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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOS Community Services Annual Sponsor a Family & Sponsor an Apartment Program

SOS Community Services has been serving Washtenaw County families in need since the 1970's. Each year, SOS hosts its annual Sponsor a Family & Sponsor an Apartment program to provide families gifts and household necessities for the holiday season. When families live paycheck-to-paycheck, it's difficult for them to give their children holiday meals and gifts each year.

SOS is asking community members for donations of gift cards ranging from \$10-\$25 to major retailers such as Walmart, Meijer, and Target. Gift cards give parents the power to buy items like food, clothes, and toys they know their children will love.

“They helped me buy something I needed for my daughter and also a couple gifts for her for Christmas! I really appreciated it.” Said Sarah*, a mother who received donated gift cards last year.

Many SOS families struggle to provide basic household necessities for their families. SOS is also asking for donations of household items, including:

Bedroom Supplies: Twin-sized sheets, comforters, mattress protectors (twin sized)

Kitchen Supplies: Dishes, glasses, eating and cooking utensils, pots, pans, can openers, kitchen towels, mixing bowls, oven mitt sets, napkins, paper towels

Bath Supplies: Towel sets, shower curtains/rings, shower caddies

Household Cleaning/Laundry: Cleaners, detergents, cleaning cloths/paper towels, gloves, sponges, vacuum cleaners, trash cans and bags, mops, brooms, buckets, toilet brushes

Baby: Cribs, high chairs, and portable cribs (pack n' play)

Miscellaneous: Wheeled groceries carts for folks walking/taking bus for groceries



A mother stands in front of her home holding gift cards and surrounded by donations on her stoop.

This year, SOS has also created an AmazonSmile Charity Wish List titled *SOS 2022 Holiday Drive*. With the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, SOS wanted to give the community a safer option for purchasing and donating items for SOS families. Community members can find SOS's wish list on their Amazon account by following these steps:

“Accounts and Lists” “AmazonSmile Charity List” Search for “SOS 2022 Holiday Drive”

With help from the community last year SOS was able to help a record number of families in 2021 and give 326 people, including 224 children a joyful holiday. Many parents in SOS programs made huge strides toward financial stability prior to the pandemic. But many families' progress was set back by lay-offs, cut hours, and struggles balancing work and virtual schooling. Many parents worried about making the holidays happy for their kids. Thank you for helping them.

SOS asks that all donations be made by Friday, December 2, 2022. If you have any questions or want to coordinate donation drop-offs, you can contact Grace Mathers & Kaitlyn Huxford at Devintern@soscs.org or by calling 734-961-1950. Their office hours are 9-5, Thursdays and Fridays.

* Name changed to protect confidentiality

SOS Community Services promotes housing stability and family self-sufficiency through collaboration, care and respect. Our services include shelter and rapid re-housing, job development, eviction prevention, and Parents as Teachers. In addition, SOS offers a Resource Center that provides a weekly food pantry, and walk-in services including utility and transportation assistance. For more information about SOS Community Services, including opportunities to volunteer and donate, please visit www.soscs.org.