

THE OUTREACH

WINTER

A Newsletter from Siuslaw Outreach Services

2022

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From Hopeless to Hopeful

David had a great job and career in another state. After making one bad choice followed by some health issues, he found himself homeless. After working hard to get his life back on track he found someone willing to give him a second chance by providing an employment opportunity. All he needed was a commercial driver's license. Without income and means to obtain necessary documents, his feeling of hopelessness returned.

David was told by a homeless member in the community about SOS. He took a chance and reached out to an advocate. There he told an advocate that he had "given up" and was planning on suicide. That advocate encouraged David to try her plan and utilize resources SOS had before he went through with his. With her help, he was finally able to get a new copy of his Oregon CDL.

With David's hard work and trust in the advocate's plan, he secured that job. Today, David has joined a church and is committed to helping other people stuck in situations like his. David said, "My chief goal is to pay it forward."

Closed - February 21

Open Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 10:00 - 3:30

Friday by appointment only

Community Spreads Holiday Cheer Through SOS

There was no shortage of holiday spirit this year as multiple community organizations came together to show their generosity to SOS and its clients. **Ada Grange, Windermere Real Estate, Crossroads Assembly of God, Goodwill Industries** and the **Florence Toys for Tots** annual drives gave a boost to those in need.

In November, **The United States Marine Corp Reserve** called for toy donations for their annual **Toys for Tots** campaign in Florence. Each year new, unopened toys are distributed to local families in need with children up to age 14. On December 4th parents could pick up toys at the **Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue** main station. Toys for Tots is a nationwide event that began after World War II and this was the fifth year Florence hosted a toy distribution. Marines asked families to pre-register and social distance, keeping everyone safe while meeting the needs of children in the community for the holidays. A portion of the toys collected were provided to



Bob Teter & Pete Warren with Toys for Tots in Florence



Krissy Troutman of Goodwill Industries and Bob Teter

SOS clients. During the first half of December, employees and customers of **Goodwill Industries** in Florence held a 'round-up' drive. Employees encouraged customers to

round-up their purchase to support programs at SOS. Customers raised \$250 and employees and management collectively matched to raise \$500 for SOS.

Crossroads Assembly of God held a clothing and blanket drive immediately after the Thanksgiving weekend to supplement the SOS clothing room. They asked the agency what was most in need, but came back with so much more. Tarps, blankets, winter coats and socks were just a portion of all they compiled.



Bob Teter & Cindy Quinn with the Crossroads Assembly of God donations



Bob Teter & Laura Wilson of Windermere Real Estate

Laura Wilson of Windermere Real Estate once again donated a load of cold weather gear donations, filling an entire SOS office. Each year Wilson organizes a clothing drive with her clients in Florence's **Idylwood Neighborhood**. Her red donation bags are delivered empty to each house in the neighborhood and when she collects them they are overflowing with coats, socks, and blankets.

Ada Grange collected and donated over 300 lbs. of food this holiday season for two families in

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**SIUSLAW
OUTREACH
SERVICES**

OUR MISSION: "To provide compassionate, respectful and confidential support to people in need."

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 19000 Florence, OR 97439

Physical Address: 1576 West 12th Street Florence, OR 97439

Phone: (541) 997- 2816 Fax: (541) 997- 7257 Crisis Line: (541) 997- 4444

E-mail: exec@florencesos.org Website: www.florencesos.org

Holiday Cheer...continued from page 1



Loni Schofield and her daughter Megan from Ada Grange # 570 in Florence

need. Their annual effort provides food and \$25 Fred Meyer gift cards to families experiencing crisis during the holidays. SOS identifies two eligible clients and delivers the donations. In addition to feeding two families, Ada Grange donated socks, dog food, toiletries and a number of individually packaged snacks to the agency to share with other clients.

In addition to all this wonderful support, many Florence area residents responded to the call made by Board member, Chris Saltmarsh and

Executive Director, Bob Teter, to support on-going operations at SOS during the holidays. The goal was to raise \$25,000 during the month of December to ensure the doors are open and staff are there for clients. The community more than stepped up by raising \$63,881.68. "It is truly inspiring and a blessing to have so much support when times are tough for all," said Teter.

Thank you to these organizations and our donors for supporting members of the community in need this holiday season.

LIHEAP UPDATE:

It's still Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) season and the agency's Crisis Assistance Unit is working hard to process all of the applications turned in for assistance this year. Numerous members of the community will be able to utilize this financial assistance towards their utility bill this winter.

Temperatures will be dropping to unprecedented, freezing levels this season. Thanks to LIHEAP, many of our community members will be able to keep their homes warm through ice and snow.

If there are still funds remaining after all submitted applications have been processed at the end of January, then the agency will be able to open LIHEAP sign-ups again in February.

SOS VOLUNTEERS ENJOYED A 'NIGHT AMONG THE STARS'

This month SOS celebrated our team of volunteers at our annual volunteer appreciation dinner at Driftwood Shores. The event theme was "A Night Among the Stars." Staff gave volunteers the red-carpet treatment as if they were at the Academy Awards. Unique awards were handed out to each volunteer highlighting their individual talents and thanking them for supporting the SOS mission. Volunteers were treated to photos by our paparazzi Pamela Long, dinner and a tribute video made by staff. As an added gesture of appreciation, volunteers enjoyed themed cupcakes made by SOS board member, DeAnn Hawkins. Last year the event was canceled due to the pandemic, but this year 12 out of 28 volunteers were able to attend. Over the last year volunteers have provided over 6,000 hours of service. **Thank you, volunteers!**



DONATIONS WELCOME

SPECIAL ITEMS NEEDED:

- ◆ Blankets, Bedding & Linens
- ◆ Socks, Coats, Clothing & Shoes
- ◆ Men's Jeans, Boots & Undergarments
 - ◆ Basic Household Needs
 - ◆ Camping Gear
- ◆ Individually Wrapped Snack Items
- ◆ Wet and Cold weather clothing appreciated

WE CANNOT ACCEPT BABY EQUIPMENT OR ELECTRICAL ITEMS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AS YOU SHOP

Go shopping and give! Fred Meyer Community Rewards and Amazon Smile 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**. Also, when you shop online with **Amazon**, make sure you click on the **Amazon Smile logo** and select Siuslaw Outreach Services as the organization to receive benefits.



