

SOS Celebrates 50 Years of Service

In celebration of 50 years of service, SOS is hosting an anniversary celebration at Eastern Michigan University's McKenny Hall on Saturday, April 18th. Supporters old and new are encouraged to come out for an evening of celebration, including dinner, drinks, and dancing with live music by Naked Ace from 8-10 PM. Guests will have the opportunity to share how SOS has made a difference in their lives through an interactive timeline.

Founded in 1970 on Eastern Michigan University's campus, SOS Community Services was originally called Students Offering Support. Several years later, the organization found itself serving the whole community and moved off campus.

We will celebrate the board, volunteer, and staff efforts that brought scatter-site shelter to families, healthy perishable food distribution, and nationally recognized early childhood programming. We look forward to celebrating the thousands of people that have found help and hope at SOS over the years.

50th Anniversary Event

Saturday, April 18th

McKenny Hall at

Eastern Michigan University

6 PM- 10 PM

Live music from 8 PM- 10 PM



☐ **Yes, I/we would like to attend the 50th Anniversary event:**

_____ ticket(s) at \$50 per guest

☐ Also, I/we would like to give an additional donation: \$ _____

☐ Sorry, I/we will miss the event but want to donate \$ _____

Name(s) of attendee(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- ☐ Enclosed is my check, payable to SOS Community Services.
- Charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Account number _____ Expire date _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

- Pay through SOS Community Services website: www.soscs.org

Questions? Call Carley Kleinhans at 734-961-1950

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Community Volunteer

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Trinity Health

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10th Annual Road to Home Thank you to our sponsors!

The Road to Home fundraiser held last October at Sesi Lincoln raised a record-breaking \$176,416 to help homeless families in Washtenaw County.

We would like to thank event co-chairs David Sarns & Agnes Moy-Sarns and Yvonne & Joe Sesi (pictured right). We would also like to thank our sponsors (below) and supporters. The event could not have been a success without you!



Super Bowl

Agnes Moy-Sarns &
David Sarns

Ambassador Ronald
& Eileen Weiser



Power Bowl



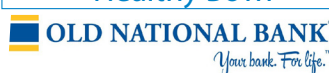
Debbie &
Mike Tirico



Healthy Bowl



Emily Moore-Marshall
& Tim Marshall



Anita Clos &
Dr. Dennis Crowley



Dick & Norma Sarns
Mary & Bill Kinley

Family Bowl



Drs. Rachel & Gary Glick



Steve & Lori Sarns

Gail & Paul Steih



Jan Garfinkle &
Michael O'Donnell



Children's Bowl

John & Kathryn Charpie



David & Karen Ufer



50 Stories of Impact for 50 Years

In honor of SOS's 50th anniversary in 2020, we are telling SOS's story – by sharing the stories of people who have helped or been helped at SOS! Content Warning: This story contains discussion of suicide.

Vicki Niebrugge came from a small town in Oakland County. When she arrived in Washtenaw County in the early 1970s, she wanted to volunteer at a new agency called SOS Crisis Center. She went to the very first volunteer training, but the icebreaker activity was really touchy-feely. She felt so uncomfortable she ended up leaving the training early.

But Vicki kept hearing about all the great things SOS was doing. She decided to give volunteering at SOS another try. (She was glad to see they were using a new icebreaker!) She completed the training and began to volunteer on the crisis line.

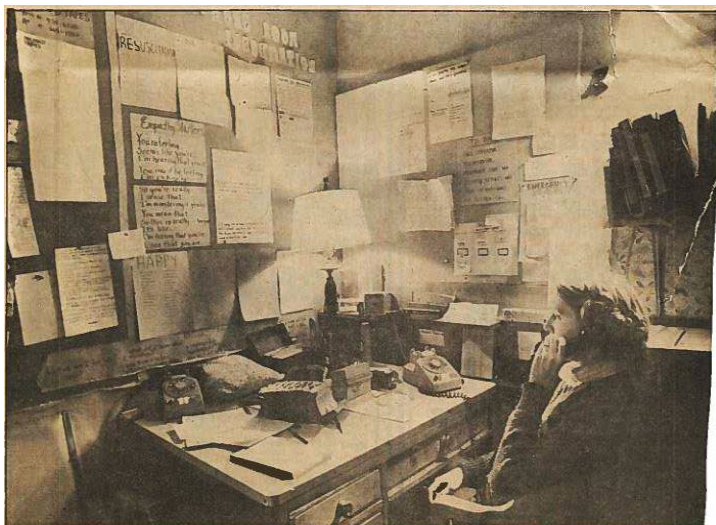
While volunteering, Vicki met Carole Wortley, who was the training coordinator in the 1980s. Vicki remembers how warm, caring, and encouraging Carole was. "We logged notes for every crisis call we answered. Carole would write notes of encouragement on every entry for all the volunteers who worked on the crisis line. She would say things like, 'You did a great job with this call.' or 'Sorry that call was rough!' and offer advice for next time." Vicki volunteered at SOS from midnight until 8:00 AM on the crisis line and then went straight to her job. The crisis line got all types of calls from family conflict to suicide prevention.

The SOS crisis line during the 1970's-1990's was a lifeline for thousands of people. Vicki says one thing hasn't changed about SOS. What has remained the same is "the heart of the people to help others in need." Vicki has many vivid memories of the calls she answered sitting in that little room. She said, "You never know who might call and why." Once Vicki answered a crisis call from a couple. They were driving on the highway and planned to commit suicide together by crashing the car into the median. Vicki kept them on the phone so long, they finally exclaimed, "Well now the freeway has ended and there is no median left!" She was so relieved to have derailed their plan.

Vicki remembered another person who called the crisis line frequently. Vicki and other volunteers had helped him on many occasions. She found out that years after SOS's crisis line closed, the person passed away from suicide. We have no doubt that services offered to him from Vicki and other volunteers at SOS really helped to lengthen his life. Vicki often trained new volunteers. Then she served on the SOS board of directors and was Board President for 10 years. Thank you Vicki for your many years of service to SOS and the community and for the amazing difference you have made!



Vicki says one thing that hasn't changed about SOS is "the heart of the people to help others in need."



If you are willing to share your story as a current or former SOS volunteer, client, supporter, or staff member, please contact Barbara Cecil at barbarac@soscs.org or 743-961-1206. You can view all stories at www.soscs.org/category/50-years

SOS Celebrates 50 Years

SOS's 50th Anniversary Event is April 18th. Buy your ticket now.

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www.soscs.org

Upcoming Activities

Support SOS at Big House 5K!

SOS is excited to be chosen as one of six non-profit beneficiaries for this year's Big House 5K. This exciting race winds through the University of Michigan campus, finishing in the Michigan Stadium!

You can run or walk to help homeless families on Sunday, April 19th by registering at www.mgoblue.com/bighouse5k.

If interested in volunteering for the race, contact Carley Kleinhans at carleyk@soscs.org.

