

THE OUTREACH

SUMMER

A Newsletter from Siuslaw Outreach Services

2026

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Abuse Can Happen At Any Age

Evlynn* came to Siuslaw Outreach Services as a woman in her sixties experiencing long-term abuse by her partner. She was displaced from home due to him being the homeowner. Evlynn was mentally controlled and physically abused, including strangulation.

She was assisted by the SOS advocates with her banking needs which included separating their bank accounts. SOS provided a motel room for her for three days as she was finding a new home. She was helped to apply for food stamps, OHP and a restraining order against her partner.

Evlynn was referred to the University of Oregon legal department, and today she is stable and feels safe. She is now able to move forward in her life and has also reconnected with family and friends. Sometimes the hard work starts with the first step, asking for help.

*Not her real name.

If you or someone you know is experiencing Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault, call our Crisis Line at 541-997-4444 for help.

OH LORDY, LOOK WHO'S 40!



Siuslaw Outreach Services has been providing critical resources and services to western Lane

County since 1986. Yes, that means SOS is turning 40! SOS has served thousands of local residents with help and hope in a variety of forms. This coming September, we will be hosting a formal celebration of this milestone.

SOS was originally named Siuslaw Area Women's Center. Inspired by the film, 'The Burning Bed,' depicting the struggles and pain associated with domestic violence, a small group of women felt a call to action. They began opening their homes to women and children escaping domestic and sexual violence. Later they worked with local motels to provide safe shelter. As they worked to find permanent housing they began accessing housing grant programs. They also recognized the need for men to have access to DV services, too. In 2002, as they moved into a permanent office location, and their clientele greatly expanded, they knew it was time to change their name. They chose the fitting acronym 'SOS' because they helped people in their time of need. The full name did not come until later. In 2012 the new name became official.

In 2017, the agency hit a new milestone. Bob Teter, was hired as Executive Director and the agency provided direct aid to over 3,000 local residents. In 2019, another pivotal point in the agency's history occurred. New updates to federal acts and state legislation, forced Siuslaw Outreach Services to restructure and hire additional staff in order to comply. The result of the restructuring was the

creation of three distinct departments. Special Victim Assistance Division provides services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, stalking and elder abuse. The Crisis Assistance Division addresses homelessness prevention and intervention through more than 20 programs. The Outreach & Education provides self-sufficiency education in the areas of financial literacy, employment, tenant responsibilities, safety, stress management, parenting and more. This was also the year the agency looked at creating a resource center to house multiple services and agencies to help our community members who are struggling to gain self-sufficiency.



In 2025, after years of research, planning, visioning and networking, Siuslaw Outreach Services opened a

15,000 sq. ft. facility that is home to multiple agencies addressing social detriments of health, mental health resources, resources for veterans, resources for the unhoused and more. The center also serves as a place for self-sufficiency education and meeting place for multiple community organizations.

This year, SOS celebrates 40 years of service to the residents of western Lane County. September 24th and 25th, SOS will be hosting events to celebrate the successes of clients, honor some of those who made SOS what it is today as well as unveil plans for the future. We hope that you will join us.



New Advocate Hours:

Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Friday by appointment only

Closed:

September 7th and each
Morning of 3rd Wed. of each month



**SIUSLAW
OUTREACH
SERVICES**

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

Mailing Address: PO Box 19000 Florence, OR 97439

Physical Address: 1536 West 12th Street Florence, OR 97439

Phone: 541-997- 2816 Crisis Line: 541-997- 4444

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

SOS Serves Veterans to Serve Veterans

In May, SOS was afforded the opportunity to serve local veterans through the Patton Veteran Project. Ben Patton, the grandson of General George S. Patton, started a program to help veterans who were struggling to tell their stories in ways that help other veterans. Partnering with professional film crews from Los Angeles, Portland and Denver, he helped to produce short films, written, acted in, and co-produced by twenty local veterans. These films helped veterans articulate experiences they previously struggled to put into words, allowing both veterans and civilians to better understand their journeys. Some Patton Project films have won Academy Awards. This past spring, SOS hosted a Patton Project film development session. Through a connection made by William Wagner with the US Veterans Administration, SOS and Florence became the site for four films. The films that were made were premiered in early June at the historic Egyptian Theater in Coos Bay. SOS Executive Director, Bob Teter and his wife HeatherJean, received special recognition by the Patton Veteran Project Foundation, US Veteran Administration for their sponsoring of the event and their efforts to bring attention to the needs of local Veterans.

