

## *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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Successful Virtual  
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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](https://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.

Restrict & 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](mailto:barbarac@soscs.org) or visit [soscs.org/giftsinwills](https://soscs.org/giftsinwills).**



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## Coronavirus Update

Read about how supporters like you helped families during the pandemic

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[www.soscs.org](http://www.soscs.org)

## 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](mailto:volunteer@soscs.org)**

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