Tribal Foundations Help Those In Need

SOS has been awarded two grants so far this winter.

Coquille Tribal Community Fund has awarded \$2,500 to support the Outreach and Preventative Education Program. This program allows SOS to teach in-person classes at our office that help people navigate finances, credit, job seeking, rental agreements, and stress management. This grant in particular contributes to the incentive program, which awards class participants with vouchers towards utility bills, work-appropriate shoes, etc.

Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation granted \$10,000 toward "Gap Filler Vouchers." This program is an effort to expand our Emergency Voucher Fund, which helps clients access basic needs services such as laundry, shower, transportation, assistance with utilities, prescriptions, etc. The Gap Filler Vouchers will encompass a wide variety of client needs not already covered by the original program and help clients take steps toward self-sufficiency. Examples of these vouchers include car repairs so clients have reliable transportation to and from work or clothing vouchers for work attire or job interviews.

Welcome New Board Members



DeAnn Hawkins

Siuslaw Outreach Services is pleased to announce two wonderful additions to the Board of Directors. **DeAnn Hawkins** is a Community Relations Director at Spruce Point and former physical therapist. She is very active in the community as she is involved with Community Chorus,

Memory Care Respite Program and volunteers at numerous Peace Health events. Prior to moving to Florence, she volunteered with a shelter program in Pennsylvania.

Stephanie Restrepo is a Relationship Banking Assistant at Oregon Pacific Bank. Stephanie has been a volunteer with SOS for the past couple of years assisting with the annual golf tournament and serving on the donor development committee. Stephanie is also active with youth sports organizations and Jr Interact at Siuslaw Middle School. We are so excited to have these two outstanding individuals as a part of our leadership team. Please help us welcome them.



Stephanie Restrepo

CHIPPING IN FOR THE CAUSE



Our 12th annual golf tournament will be held **Saturday, MAY 14th** at beautiful Florence Golf Links (formerly Sandpines). In 2021, Siuslaw Outreach Services provided support to more than **3,000** struggling individuals through rent assistance, homeless prevention, and advocacy for victims, self-sufficiency education and more. The Siuslaw Open is one of our major fundraising events of the year to help fund those assistance programs. Last year we raised a record of nearly \$12,000 to help those needy individuals and families. The tournament committee is working hard to make this year's tournament better than ever. To accomplish this, we need the support of sponsors and golfers. We only reach out to local businesses twice each year for support, and donations are a critical element in our annual budget. Your support, in the form of a sponsorship for our golf tournament, is a great way to help your community as well as receive positive recognition for your business. Individuals can sponsor as well. There are many levels to choose from. If you would like to sponsor, play or lend any kind of support for this event, contact Bob at 541-997-2816.

Promoting Self-Sufficiency Through Education

SOS continues to offer a variety of classes and workshops to support and promote self-sufficiency for clients and other members of the community. The agency has forged partnerships with Oregon Pacific Bank and Financial Beginnings to teach financial literacy and goal setting. Goodwill Industries is assisting with classes and programs to help individuals gain employment and create career plans.

Other courses offered include Tenant Rights and Responsibilities, which educates renters on the ins and outs of rental contracts. This course is provided to seniors at Siuslaw High School. Stress Management, Women's Empowerment and Men's Empowerment groups offer more generalized support for mental and emotional health. Classes and workshops are open to the public. Lane Community Health Council has provided funds to encourage clients enrolled in housing programs to attend by offering credit toward utilities, rent, employment related needs, and transportation vouchers.

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

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

*** Reservations are required**

~ LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY ~

If you are 70 or older please consider a legacy bequest to Siuslaw Outreach Services. Your gift will help you with financial planning and 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, and gain the satisfaction 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
President



Chris Saltmarsh
Vice-President



Jennifer French
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Maree Beers



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Jane Vecny



Bob Teter
Executive Director

**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).

2021 Statistics

TOTAL NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED IN 20212,375

Males.....1,016 Females.....1,350 Other Genders.....9
 Seniors (62 and older).....216 Disabled.....188 Homeless Individuals.....361 Veterans.....60

Clients Receiving Domestic Violence Advocacy Services432	Sheltered Nights For DV/SA Survivors.....3,105
Clients Receiving Sexual Assault Advocacy Services.....27	DV/SA Survivors Participating In Support Group143
Clients Receiving Energy Assistance (LIHEAP).....352	Households Receiving Emergency Rent Assistance179
Response To After Hours Calls From Police/Hospital.....82	Participants in Parenting Education Classes.....13
Total Number Of Trained Volunteers.....26	Participants in Self-Sufficiency Classes & Workshops.....29
Total Number Of Volunteer Hours.....6,104	Total Visits.....9,116
Clients Served with Emergency Vouchers, Clothing and/or Rent Assistance (unduplicated).....1,700	

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 and talk to Lori Olman



SIUSLAW OUTREACH SERVICES
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