The films are now online and will be shown at events around the US and in the Ukraine. SOS will be hosting a screening in November in recognition of Veteran's Day.



Ben Patton and Bob Teter at the event



William Wagner with VET Center honors HeatherJean Teter's father with a challenge coin as her husband, Bob Teter looks on

Chipping In For The Cause



Wells Do Good is the
2026 Winning Team

The 16th Annual Siuslaw Open was our biggest tournament to date. We had a record number 30 teams playing raising nearly \$30,000 to help ensure SOS continues to serve our neighbors in need. We want to thank our title sponsors again: **Oregon Pacific Bank, Peace Health Peace Harbor Hospital, Abel Insurance and Three Rivers Casino & Resort.** Other sponsors include: Waterfront Depot, River House Inn/ Old Town Inn (Super 8), Rotary Club of Florence, Safeway, Big Dog Donuts & Deli, Big Foot Distributors, HYAK, Yecny Family, the SOS Board of Directors, Lighthouse Electric, Coldwell Banker Coast Real Estate, Haberly Painting, Security Solutions, Carl Frazier Photography, County Transfer & Recycling, KCST Radio, NOSH Eatery, Holloway & Associates, 1285 Resto Bar, Hanawalt/Ferguson Attorneys at Law, Florence Motor Sports, Shorewood Senior Living, Sign Stop, Copeland Lumber, The Mustard Seed, Heceta Self Storage, Shervin's Tire & Automotive, Action Realty, Laurel Bay Gardens,

DeAnn & Jason Hawkins, Captain Meier's Liquor Store, Russ Volke, Ocean Dunes Golf Links, Trysting Tree Golf Course, Bandon Crossings Golf Course, Myrtle Creek Golf Course, Mallard Creek Golf Course, and The Elks Lodge #1858.

Gross Team Scores :

1st Place: Blue Birds

James S., John R., Robert B., Chris S.

Net Team Scores :

1st Place: Wells Do Good

Bobbie W., Karen T., Susan W., Debbie G.

Long Drive Women: Ardis Noonan

Long Drive Men: Chris Spongna

Accuracy Drive: John Dyke

KP Women's: Chrissy Davis

KP Men's: Kyle Kalista

Putting: Mike Schmidt

Poker Run: Sand Trap Scallywags

Best Dressed: Sandpines Slicers



Mike Schmidt with Bob Teter is
the 2026 Putting Contest Winner

We appreciate all the efforts of the co-chairs, John Moore and Justin Young, and the many volunteers who also made this year's tournament a huge success! Be looking for The 17th Annual Siuslaw Open in the Spring of 2027!

Teaching Them To Fish

When SOS moved into the Siuslaw Area Resource Center, there were plans discussed between **SOS**, Collin Morgan at **Food Share** and former **Inspire Culinary Academy** director, Graham Ross, to provide low-income families with nutrition and cooking education. That is becoming a reality! Through a partnership with **Florence Food Share** and the **Inspire Culinary Academy**, the resource center will be offering cooking and nutrition classes on Tuesdays. The program is designed to teach cooking, culinary safety and other relevant topics to low-income families. The menu is based upon what **Florence Food Share** has in stock and what is affordable through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The new owners of the **Inspire Culinary Academy**, Will Cook and Stacy Tongnazzini, are super excited to partner with **SOS** and **Florence Food Share** to provide this resource to the community. They remark how they have both experienced tough times and needed a hand-up. They feel this is a great way to give back and truly impact lives.

Florence Food Share is also using the **Siuslaw Area Resource Center** as a mobile food pantry site every Tuesday from 1pm to 2 pm. They are serving an average of 20 community members each week.

SOS remarked about these new programs, "It is truly rewarding to offer services that not only address food insecurities in our community but empower persons to take charge of their personal health and well-being. It is heartwarming to enter the building in the morning and see the smiles on the faces and hear words of gratitude of those unhoused clients eating breakfast served by **SOS volunteers** each morning. These food service programs give hope to lives that sometimes seem hopeless. I am very thankful for our friends at **Florence Food Share** and **Inspire Culinary Academy**."

