

The Outreach

Spring 2020

A Newsletter from Siuslaw Outreach Services

Volume 9, Issue 5



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 Walk-In Hours:

Mon - Thurs. 10:00 - 3:30
Fridays by appointment

DATES TO REMEMBER

**SOS will be closed:
July 3, 2020**

**Save the Date: 10th Annual
Siuslaw Open Golf
Tournament August 29th**



SOS Responds To Pandemic

Siuslaw Outreach Services have been responding to community needs since 1986. Over the past few years, SOS has provided direct aid to a third of the community. In the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic, SOS has once again stepped up. While many human services agencies closed their doors and sent workers home in March, SOS remained vigilant in continuing to provide assistance. SOS provided motel vouchers for the most vulnerable and the unhoused population, and provided rent assistance so those who lost income did not get behind on payments.

Executive Director, Bob Teter knew the requests for assistance with rent and utilities would be greater than ever. Teter went right to work raising funds and coordinating with partners throughout the county. Ford Family foundation with the assistance of Siuslaw Vision provided \$10K in seed money. Grants were also provided by Lane County, Oregon Department of Justice, Allstate Foundation, United Way, FEMA. Along with donations from local businesses, groups and individuals, SOS has raised over \$120,000 to help toward rent and utilities. An additional \$10,000 has been raised toward special needs related to health and safety.

To access this COVID-19 Assistance Fund, individuals need to contact SOS staff by calling 541-997-2816 to set up an appointment. Applicants may also stop by the 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. They also must work and or reside in western Lane County and bills have to be in a past due status.

Teter noted, "Although the governor has put a moratorium on evictions until the end of June and Lane County courts will not allow eviction hearings until late July, 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 July 1, 2020. For many, their rent is 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."

Siuslaw Outreach Services has other funds to assist those in need. In addition to rent and utility assistance, SOS provides advocacy for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and stalking, 24/7 crisis line, peer support group meetings, self-sufficiency classes, and basic need vouchers. In 2019, SOS provided direct assistance to 3,002 individuals. That number includes 325 victims of domestic violence, and 19 were victims of sexual assault.

In the past 3 months, SOS has received a significant increase of requests for advocacy services, which is nearly triple for this same time last year. The stress the pandemic has placed on households has resulted in instances of domestic violence for some. Although statistics show women are predominately victimized by abusive acts, domestic violence does not discriminate. In 2019, of the 325 victims served, 57 were males. Domestic violence has everything to do with "control." For many, the pandemic has created a sense of doubt and uncertainty, a feeling the world is out of control. In some cases, individuals have committed acts of domestic violence in an attempt to gain control. Thankfully, SOS has the resources to provide advocacy and connections to other resources to help those abused reach a point of safety.



Gloria's Story

A family member invited Gloria, a teenage girl, to a party. She was so excited to go with an older relative and did not think of her own safety. The family member introduced her to marijuana. "Not a big deal", she thought, "it's just pot". Things started getting foggy. A date rape drug had been put into her soda. She was sexually assaulted by an adult male at the party. It was a 'friend' of her relatives'.

Gloria was scared, and knew about the 'morning after' pill. She did not know how to get it and did not want her parents to know. She came to Siuslaw Outreach Services and wanted to get a medical exam (to make sure she was not pregnant) and did not want to report it to the police. Gloria was taken to the ER, a SANE exam was done, she was given medication and a list of her rights as a minor.

The advocate helped support her through the process. SOS was there to provide emotional support as well as financial support. She decided to confide in her parents and together they were able to get medical and mental health resources for Gloria.

** 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.*

DONATIONS WELCOME AS SPACE ALLOWS

ITEMS NEEDED:

- ◆ Blankets, Bedding & Linens
- ◆ Socks, Coats, Clothing & Shoes
- ◆ Men's Jeans, Boots & Undergarments
 - ◆ Basic Household Needs
 - ◆ Camping Gear
 - ◆ Single Use Shampoo
 - ◆ Dental Supplies
- ◆ Individually Wrapped Snacks

Cash Donations are Especially welcome!

Due to COVID-19 Guidelines:

Storage space is limited, Thank you for your patience.

