March Against Domestic Violence

Sunday, September 25th, members of the Siuslaw High School Football, Soccer teams as well as the high school’s Interact Club, joined many community members who rallied and marched in Old Town to support the month long campaign of DV awareness. The 60 plus individuals gathered to send a message to survivors that someone cares and in hope to show help is available. Each year several hundred individuals seek help from Siuslaw Outreach Services to flee an abusive situation. The staff at SOS also receive request from nearby communities for help because none is available in their local area.

"Domestic Violence is a stressful and uncomfortable topic to discuss. The Coronavirus Pandemic is also a stressful and uncomfortable subject to discuss. So get ready to be uncomfortable. This past year we all have been met by challenges, hardships, failed relationships and economic uncertainty. Social media and the news outlets are filled with stories of people screaming and yelling at each other for any number of reasons. Many feel their lives are spiraling out of control," said SOS Executive Director, Bob Teter. He went on to add, "Domestic violence is based upon one’s attempt to control. The abuser (the person inflicting abuse) has a need to have total control over their partner or family member. Ironically, most abusers see themselves as the victim. They feel events and circumstances pit the world against them. They feel justified by their abusive actions because they are bringing order to chaos. To them, it is not abuse but simply how things should be."

Add the uncertainties brought about by the COVID-19 Pandemic along with the economic uncertainty to the life of someone who was already grasping at ways to control their lives and others you get the perfect storm for the abused. More recently, that added stress of the economy have strained families to the breaking point.

Some stats to consider:

- Domestic Violence is the number one cause of homelessness for women and children in the state of Oregon.
- In 2021, 432 individuals residing in the Florence area sought help in escaping domestic violence.
- 75% of those in substance abuse treatment programs witness or experience domestic violence.
- 62% of males ages 11 to 14 who witness their mother being abused, were injured while trying to protect their mother.
- 23% of youth who attempted suicide experienced some sort of domestic violence.
- During 2021, 72% of all homicides in the U.S. were the result of domestic violence.
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 9 men have reported being a victim of domestic violence. It is estimated that only half of the victims report such violence for a variety of reasons. In some cases, they think it is the norm because they grew up in a home filled with violence.
- In Oregon, over 5,000 children reported witnessing a parent abused in 2019.

Despite these unsettling statics SOS staff and volunteers, through community support, continue to be there for those fleeing domestic violence. If you know someone who is experiencing abuse let them know help is available.
Chipping In For A Great Cause 2022

Saturday, September 10th at Florence Golf Links was the scene for the 12th annual Siuslaw Open Benefit Golf Tournament presented by Oregon Pacific Bank, Florence Dental Clinic, Peace Health/Peace Harbor Hospital, Elks Lodge 1858, Abel Insurance, Banner Bank and Gary Kadel. Eighty-eight golfers and sixteen volunteers went out to the Scottish style course to raise funds to support programs and resources to benefit victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking and homelessness.

In team score competition Coldwell Banker-Coast Real Estate #1 (Andy Johnson, Nick Johnson, Jordan Johnson and Jack Butler) finished first with a score of 58 winning a golf package from Pine Ridge Golf Course. Second Place went to Florence Dental Clinic. Coldwell Banker-Coast Real Estate #3 placed third. The Band of Brothers came in last winning golf lessons from Florence Golf Links Pro Nik Remer. The tournament used the Calloway Scoring Method.

There was a fierce battle in the putting contest with three individuals facing off in a “Putt-off” because they all sunk the 30’ putt in the competition. In the end, it was Justin Timm winning the $100 and the trophy. Kim Renteria’s name was drawn to attempt sinking a 60’ putt to win $5,000. Unfortunately, her putt narrowly missed the cup by a few inches. Nick Johnson won the men’s long drive. Jeff Earnshaw won the men’s KP on hole #11. Emma Timm was a double winner with the top drives in both the KP contest on hole #11 and the women’s long drive competition. In the Poker Run, “The Birdie’s OR Bust” winning $140 with a full house. Lofy Construction won the prize for “Best Dressed Team” all wearing Hawaiian theme shirts. Chrissy Davis and Ed Davis both won the straight drive competition. No one scored a “a hole-in-one” sponsored by Johnston Motors on hole #5 to win a new Ford Bronco. Everyone had fun at the signature Chipping Contest following the tournament with three players landing shots in the kiddie pools.