FY 26-27 SOS Board Officers

The SOS Board of Directors recently held officer elections. They approved and inducted the following individuals as the Executive Leadership Team for the 2026-2027 fiscal year:

Montee Kennedy – President
Stephanie Restrepo -Vice President
John Moore – Treasurer
Andrea Sanchez - Secretary

END OF AN ERA

After more than 15 years of service, Todd Smitherman is ending his role as Sos Bookkeeper. Todd has been a stable part of the organization. SOS is audited several times per year and each year those audits have come out cleanly. Todd has built such a positive reputation with our funders. So much so, he has been asked by the Oregon Department of Justice to consult with other rural agencies who have struggled keeping accurate books. SOS will greatly miss Todd's skills, cheery disposition and humor. SOS has hired Steven Herrera to replace. He has some big shoes to fill but we are confident in his abilities. Thank you Todd!

FUN CLASSES@SOS

We offer a number of classes to help anyone who signs up! Budgeting, Stress Management, Financial Goals, Tenant Tips, Credit and Debt and check out some of our new classes working with a small budget and big appetites! Give us a call at 541-997-2816 to reserve your place in the class. We have a monthly calendar with all the times and classes listed. Join us!

A Message From Our New Board President

I am grateful to be serving as the President of SOS for the next year. It is both an honor and a challenge. I know I am filling some pretty big shoes. Our Board has been under the able leadership of Stephanie Restrepo for the past two years. She has provided a calm guidance during that time and has been an exemplary president. She will continue to serve on the Board where her gifts will still be appreciated. The Board and entire SOS organization are grateful for her good work.



Montee Kennedy
Board President

This year marks the 40th anniversary of SOS. We are looking forward to a celebration in September when we will also mark one year in our new building. It's an opportunity to look at where we've been, where we are now, and where we need to be going forward as we continue seeking ways of serving our community. The challenges we face in the coming year are significant. But we have an outstanding Executive Director, an absolutely amazing staff, and a Board and team of volunteers all of who are up to the challenge and dedicated to the work of providing respectful assistance to our clients.

~Montee Kennedy, Board President

Goodbye & Good Luck!

Since the fall of 2019, Mary Hamilton has been the Siuslaw Outreach Services Administrative Assistant. After weathering Covid, staffing and board member changes, a major office move and many fundraising events... She is ready to retire. She won't be sitting idle during her retirement as she loves to garden and spend time with her family. "It has been an honor and a real pleasure supporting the Executive Director, Advocates, board of directors, staff and volunteers over the years.



Mary Hamilton

SOS makes a big difference in our community", Mary said, "I'll miss you all". We will miss you as well, Mary. Goodbye and Good Luck to you!

2025 STATISTICS

TOTAL NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED IN 20252,149

Clients Receiving Domestic Violence Advocacy Services....281	Sheltered Nights For DV/SA Survivors.....59
Clients Receiving Sexual Assault Advocacy Services.....30	DV/SA Survivors Participating In Support Group.....22
Clients Receiving Human Trafficking Advocacy.....2	Households Receiving Emergency Rent Assistance.....181
Clients Receiving Energy Assistance (LIHEAP).....537	Participants in Parenting Education Classes.....2
Response To After Hours Calls From Police/Hospital.....20	Participants in Self-Sufficiency Classes & Workshops....18
Total Number Of Trained Volunteers.....27	Individuals receiving basic needs.....849
Total contacts.....15,060	

SIUSLAW OUTREACH SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Montee Kennedy
President



Stephanie Restrepo
Vice-President



Andrea Sanchez
Secretary



John Moore
Treasurer



Jane Hanawalt
Director



DeAnn Hawkins
Director



Arlena Morrow
Director



Jane Veary
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).

SOS has a need for volunteers to help clients check in, offer clients a snack or beverage, sort or hang clothing donations or cover our Crisis Line. Volunteers are a vital part of our organization. If you are interested in volunteering with **SOS**, give Melissa, our volunteer coordinator a call today at **541-204-1523**. We appreciate you!



~ 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 541-205-9011

or a member of our Board of Directors for more information.

**SOS is looking for committed volunteers to staff our Focus 4 Crisis Line.
Please contact Melissa at 541-204-1523 for more information.**



SIUSLAW OUTREACH SERVICES
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