



The Outreach



Summer 2019

A Newsletter from Siuslaw Outreach Services

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Siuslaw Outreach Services Mission Statement

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

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~ DATES TO REMEMBER ~

SOS will be closed:

- ◆ Independence Day, Thursday, July 4, 2019
- ◆ Labor Day, Monday, September 2, 2019

SOS Events

- ◆ SOS Annual Golf Tournament, Saturday, September 7, 2019



There Is No Place Like Home

Two years ago, SOS was approached by an anonymous community member who expressed concern about homeless youth in our community. She was moved by an article in the Siuslaw News regarding the number of homeless students in the school district and the struggles they face maintaining their academic requirements. As a former educator, she knew all too well the developmental impact of trauma in a child's life. She realized that homelessness can be a form of trauma.

Many traumas include experiences such as when a child does not know where they will lay their head down at night, are in constant fear of being removed from their family, not knowing where the next meal will come from, no appropriate place to complete homework, or not able to participate in extracurricular activities. They can develop social problems, suffer from extreme anxiety and depression, develop medical issues, and in some cases, can lead to deviant behavior.

Knowing that Siuslaw Outreach Services provided services for the homeless, she decided to reach out to SOS Executive Director Bob Teter, to come up with some way of addressing this need in the community. What came from that conversation was the establishment of the “Over The Rainbow Fund.” The name was chosen because, as Dorothy states in the movie, *The Wizard of Oz*, and after having been *over the rainbow*,

Margaret is a disabled senior individual who has been living in fear from members of her own family. One of her children and an adult grandson moved in after losing their home due to some bad choices. Margaret was glad to help; after all, “they are family.”

Once in her home, they began a pattern of abuse. Margaret's child and grandson did not look for any work to support the home they were now living in, expecting her to pay for everything. They demanded she wait on them. Soon after, the grandson moved his girlfriend into the home without her permission.

It was not long before the grandson and his mother began stealing from Margaret. A few weeks later, they began selling drugs from the house and hosting parties. Margaret would often wake to strangers in her home. When she gained the courage to demand anyone leave her home, she was threatened with physical harm. A close relative discovered she was a victim of abuse and decided to act.

Knowing that the family members who were staying in Margaret's home were dangerous, the relative quietly re-

“There is no place like home.”

The purpose of the fund was to help any school age youth and their family who were experiencing homelessness or are at immediate risk of homelessness. These funds can be used toward rent or move-in expenses for the family. For the child, funds can be put toward medical or dental needs, clothing, tutors, activity fees, music and art lessons, and whatever the child needs to give them some sort of normalcy. Last year this fund helped four families go from homelessness to living in stable housing and placed six families in emergency shelter. In addition, the fund helped twelve children get needed items including medication, weather appropriate clothing and shoes.

In 2017, the OTR letter campaign raised \$21,000. This year, the goal was to raise an additional \$20,000. Community Activist, Linda Lauck was so moved by the letter, she spoke with SOS staff and was compelled to offer a dollar for dollar match of monies raised during the month of June up to \$20,000. At the end of the month, Linda was so pleased with the funds raised to that point, and realizing the needs of children, she gave the full \$20,000. The matching funds brings the total in excess of **\$35,000!** SOS and Linda are so grateful to those who responded with such generosity to support children in our community.

Margaret's Story

moved her and brought her to Siuslaw Outreach Services. SOS staff worked quickly with Margaret to provide her a safe place and develop a safety plan. Additionally, SOS worked with the courts to issue restraining orders then contacted the Lane County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriffs assisted her, removing the abusers from her home so she could return safely.

Siuslaw Outreach Services provided access to Oregon Law Center-Lane County Legal Aid, who helped her deal with the legal aftermath of all the parties, selling of drugs and identity theft issues caused by the abusers.

Unfortunately, Margaret's story is not an isolated one. Every day, adult protective services and law enforcement agencies receive reports of elder abuse. Thankfully, through the generosity of community members, SOS continues to be there for those experiencing abuse.

* 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, M-F, 9 a.m.—4 p.m. If you have need at other days or times, you may contact someone on the 24 hr. Hotline at 541-997-4444. All DV Services are safe and private.

