



A Newsletter for Friends of SOS Community Services



INSIDE: Read more about the families you helped!

Single Dad Makes Life or Death Decision

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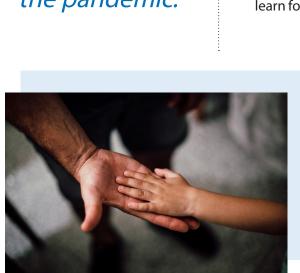
Coronavirus hit. You helped.



Your support will help even more families in 2021.

See page 4 for more information!

With your help, SOS provided relief to people like Terry who have been hit the hardest by the pandemic.



New Clothes for a New Year!

These kids started the new year looking sharp! Mom bought them clothes with gift cards donated by supporters like you during the holidays.

SINGLE DAD FINDS HELP TO MAKE LIFE OR DEATH DECISION

When the doctor told Terry his grandmother would not survive coronavirus, he had an impossible decision to make.

And no one to turn to for advice.

Terry is a single dad in SOS's Parents as Teachers program. He has two prosthetic legs. He lost his legs earlier in his life due to an undiagnosed illness. He has a three year old daughter and lived with his grandmother.

The grandmother got sick with coronavirus last summer. After she was on the ventilator several weeks, the hospital staff asked Terry's permission to turn off the ventilator. They said she would not survive. Terry was distraught because he has no other family.

Terry's parent educator helped him find people who could support him to make a decision – a family friend and a pastor. He decided to keep his grandmother on the ventilator. After some time, she recovered and returned home.

During his grandmother's illness, Terry started to take more seriously the need to learn for himself how to care for his daughter. He got a job as a cook and bought a car.

He makes full use of all the resources provided to him by his parent educator, including a recent car repair clinic and especially SOS's food pantry. He also moved into his own apartment.

His parent educator encouraged him to stop smoking around his daughter and he did. In fact, he went on a health kick and lost 30 pounds! He walks everyday with his daughter.

He has a girlfriend now and they coordinate to make sure they can care for the grandmother and the daughter. He drives his grandmother to her doctor's appointments. In spite of the pandemic, he's made great strides to provide a better life for himself and his little girl.

Thank you Road to Home Sponsors

for ending homelessness & hunger during the pandemic.

In Event Donation \$100,000

Victory Automotive Group

Golden Jubilee Bowl \$10,000

Ann Arbor T-shirt Company The Montag Group David Sarns & Agnes Moy-Sarns Sesi Lincoln Debbie & Mike Tirico

Power Bowl \$5,000

Bank of Ann Arbor
Evangelista & Associates
Martin Family Foundation
Retirement Income Solutions
Toyota Motor North
America R&D
Ambassador Ronald Weiser &
Eileen Weiser

Healthy Bowl \$2,500

Charles Reinhart Company Realtors Anita Clos & Dennis Crowley Mary & Bill Kinley Kroger IBEW Local 252 Emily Moore-Marshall & Tim Marshall Old National Bank Gail & Paul Steih Whole Foods Market

Family Bowl \$1,000

American Roads, LLC Lisa & James R. Baker, Jr. MD Bodman PLC Charles & Linda Borgsdorf Kathy & Roger Brown Elizabeth and Trey Caswell Comerica Bank Nan & Karl Couyoumjian Detroit Windsor Tunnel, LLC Steve & Judy Dobson Domino's J. Keller Properties Lake Trust Credit Union Level One Bank Oxford Companies Chris & Eric Siegel Volkert. Inc.

Friendship Bowl \$500

John & Kathryn Charpie
Tom Colis & Debra Meyer
Marie Deveney &
 Martin Pernick
Dunning Toyota & Subaru
Enspire Dental
Dan & Betsy Foss
Marty & Bill Grimes
Deb & Eric Helber
Debbie & Norman Herbert
Kathy Linderman - Reinhart
Nancie & Don Loppnow



Special thanks to Debbie & Mike Tirico for chairing Road to Home 2020, our most successful fundraiser to date!

You can view the video at

bit.ly/3q4Oswd

Friendship Bowl \$500

Hans & Jackie Maier
Ken Miline
Glenna Frank Miller &
William Miller
Jeanne & Lester Monts
Denise & Dennis Murray
Phoenix Contractors, Inc.
Restrick & Rosselot Families
Dr. Brooks H. Sitterley
Sterken Family Foundation
Denise Tanguay &
Jonathan Dean

Friendship Bowl \$500

Tribble Painting Company
Underground Printing
University of Michigan
Credit Union
Ingrid & Cliff Sheldon
Matt & Peri Stone-Palmquist
Joan B. Wells
Cynthia & Roy Wilbanks
Nora Lee Wright & Fred J. Beal
Zingerman's Community of
Businesses

Gousseffs Make Lasting Gift to End Homelessness & Hunger

Through a gift in their Will, Marla and James Gousseff established an endowment for SOS at the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. We are grateful to them for making children and families facing homelessness a part of their lasting legacy.



Long-time friend, Nancie Loppnow, remembers Marla and James from their involvement in local arts and theater organizations. "Lovely couple," she said. "Very giving, very philanthropic and committed to Ypsilanti, the arts, and social justice.

Their gift will ensure that local families in need find help today and long into the future.

If you would like more information about leaving a gift in your Will to SOS, contact barbarac@soscs.org or visit soscs.org/giftsinwills.



Ypsilanti MI 48197

Coronavirus Update

Read about how supporters like you helped families during the pandemic

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What's New in 2021

More Help for People in Need Thanks to YOU!

We expect that for people living in poverty, the effects of the pandemic recession will last for a while. With the outpouring of support from you and people like you during the last year, we are going to be able to help even more people in 2021. In 2021, SOS will:

- Add 34 units of Rapid Rehousing to house more families experiencing homelessness.
- Four of the new housing units will be specifically for survivors of domestic violence.
- Double staff in the pantry to make sure we can continue to meet the increased demand for food during the pandemic.
- Double the staff in our eviction prevention program to make sure that families who have permanent housing do not lose it because of economic hardship.

Volunteers Needed!

If you or someone you know is available to volunteer in person to help at SOS's food pantry, please email:

volunteer@soscs.org

Volunteers are needed to help meet the increase in requests for help at SOS's pantry during the pandemic.

