Celebrating 30 Years Of Service

The history of the first years of Siuslaw Outreach Services is still not complete. We are hoping that the news of this important milestone will bring some added pieces to the puzzle from those who helped get it started. We think the history of our organization is important, and we are very appreciative of the efforts of all who have helped starting way back in 1986.

We do know that Cordann W. Anderson signed the original Articles of Incorporation on the 15th of September, 1986. Back then the name was the Siuslaw Area Women’s Center and the primary mission was to provide advocacy to victims of domestic violence. Over the years many other kinds of services were added and the name was eventually changed to reflect this expansion. Many community-minded volunteers helped in a variety of ways, including serving on the board of directors. Following are some of the key events, using the best information we have been able to find.

1986 Articles of Incorporation filed.
Women’s Empowerment Group started with a grant from the West Lane Community Foundation
1987 Board of Directors is formed
1988 Emergency shelter services provided
1989 After-hours pager acquired
(continues on page 6)

Community members march against Domestic Violence

Linda's Story

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

A woman with several children from eastern Oregon came to our shelter from another shelter. She had been in a long term relationship that has been very abusive for many years. The family has moved many times in the past but has always been found by the abuser. Our family reports that this time is very different than in the past. The family reports the staff is very supportive and knows what it means to help someone restart with a new life. All children were placed in school within days, a new home was found in a matter of weeks, DHS was able to provide medical cards, food stamps and a domestic violence grant. With the kindness of so many within the community all household needs were given. SOS and community partners provided clothing, beds and legal aid was also gained to assist in keeping this family safe in the future. The mother told us, "This time around all of our needs have been met so we do not feel as if we have to go back to survive. Thank you to our new community for all the kindness, support, you have made a difference in our lives.”
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.

Looking for that special someone

SOS is looking for someone who wants to make a difference in their community and in the lives of those in need. Volunteering at SOS requires compassion, patience, and a desire to help others. If this sounds like you, well then, we need you.

Siuslaw Outreach Services recently gathered their volunteers for training and information. This faithful group of volunteers donates their time by answering the crisis line, greeting clients at the front desk, and organizing donated clothing and household items.

Volunteers describe their experiences working at SOS as rewarding and often life changing. Consider offering your time! SOS is currently recruiting volunteers for several positions. All training is provided and interested community members can find out more information by calling Siuslaw Outreach Services volunteer coordinator at 541-997-2816. Or drop an email to lori@florencesos.org.

FCA Gives to help homeless

The Fellowship Of Christian Athletes chapter at Siuslaw High School recently held a drive to obtain winter clothing and cash dedicated to helping the homeless in our area. The drive brought several blankets, coats, socks and stocking caps. The student athletes also raise $50 cash through donations from other students at Siuslaw High School. FCA is a student lead club at SHS with 15 students participating.

SOS Dances With Sea Lions

At the 2016 Board Retreat, it was decided that we would sponsor one of the 20 sea lions which benefit the Friends of the Events Center. SOS has been the recipient of donations on our behalf so many times over the years, and this was an opportunity to say “thank you” to the community which has been so supportive to our organization. It was also a way of celebrating our 30th anniversary. Many SOS board members attended the “Dancing With Sea Lions” event held at the FEC on April 8th, and were able to meet the artist. The artwork depicts a variety of scenes with children, one of the reasons this artist was selected. Our sea lion is located at the east end of the boardwalk.

Admin Assistant Leah James accepting the donation from the students.

Artist Kassy Keppol poses with her creation sponsored by SOS.
Introducing Katherine Larsell, our part-time Shelter Support Advocate. Katherine has extensive experience working with families and children, and provides support to families in one of our shelter services. Katherine will be an integral part to helping families and more specifically cope and recover from the effects of domestic violence.

We are so pleased to have her as a part of the SOS team.

David Dumas, a member of Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, presented Siuslaw Outreach Services Executive Director David Wiegan with checks totaling $2,730. This represents donations for January through March of 2016. FUUF picks a different nonprofit organization to support each quarter.

“We are once again very thankful for this extremely generous donation,” said David Wiegan. “FUUF has been supportive of SOS and its programs for many years. We know it also supports a number of other very worthwhile causes in our community.”

