim Renteria, Dan Mathews of The Quacks and Ron Green, Mike Webb, John Raleigh and Rob Edstrom of Oregon Pacific Bank, both scoring 60. There was a fierce battle in the putting contest, five individuals had to face a 'putt-off' because they all sunk the 30' putt in the competition. It was Jim Renteria sinking it again in the putt-off winning \$100 and his name on the trophy. Dan Condy's name was drawn to attempt sinking a 60' putt to win \$10,000. Unfortunately, Condy's putt ended inches away from the cup. Nick Johnson and Chrissy Davis won the long drive, respectively. Stephanie Wright and Scott Mead were the KP winners on hole #11. This year's event raised a net of **\$8,605**. Tournament chair Justin Young said, "It was a huge success despite the many obstacles that COVID presented. The generosity of local businesses and individuals will help us help many families who are struggling."

Knowing those challenges, the golf committee of Justin Young, Stephanie Wright, Nick Johnson, Rick Yecny, Dr. Brian Holmes and SOS Executive Director Bob Teter along with SOS Board of Directors want to thank the following businesses and individuals for making the event so successful: **Oregon Pacific Bank, Florence Dental Clinic, Peace Health, Mehllum Family Foundation, Johnston Motors, Banner Bank, Coldwell Banker Coast Real Estate, 1285 Resto Bar, Hyak, Trent Enterprises Inc, Dutch Bros, Sign Stop, Siuslaw News, KCST Radio, Three Rivers Casino & Hotel, Copeland Lumber, Waterfront Depot, Lighthouse Electric, Siuslaw Glass & Mirror, Central Coast Disposal, Florence Rotary Club, Abby's Pizza, Don Chapin, Laurel Bay Gardens, State Farm Insurance-Sue Gilday, Yecny Family, Steve & Lori Gates, Laurie Green, the many volunteers and Florence Golf Links.**

TETER SPEAKS AT STATE GATHERING

SOS Executive Director Bob Teter was invited by the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence to speak to an annual gathering of executive directors of similar organizations around the state.

He was one of five featured speakers at the online round table. Normally this two-day training is held in person in Portland or Bend but due to COVID restrictions, the presentation was held via Zoom. Teter shared ways to support staff and to keep them mission-focused in the very emotionally draining work they do for victims of domestic and sexual abuse, unplanned homelessness, and other unexpected financial crises. Teter's presentation's title is "Managing Stress in The Workplace So It Does Not Manage You...A Critical Tool in Staff Development," couldn't be more timely with the state of things.

"I was asked to talk about the changes SOS had undergone this past year in restructuring the agency to adapt to new federal requirements which forced a restructuring of the agency right about the same time the pandemic hit," said Teter. "Currently we are the only organization in the country to offer both categories of service, but we must now provide separate staffs to avoid any violation of confidential client information from being shared between the two sides. It was a privilege to be asked to share with executive directors from around Oregon along with a variety of staff from Oregon Law Center, Oregon Department of Human Services, and Oregon Coalition Against Domestic Violence headquarters," Teter added. "Bob's expertise and his work here in Florence, and with advising similar organizations in the region, has truly elevated SOS's profile statewide. He is a trusted resource. We are truly blessed to have such an accomplished leader who our board, clients, and financial supporters can depend on," said SOS board president Bart Mealer.

Teter has been asked to repeat the class to support staff and three other agencies in eastern and southern Oregon. He is currently working with those directors to make it happen.

SUMMER DONATION DRIVE UPDATE

Earlier this summer, a letter from the Board of Directors explained the current economic situation for SOS as the result of effects of the coronavirus. SOS relies on private/government grant funds, fundraising events and individual contributions to fund services. Last spring the governor projected a 15-20% reduction in funding for agencies like SOS due to impacts to state revenue. In a recent meeting with state fund coordinators, executive directors were reminded that those proposed cuts are still on the table and very likely to occur. The letter sent this summer requested \$37,000 by the end of September to continue current level of services. To date \$20,300 from community members and \$6,000 in grant funds have been raised. The budget committee will be looking at which cuts will have the least amount of impact if the state's predictions happen.

Bob Teter, SOS Executive Director, receives over 30 Amazon Gift Cards from Trillium on June 11th for COVID-19 relief.



October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Did you know that each year in Oregon...

