

Save-the-Date: Road to Home Fundraiser 2018

SOS is honored to announce the 2018 Road to Home Fundraiser event chairs are Emily Moore-Marshall and Tim Marshall. We are excited to have the Marshalls serve in this role, and help raise awareness and funds for at-risk and homeless families in Washtenaw County.

“We believe that homeless families in Washtenaw County need assistance in moving from homelessness into supportive housing and eventually self-sufficiency,” say Emily & Tim. The Marshalls have served as past honorary committee members for Road to Home.

“We believe that SOS is a well-managed and financially sound organization that is having a significant impact on bringing people home, out of homelessness.”

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

Success Story: One Baby’s Life is Saved

On Ruby’s first birthday, she was underweight—weighing less than 15 pounds. She could not crawl or pull herself up to stand. Her doctor diagnosed her with failure to thrive and wanted to see her every week. Since her family was homeless, she was missing the appointments. Ruby’s life and health were in danger.

Today Ruby’s family has housing through SOS’s Rapid Re-Housing program. And after only one month of weekly home visits from an SOS parent educator, Ruby has gained two pounds. Her doctor only needs to see her once a month now. She is crawling and getting into absolutely everything! Ruby’s mom has been able to help Ruby improve her mobility by using techniques she learned from SOS’s parent educator.



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~ Emily Moore-Marshall & Tim Marshall

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OUR MISSION

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



From the Executive Director

After seven years, SOS's US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-funded Resident Opportunity for Self Sufficiency (ROSS) program is ending. HUD only funds ROSS programs at public housing facilities. Now that Ypsilanti Housing Commission (YHC) units have been converted to affordable housing, they are ineligible for a ROSS program.

When SOS's ROSS coordinator began working with YHC residents in 2011, they were not using very many local services. Now, a MiWorks community outreach staff visits YHC regularly. In total, the ROSS program has helped 81 YHC tenants find work and enrolled 68 children in Head Start. Enrollment of YHC children in Head Start has never been higher. The ROSS coordinator helped YHC families access basic needs including My Ride, Dress for Success, Warm the Children, and afterschool programs. The ROSS coordinator also helped 16 seniors continue to age in place.

SOS's ROSS Coordinator, Erin Loomas, has made a lasting impact on the lives of more than 150 YHC families. She co-chairs the Washtenaw Job Developers Alliance. They organize job fairs to connect people with employment barriers and interested employers, resulting in 25 job placements annually.

Going forward, the Eastern Michigan University Family Empowerment Program will continue to serve residents in the newly converted YHC units. We are glad this partner program will continue the important work of SOS's ROSS coordinator.

In partnership,

Rhonda Weathers,
Executive Director

Parents As Teachers Kids Visit Zingerman's Cornman Farm

Thanks to a generous donation, twenty parents and children—who would otherwise not visit a farm—had the chance to spend the afternoon at Zingerman's Cornman Farms.

This amazing experience would not be possible without the generosity of Anita Clos and Dr. Dennis Crowley. Anita and Dennis purchased an auction package for a birthday party for 20 kids when they attended a local fundraiser. "I eagerly purchased it before realizing it was a kiddos party," said Clos. "While trying to turn it into an adult party, it came to me that there certainly had to be local children who would enjoy this far more than any adult. I thought of SOS, and Cornman agreed they would support my idea."

"I am struck by how SOS works to address community issues that profoundly touch my heart."

~ Anita Clos, Volunteer

Families involved in the SOS Parents As Teachers Program (PAT) visited the farm this spring. The SOS Parents-As-Teachers Program (PAT) is a research-based program that prepares children at-risk to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Families receive weekly home visits, developmental screenings for children, parenting support, groups and referrals. During home visits, SOS parent educators discuss discipline and stress management. There are 18 families (26 children and 23 parents) enrolled in the program.

Clos, a retired social worker, says she knew very little about SOS prior to attending the Road to Home Fundraiser in 2017. She now understands the significance of SOS's mission and hopes others will learn more. "I am struck by how SOS works to address community issues that profoundly touch my heart: family homelessness and hungry children," explains Clos. "What SOS is doing for these families—that is a big deal."



PAT Kids enjoyed making wooden model cars and playing yard games. Anita Clos joined the group as they tested their cars on the race track.



Thanks to the United Way of Washtenaw County's Financial Stability Fund.

SOS Community Services was awarded \$25,000 from United Way of Washtenaw County's Financial Stability Fund. This award will be used to help parents who are homeless increase their income from employment. This means that parents will have support to access jobs, which helps them to provide housing and other basic needs for their family.



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One Baby's life is Saved

Read how Ruby and her family overcame health and housing challenges thanks to the Parents-As-Teachers Program.

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www.soscs.org

Upcoming Activities

9th Annual Road to Home Fundraiser

The annual fall fundraiser will be held on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at Zingerman's Greyline. Enjoy food, music, a live auction, and silent auction of unique bowls. Ticket sales start on August 1; visit www.soscs.org.

Want to Make a Difference?

Host a drive to collect items families most need: personal care items, diapers (sizes 4, 5, & 6), or household items. For more information, check out our wish list at www.soscs.org.