

Road to Home Fundraiser 2019

To remind us of those whose bowls are empty

SOS's annual fundraiser will be held on Wednesday, October 2nd at Sesi Motors in Ann Arbor. SOS is honored to have Agnes Moy-Sarns & David Sarns and Yvonne & Joe Sesi serve as event co-chairs.

David summed up a few reasons why the group supports SOS: "SOS serves a critical and underserved part of our community, the homeless. SOS's rich history of effectively meeting community need for over 49 years is quite unique in our not-for-profit universe. We are impressed by the collaboration SOS engages in with other organizations."

The event will feature a strolling dinner and an auction of unique experiences and hand-crafted bowls. The bowls stand as a reminder of those whose bowls are empty, and SOS's role in filling the needs of homeless families.

The co-chairs look forward to meeting and welcoming old and new supporters at this year's event. "If we can help in getting the word out and help in raising sustaining monies for the effort, we will view our involvement as a success."

Ticket sales start August 1 at www.soscs.org.

"SOS's rich history of effectively meeting community need for over 49 years is quite unique in our not-for-profit universe."

- David Sarns

The Road to Home



FILLING THE NEEDS OF HOMELESS FAMILIES
IN WASHTENAW COUNTY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2019
SESI MOTORS



*Thanks to the Greater
Ann Arbor Region
Prosperity Initiative*

SOS Community Services was awarded \$30,000 from the Greater Ann Arbor Prosperity Region. This grant will be used to continue employment and job development efforts for homeless and at-risk parents.

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OUR MISSION

SOS promotes housing stability and family self-sufficiency through collaboration, care and respect.



From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The experience of homelessness disrupts every aspect of a family's life. Parents and children suffer when they have to move from place to place, separate from loved ones, and live in crowded conditions.

This past school year, Ypsilanti Community Schools had one of the largest homeless student populations in Michigan— 13% were homeless. Homeless children are more likely to struggle academically and be chronically absent from school. They have the lowest graduation rates of any group.

Thanks to the support of people like you, SOS prevents and ends homelessness for families and children in our community.

SOS's Rapid Rehousing program ends homelessness for families by helping them lease up quickly in permanent, safe, and affordable housing. Families receive rental assistance for 7 – 9 months on average, while they work toward self-sufficiency. Last year, 90 families with 222 children were helped.

SOS's scattered-site shelter is mindful of families' needs. Rather than a traditional, dorm-style setting, families live in houses within the community. Families, especially multigenerational families, stay together, without separation by gender. Families have more privacy and space. Young children often don't even realize they are in shelter. Last year, 18 families with 70 children received shelter at SOS.

Thank you for making sure every child has a place to sleep at night. I hope you'll continue to stay engaged and stand with SOS as we work to end homelessness in our community.

Warmest Regards,

Rhonda Weathers
Executive Director

Parents as Teachers Empowers Parents

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a research-based program for children ages 0-5 and their parents. Parents learn how to foster the healthy growth and development of their children through home visits, groups, and community resources.

Amanda joined PAT when her son, Oliver, was one and a half. "As a single parent, I wasn't sure if I was teaching him right.... PAT showed me how to work with him one-on-one and focus on what works best for him. And not to focus on what other kids are doing. I learned to not think there is something wrong with you or your child. Your child is an individual."

Other parents are learning how to read, so that they can read with their children. A new partnership with Washtenaw Literacy has provided in-home tutors for families. Since the monthly group meetings take place at the Ypsilanti District Library, parents have felt encouraged to borrow library books.

The program participants have also created a network of support. Six of the parents have joined a GED preparation course together. With the support of one another, they are empowered to take the next step.

SOS's Parents as Teachers currently serves 30 families. The community need is compelling— about 30 more families are waitlisted.



*"I learned to not think there is something wrong with you or your child. Your child is an individual."
- Amanda*



*Thanks to the Harry A.
& Margaret D.
Towsley Foundation*

There's still time to give!

The Towsley Foundation is matching all gifts to Parents as Teachers up to \$20,000 this summer.

We are only \$3,620 away from meeting the match!

Donate today at bit.ly/sospat19

Empowering Parents

Read how one SOS program provides a network for parents to share, learn & grow

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www.soscs.org

Upcoming Activities

10th Annual Road to Home Fundraiser

The annual fall fundraiser will be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at Sesi Motors on 3990 Jackson Rd. in Ann Arbor. Enjoy food, a live auction, and silent auction of unique bowls. Ticket sales start on August 1; visit www.soscs.org.



SOS Turns 50 in 2020!

Calling all current and former SOS supporters, volunteers and leaders! SOS turns 50 in 2020. We've created a Facebook group to connect with old and new friends, share photos and memories, reflect on SOS over the years, and discuss ideas for celebration. Join us today at "50th Anniversary for SOS" on Facebook.