- Nearly 130,000 requested services from agencies
- Over 3500 seek shelter in order to flee abusers
- Nearly 20% of victims are male
- 20 to 60 individuals are murdered during acts of domestic violence
- Millions are spent on medical bills and legal fees due to domestic violence
- Businesses lose millions in revenue because employees stayed home to hide injuries

Board Elects New Officers



Justin Young



Chris Saltmarsh



Montee Kennedy



Jennifer French

This month, the Board of Directors held elections for officers. Director **Justin Young** was elected President. Justin has been on the board for two years and has served on several committees as well as chair of the annual golf tournament. Director **Chris Saltmarsh** was elected Vice-President. Chris has been on the SOS board for two years and has served on several committees as well as chair of the Technology Committee. Director **Montee Kennedy** was elected Treasurer replacing Lori Gates who is stepping down after three terms in that position. Montee has been a member of the board for two years and has been a member of the Budget and Oversight Committees. Director **Jennifer French** was elected to a second term as Secretary. Jennifer has been on the board for the past five years. We are so excited to reap the benefits of their leadership in the year to come.

To become a financial supporter of SOS, Donations can be made by Check, Direct Deposit or:



Retiring Board Members

It is with a tear in our eye we say goodbye to our Directors **Diane Bailiff** and **David Dumas** as they retire from the Siuslaw Outreach Services Board of Directors.

Diane Bailiff has been involved with SOS for over 14 years. For the past 10 years she has served as a member of the board of directors. Diane was instrumental in updating the Bylaws and has served on the Donor Development, Personnel/Oversight and the Strategic Planning committees as well as serving as the Board President from 2012-2013. Diane has added so much to the board over the years which trickles down to our beloved community. A retired university administrator, she stays busy volunteering in social and ocean issues. Although she is stepping down from the board, she will continue to volunteer in other capacities.



Diane Bailiff



David Dumas

David Dumas has been an SOS Board member since 2010. David is a retired Firefighter, Dunes City Committee member and a volunteer at the Siuslaw History Museum. He has served on the Donor Development Committee, was the Chair of the SOS Facilities Committee and helped design the new Siuslaw Outreach Services logo with Stu Henderson in 2012. We will miss you David, enjoy your retirement!

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Please welcome **Michaela Olivieri** who has joined our team to offer Crisis Assistance. She will be working with Tim Weese, our Housing & Utility Assistance Manager to write emergency vouchers, help with rent, utilities and LIHEAP. Michaela comes to us from the Reedsport Hospital. Executive Director, Bob Teter says, "We are so excited to have Michaela join the team. She has demonstrated a passion for helping those in need."



Michaela Olivieri

~ LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY ~

Are you age 70 or older and considering estate planning? If so, please consider a legacy bequest to Siuslaw Outreach Services. Your gift will help ensure Siuslaw Outreach Services will continue to be here for people in need, for many years to come. Those who contribute to our Legacy Campaign will receive special tax benefits, have their gift forever recognized and remembered, as well as gain the knowledge that they have made a long-lasting impact on the health and livability of our community.

Please contact SOS Executive Director:

Bob Teter at 541-997-2816

or a member of our Board of Directors for more information.

SIUSLAW OUTREACH SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Justin Young
PresidentChris Saltmarsh
Vice President

Montee Kennedy



Jennifer French



Bob Teter



Lori Gates



Judy Schwartz



Bart Mealer



Denise Tarvin



Jane Vecny

NOTICE of NONDISCRIMINATION RIGHTS and PROTECTIONS to BENEFICIARIES

Siuslaw Outreach Services, Inc. operates its program, services and activities in compliance with federal nondiscrimination laws. No person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), disability, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any of our programs.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write Office of Civil Rights, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice (OCR), 810 7th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20531 or call 202-307-0690 (Voice) or 202-307-2027 (TDD/TTY). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may also contact OCR through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339 (TTY), 877-877-8982 (Speech) or 800-845-6136 (Spanish).

2019 Statistics

Clients Served with Emergency Vouchers, Clothing and/or Rent Assistance (unduplicated).....			2,720
Males.....	1,397	Females.....	1,594
Children under 17.....	753	Seniors (62 and older).....	380
Homeless Individuals.....	763	Veterans.....	164
Other Genders.....			11
Disabled.....			728
Households Receiving Housing Assistance.....			64
Clients Receiving Domestic Violence Advocacy Services	325	Sheltered Nights For DV/SA Survivors.....	730
Clients Receiving Sexual Assault Advocacy Services.....	19	DV/SA Survivors Participating In Support Group	71
Victims Receiving Stalking Advocacy Services.....	15	DV/SA Survivors Receiving Legal Aid	78
Clients Receiving Energy Assistance (LIHEAP).....	564	After Hours Calls to Crisis Line.....	165
Response To After Hours Calls From Police/Hospital.....	55	Participants in Self-Sufficiency Classes & Workshops....	145
Total Number Of Trained Volunteers.....	36	Participants in Parenting Education Classes.....	49
Total Number Of Volunteer Hours.....	10,924	Total Walk-In Visits.....	7,751



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. 206 or stop by to see Lori at SOS.



SIUSLAW OUTREACH SERVICES
P.O. BOX 19000
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