Siuslaw Outreach Services Provides Students With Valuable Life Lessons

This spring, Siuslaw Outreach Services provided valuable life lessons to students enrolled at Siuslaw High School and Middle School. In April, Executive Director, Bob Teter, addressed students in Mr. O'Mara's Senior Economics Class on tenant rights and responsibilities.



Bob Teter shares information in a Tenants Rights Class with SHS Students

Teter talked with the high school seniors about budgeting, needs versus wants, and planning for the unexpected. He addressed the difference between month-to-month contracts and lease agreements. He also discussed with students how to communicate with roommates,

property owners and utility companies to resolve issues that may arise due to changes in income as a result of an unforeseen life event.

In May, Teter spoke to seventh and eighth grade students at Siuslaw Middle School about the pitfalls associated with social media, and more specifically the dangers and legal ramifications of "sexting." Sexting is defined as the sending or receiving of a sexually explicit text or image via a mobile device. A misconception about sexting is that images have to be of nude individuals. Sexting can include *implied* nudity or *implied* sexual acts. Students are using social media sites more than ever before, and sexting is becoming more and more prevalent in our society. Teachthought.com reported that in a nationwide poll, 48% of adults and 25% of teens have sent sexually explicit texts or photos to a partner.

In the state of Oregon, any student engaged in sexting falls under child pornography laws. The punishment of such acts can be severe and financially devastating. Teter shared with students that fines that can be leveled upon parents and that students could end up in the juvenile justice system, having to register as a sex offender. Fines can be as high as \$250,000 and a prison sentence of up to ten years.

Teter polled the youth attending the presentation which revealed some disturbing numbers. Ninety percent of those students had some type of media account before

the sixth grade. Nearly half those students signed up for their accounts without their parents' permission. Seventy percent of those students were provided with a mobile device capable of connecting to the internet as early as age nine.

Over seventy percent of those students received their device without rules, instruction or guidance of any kind. Nearly 100% of students reported viewing some sort of image that was sexual in nature on a weekly basis. Nationwide studies have shown that a large number of children have engaged in sexting as early as 9 years of age. Teter told the students that he recognizes the pressures they face and how they are continually bombarded by unhealthy sexual images through movies, music, clothing ads and other forms of media. Every student at the assembly reported being bullied via some kind of electronic device or through some sort of social media account. Teter later commented, "It amazes me that many parents have provided their child with this powerful device, that can both do a lot of good but also has the ability to ruin someone's life forever with no guidance as to how to use it responsibly. A Harvard study has shown that as the number of social media outlets have increased, so has the rate of teen suicide. Its not that these sites themselves are bad, it is that students are not given guidance regarding how to communicate in a healthy and productive way, including how to handle conflict or misunderstandings. When as parents are we going to wake up?"



SMS Students listen carefully as they learn about Cyber Safety and Respect

Teter concluded the presentation with students by giving them "dog tags" provided by Community 101, that read, "Give respect...Get Respect." He then challenged the students to put that into action. By putting the needs of others first, we can solve many of life's social issues.

~ 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. Such a gift will help ensure Siuslaw Outreach Services will continue to be here for those 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 gaining 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.

✿ DONATIONS WELCOME ✿

ITEMS NEEDED:

- ◆ Blankets, Bedding & Linens
- ◆ Socks, Coats, Clothing & Shoes
- ◆ Men's Jeans, Boots & Undergarments
 - ◆ Basic Household Needs
 - ◆ Camping Gear
- ◆ Individually Wrapped Snack Items
 - ◆ Become a Volunteer

Cash Donations are especially welcome!

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

*** WE CANNOT ACCEPT BABY EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRICAL ITEMS ***

Lori Oltman Receives P.A.S.S.I.O.N. Award

This award is presented to the outstanding advocate of the year for the entire state of Oregon. SOS Advocate and Volunteer Coordinator, Lori Oltman, is the recipient of the coveted P.A.S.S.I.O.N. Award for 2019. Passion not only describes her work ethic but each letter represents the values of those in the field of DV/SA advocacy.

P- perseverance, A- advocacy, S- sensitivity, S- strength, I- integrity, O- optimism, N- nurturance. Ms. Oltman demonstrates all these things in her work.