This year’s event raised a net of almost $14,000. Tournament co-chair and SOS Board member, Justin Young was thrilled about the number of golfers. He went on to say, “We had a great turnout and the weather cooperated.” Bob Teter added, “This success of this event will help us help many families who are struggling.” Knowing those challenges, the golf committee of Justin Young, Stephanie Restrepo, Nick Johnson, Rick Yecny, Dr. Brian Holmes, Jim Renteria and SOS Executive Director Bob Teter along with SOS Board of Directors and staff want to thank the following businesses and individuals for making the event so successful:

Please contact us. We are grateful for their sacrifice and service. If you would like more assistance and address other financial needs as well as connect with a fighting to stave off homelessness with basic needs vouchers, utility funds have been set up to provide for those vets struggling, unhoused or fellow vets. Skip passed away one year ago. Through this generous gift, veteran, and his wife Mariko made it their life's mission to serve his organization’s leader for many years. Skip, a disabled Vietnam War made a donation of $6,735 to continue the legacy of Skip Stitt, the civilian life. In July members of the Disabled Veterans Services, Inc. of our vets are struggling with housing, mental illness and adjusting to Lead a program benefiting female inmates who were about to be released become integrated back into society. Adela has a farming background and volunteered in several food bank programs. Adela is a Native American who has a history of advocating for Native American rights. She has spoken to the United Nations on behalf of the tribal nations. “We are very pleased to have Adela as a member of the team. Her knowledge and background will be a huge asset to the organization and will help us to better serve our clients,” said SOS Executive Director, Bob Teter. Adela is currently in training to learn and implement housing assistance programs and basic need vouchers for the unhoused.

NEW STAFF MEMBER JOINS THE TEAM!
Welcome our newest staff member, Adela Wisdom. Adela comes to us from the mid-west where she helped to lead a program benefiting female inmates who were about to be released become integrated back into society. Adela has a farming background and volunteered in several food bank programs. Adela is a Native American who has a history of advocating for Native American rights. She has spoken to the United Nations on behalf of the tribal nations. “We are very pleased to have Adela as a member of the team. Her knowledge and background will be a huge asset to the organization and will help us to better serve our clients,” said SOS Executive Director, Bob Teter. Adela is currently in training to learn and implement housing assistance programs and basic need vouchers for the unhoused.

VETS HELPING VETS
November is the month in which we remember the service and sacrifices of our country’s military veterans. It is important to remember that many of our vets are struggling with housing, mental illness and adjusting to civilian life. In July members of the Disabled Veterans Services, Inc. made a donation of $6,735 to continue the legacy of Skip Stitt, the organization’s leader for many years. Skip, a disabled Vietnam War veteran, and his wife Mariko made it their life’s mission to serve his fellow vets. Skip passed away one year ago. Through this generous gift, funds have been set up to provide for those vets struggling, unhoused or fighting to stave off homelessness with basic needs vouchers, utility assistance and address other financial needs as well as connect with a multitude of resources.

We are grateful for their sacrifice and service. If you would like more information about this program or ways to support our local veterans, please contact us.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT
Over the past few years serving on the Board of Directors, I have been humbled by the compassion and empathy of the SOS staff in helping others in our community. Our job on the Board of Directors is support these efforts. Times have been difficult over the last few years as we faced the COVID-19 Pandemic and the uncertainties and challenges it presented. I am extremely proud that we found ways to continue to serve our clients throughout.

As we rise out of the pandemic, the world has changed greatly over the last few years and Siuslaw Outreach Services must also adapt to continue to find new ways to serve those in need. We have new staff that are bringing valuable experience and new ideas. As the elected President of the Board of Directors, the Board and I are working with our staff to guide the organization to fulfill our mission to the community and beyond by evaluating programs, seeking new funding sources and spreading awareness. If you would like to donate or volunteer, please visit florencesos.org for more information.

-Chris Saltmarsh, SOS Board President

New Board Member
Welcome Pam Hickson to the SOS Board of Directors! Pam Hickson who is currently the Human Resource Director for the Siuslaw School District and formally the same role with the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, has joined the SOS leadership team. In addition to her extensive knowledge of human resource and state labor policies, her formal education is in social services. “Pam’s knowledge of human resource policies and community connections will on already strong and effective board even better,” said SOS Executive Director, Bob Teter. Welcome Pam!

LIHEAP Sign-Ups Start November 1st
SOS will be taking sign-ups for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program on Tuesday, November 1st at 9:00 am. Come in or call 541-997-2816 and press option 4 to get on the list. The one-time financial assistance is for low-income households who experience increased financial burdens in the winter. For information to see if you qualify, go to Lane County’s website: www.lanecounty.org and search the word: LIHEAP.

 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
- Introduction to Family Law

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

~ 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.
TOTAL NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED IN 2021 .......................2,375

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 Services ......432  Sheltered Nights For DV/SA Survivors...............3,105
Clients Receiving Sexual Assault Advocacy Services............27  DV/SA Survivors Participating In Support Group .......143
Clients Receiving Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)..................352  Households Receiving Emergency Rent Assistance ....179
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.................................7,544  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 Oltman.