Recently, Housing Assistance Manager Bob Teter, spoke to Mr. O’Mara’s Economics Class about the “ins and outs” of renting. The lesson focused on how to prepare for renting, looking for rentals, utility costs, understanding leases, maintain good relations with landlords and more. The class also covered dealing with roommates and issues that may arise when subletting. Mr. Teter also covered saving money for contingencies such as loss of income due to lay off, illness or injury. The class began with an open ended question, “How much money do you need to rent?” Some students guessed but a majority had no idea. When told what the costs could add up to when you calculate first, last, deposit and utility deposits their eyes got big and mouths dropped open. After the class, students were left with a much better understanding of their financial responsibilities and needs. After the class, one student asked, “Mr. O’mara, Do you have this guy come every year?” The teacher, “No, this is the first time.” She responded, “You should, I had no clue it takes all that.”
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 assisting 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:

- PayPal
- VISA
- MasterCard
- United Way

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
Please join us for the 6th Annual Siuslaw Open to benefit low income individuals and families in crisis. Each year the tournament raises funds needed to support programs like victim assistance, homelessness, at risk of homelessness and self sufficiency education. The tournament will be held this year at Ocean Dunes Golf Links. Each year the tournament tries to “up the ante.” This year is no exception. This year, players have the opportunity to win an 2016 F-150 truck from Johnston Motors. There is also an opportunity to put for $5,000. Other prizes include, dinner packages, golfing packages, wine and gift certificates. For more info you can contact David or Bob at 541-997-2816.

Registration Form
mail to:
Siuslaw Outreach Services
PO Box 19000
Florence, OR 97439

Team Name: __________________________
Player #1:____________________________
Mailing Address:_______________________
____________________________________
Email:_______________________________
GHIN#:________ Last 3 scores ____ ____
Player #2:___________________________
Mailing Address:_______________________
____________________________________
Email:_______________________________
GHIN#:_______ Last 3 scores ____ ____
Player #3:_____________________________
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Entry fee: $89 per Player OR $320 per Team

**Early Bird Discount if Received by August 26th:
$79 per Player OR $290 per Team

Please Make Checks Payable to:
Siuslaw Outreach Services
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Registration and Payments must be received no later than September 6th, 2016.
A SINCERE THANK YOU

We appreciate our much! Your support for SOS to serve individuals through The donors listed are between July 2015

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those who gave
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Once again, on behalf of the clients, staff and volunteers of SOS...

Thank You!

Celebrating 30 Years Of Service cont'

1990 First executive director, Ellen Micklewright, hired. City of Florence donates lot for shelter home.

1991 First domestic violence awareness campaign. Office moves to 7th street.


1993 FEMA funding started.

1994 Peer counseling begins. President of the board, Shawn Murray, signed the mortgage note for the 12th street building.

1995 Focus Four crisis line moves to SOS. Voucher and Emergency Housing Assistance programs start.


1997 Volunteer coordinator hired.

1998 Mapleton outreach services begins.

1999 VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) funding begins

2000 Free clothing and household items starts. Legal Aid services start one day per week.

2003 Annual fundraiser started at Elks Club, chaired by Rick Dancer

2005 Sexual assault awareness and self-defense education event held.

2009 Betty Egerton hired as executive director. Shelter accessibility funded by grant.

2011 First annual Siuslaw Open golf tournament.

2012 David Wiegan hired as executive director. Shelter remodel funded by grant. Diane Bailiff elected President of the board. Endowment fund established.

2013 Adopted goal of remodel for 12th street offices. “Buy A Brick” campaign, Soiree fundraiser start. Jane Yecny elected President of the board.

2014 Received Non-Profit Achievement Award from Chamber of Commerce. Fundraising for building remodel project secured.

2015 Mortgage paid off. Sharon Stiles elected President of the board. Building remodel completed.

2016 Celebrating 30 years of service.

Fourth annual Soiree, sixth annual Siuslaw Open golf tournament.

**Be looking in our next issue for a personal account of the beginnings of SOS from founding member, Barbara Boye

Former Exec. Dir. Nancy Sobottka shares the history of SOS at the 2014 Soiree