Ms. Lori Oltman

Lori was presented the award at the annual Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (OCADSV) Conference in Sunriver, this past spring. She said she was very surprised when Coalition Executive Director, Vanessa Timmons read her name and asked her to join her on the stage. The moment was extra special for Oltman because

her daughter and granddaughter, Lily, were also attending the event.

As she made her way to the stage, OCADSV Executive Director, Vanessa Timmons, read a portion of her nomination that was submitted by SOS Executive Director Bob Teter. Teter noted Lori's dedicated service and efforts to stay current on subjects that are important to her clients. Oltman said she was both shocked and deeply honored to be recognized for her efforts to care for her clients and support her team of dedicated staff and volunteers at Siuslaw Outreach Services. When news of her prestigious award was shared with staff and volunteers at SOS, several expressed it was, "well deserved," and they were, "not at all surprised." Lori's dedication to her work in the Florence community is well known within the walls of Siuslaw Outreach Services.



SOS and Adult Protective Services Educate Seniors

In March, Oregon Pacific Bank sponsored an event at the Florence Senior Center designed to educate seniors about financial and elder abuse, as well as how to avoid scams and pitfalls that impact so many. Last year, APS investigated 2,650 cases of abuse or neglect in Lane County. SOS responds to many calls each year where a senior has been abused by a family member, contacted by a scam artist or, has taken in someone who was homeless and who has now become their abuser. Last year, SOS provided services to 595 seniors.

Geoff Clark of APS said to those in attendance, "Remember this rule of thumb... 'If its too good to be true, it often is'," this could also include offers from members of your own family. SOS Executive Director, Bob Teter advised attendees, "If you are not sure about something, before making a decision, seek out the advice of those you know and trust or you can contact an agency like Adult Protective Services, Siuslaw Outreach Services, Department of Human Services, or Senior Connections."

9th Annual Siuslaw Open

Saturday, September 7, 2019
at Florence Golf Links
 To benefit Siuslaw Outreach Services
Presented by:

Florence Dental Clinic
Edward Jones INVESTMENTS
 Oregon Pacific Bank
 PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center

Event includes:
Putting Contest for a chance at \$5,000
HOLE IN ONE CONTEST FOR A 2019 FORD F-150 FROM JOHNSTON MOTORS
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 541-997-2816

Hosted by:
Florence GOLF LINKS

CLASSES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

- ⇒ Budgeting Square Pegs Into Round Holes
- ⇒ Financial Management/Banking Basics
- ⇒ Managing Stress So It Doesn't Manage You
- ⇒ Meal Planning
- ⇒ Employment Tips & Tricks
- ⇒ Tenant Tips & Information
- ⇒ DHS Approved Parenting Course
- ⇒ Women's Empowerment
- ⇒ ABC's of a Winning Resume
- ⇒ Job Search Strategies
- ⇒ Overcoming Criminal Background

For more information about attending these classes, please visit us at 1576 W 12th Street or call us at 541-997-2816

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



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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).

2018 Statistics

Clients Served with Emergency Vouchers, clothing and/or Rent Assistance (unduplicated).....	2755
Males.....	1213
Females.....	1788
Children under 17.....	568
Seniors (62 and older).....	595
Disabled.....	489
Homeless Individuals.....	716
Veterans.....	99
Households Receiving Housing Assistance....	84
Clients Receiving Domestic Violence Advocacy Services	336
Clients Receiving Sexual Assault Advocacy Services.....	18
Clients Receiving Energy Assistance (L.I.H.E.A.P.).....	495
Response To After Hours Calls From Police/Hospital.....	32
Total Number Of Trained Volunteers.....	37
Total Number Of Volunteer Hours.....	11,118
Sheltered Nights For DV/SA Survivors.....	1123
DV/SA Survivors Participating In Support Group	122
DV/SA Survivors Receiving Legal Aid	19
After Hours Calls to Crisis Line.....	108
Participants in Self-Sufficiency Classes & Workshops....	79
Total Walk-In Visits.....	7738
ESTIMATED TOTAL NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED (unduplicated)....3001	



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