**Questions? Stop by or call Lori at
541-997-2816, Ext. 206**

**WE CANNOT ACCEPT
ELECTRIC ITEMS OR BABY EQUIPMENT**

Florence Proclaims 'No More' to End Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking



Photo and excerpts of the story by Mark Brennan

Bob Teter, SOS Executive Director; Shari Ostdiek, Community Activist and Joe Henry, Mayor of Florence, Oregon

March 8-14 was officially recognized as 'No More Domestic Violence' week by way of a Proclamation made by Joe Henry, the Mayor of Florence, Oregon on March 2nd during its council meeting. 'No More' week is an effort to inspire community members to do their part to end abuse of all forms. Shari Ostdiek approached Siuslaw Outreach Services in January and expressed a desire to make a difference in her community. Teter said "She asked me how she could make a difference by promoting awareness through the No More Campaign. We brainstormed a few ideas, one of which was to contact Mayor Joe Henry to issue a proclamation." No more week has been recognized nationally for the past seven years. The facts are, men, women and children experience abuse. Bob Teter said "This is a challenge to community members to take a stand and say 'No More'. It is not just the responsibility of nonprofits, churches or government agencies to deal with, we all must deal with it." Thanks to Shari Ostdiek, Florence has a week to remind us all to stand up for the 'No More' efforts and know that if you have experienced it yourself, you are not alone.

***If you or someone you know has experienced abuse, please call Siuslaw Outreach Services if you need help or support at 541-997-4444. We are here for you.*

Shop online? Use the **smile.amazon.com** site for the same prices, same items and AmazonSmile Foundation will donate funds to Siuslaw Outreach Services each quarter. Also, keep in mind, when you shop at **Fred Meyer**, you may use your rewards card to designate a donation to SOS too! All donations are greatly appreciated by those in need. Thank you!

Fred Meyer

amazon smile
Org Central

WE GOT SHOES!!



Nick McIntire from Homegrown Public House Brewery and SOS Housing Assistance manager Tim Weese with a few of the 70 pair of shoes donated after a shoe collection event at **Homegrown Public House Brewery!** Thank you for the much needed shoe donation!

Tribal Community Grant Received

Representatives from the Coquille Indian Tribe presented Siuslaw Outreach Services a check for \$5,000 on March 6th at the Mill Creek Casino located in Coos Bay. The grant is for SOS to use for emergency vouchers and homelessness relief.



Brenda Meade, Coquille Indian Tribal Council Chairperson; Bob Teter, Siuslaw Outreach Services Executive Director and Melissa Cribbins, Coos County Commissioner pose after the presentation.

Rhody Court Donates to SOS

The Prince and Princesses of the 2020 Rhody Court made a gift of the funds they received from public

donations to be used during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Florence Chamber of Commerce contacted the SOS office and let us know of the donation. "This is so special for these children to give this money collected locally", said Bob Teter, Executive Director of SOS, "We appreciate their gift to those in need and feel they have really shown us what it is about to give back to our community".



Photo by Chantelle Meyer

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



Note from Our President



Bart Mealer

As our Siuslaw community faces this new normal, I want to assure you that SOS is working and ready to help those in need. If you or someone you know is struggling during this crisis, please contact SOS for help.

I would like to thank our staff for the hard work they perform daily, and thank our many donors who stepped up to help SOS provide for those in need.

We will get through this and be stronger for it. As we slowly resume our lives, please be tolerant of the different ways individuals cope during these challenging times and avoid being judgmental.

Bart Mealer
President,
Siuslaw Outreach Services Board of Directors

Attention Golfers...

We Are Still Going To Play!



This has certainly been a crazy year. We hope you and your loved ones are safe.

The Siuslaw Open Committee has decided to go forward with the 10th annual tournament presented by Oregon Pacific Bank, Florence Dental Clinic, Peace Health and Banner Bank. Your safety and well-being is very important to us. Therefore, we have made some changes to the format to allow for "distancing" and adherence to new cart regulations.

One of the changes that have been made is golfers will have the option of playing in a morning tournament or for a reduced rate play in the afternoon. We have also made changes to how meals will be provided to ensure your health and safety.

This year is the 10th annual event to benefit Siuslaw Outreach Services. To celebrate, Johnston Motors is sponsoring two events, a hole-in-one challenge to win a 2020 F-150 and a chance to putt to win \$10,000!

For more information on how to play or support this event, contact Bob at 541-997-2816.

~ 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

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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
			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
Victims Receiving Stalking Advocacy Services.....		15	DV/SA Survivors Receiving Legal Aid
Clients Receiving Energy Assistance (LIHEAP).....		564	After Hours Calls to Crisis Line.....
Response To After Hours Calls From Police/Hospital.....		55	Participants in Self-Sufficiency Classes & Workshops.....
Total Number Of Trained Volunteers.....		36	Participants in Parenting Education Classes.....
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
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