



Stable Housing Brings One Family Hope for the Future

A single mom named Ann had four children and a minimum wage job. Like many people in her situation, she could not afford child care while she worked. She left her three younger children in the care of her twelve year old son while she was at work. Tragically, one afternoon while Ann was at work her 16 month old daughter fell down the stairs and died.

Ann fell into a deep depression after her daughter's death. She lost her job and, eventually, her home. She ended up living in her car with her three young children. When she entered SOS's shelter program, she was so grateful to finally have a safe, warm place to stay. She was determined to take more steps to provide a better life for her family. She told her case worker that she needed to do something new.

While still in shelter, she enrolled in a training program to become a x-ray technician. She moved into SOS's Rapid Re-housing program and continued working toward certification. A few weeks ago, she became a x-ray technician and got a job working at a local nonprofit organization – one that used to help her get diapers and health care.

“She became a x-ray technician and got a job working at a local nonprofit organization--one that used to help her get diapers and healthcare.”



Spotlight: 2017 Volunteer of the Year



Mike Morbitzer started volunteering in August 2014. Today he has logged more than 1300 hours at the food pantry. He unloads the truck, helps train new volunteers, and helps families access food during open pantry hours. He has become our most dependable volunteer.

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From the Executive Director

Many of SOS's food pantry visitors depend on food stamps. Today, they can use food stamps to buy fresh food but potential policy changes could end this option.

SOS has been feeding the hungry since the 1970s. In 2008, SOS began distributing fresh produce, meat, and dairy with the help of our partners. Food Gatherers collects and delivers rescued perishable food to SOS. The Rotary Clubs of Ann Arbor & Ypsilanti provided our walk-in refrigerator.

Support from people like you makes it possible for families to access fresh food at SOS. As the national landscape for addressing hunger changes, our ability to distribute fresh food will be even more important.

Together we can make our community stronger by continuing to advocate for healthy food options and housing for families.

With your help, SOS's work to end homelessness and hunger continues to make a difference. Each day, we see the relief and gratitude a mom feels when she finally has a safe, warm home. We share the excitement of a child checking out her new bedroom or siblings playing in their own yard. At SOS we help families emerge from a place of despair to a place of hope.

Together we can create a stronger community by making sure families have healthy food and housing. Let's get to work in serving our community!

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhonda Weathers".

Rhonda Weathers,
Executive Director

Road to Home Fundraiser Highlights



It was a magical fall evening at Zingerman's Greyline on Thursday, October 5. Two hundred people greeted one another with smiles and warm handshakes. The room contained tables lined with unique bowls for the silent auction, which featured local artists like Candace Pappas, Darcy Bowden, and Kate Tremel.

The event chairs Stephen & Mary Kerr, welcomed guests and shared the rich history SOS has in serving the community through the historic octagon house, known as the SOS Resource Center.

Guests participated in a live auction featuring 10 items including beautiful artwork by artist Chris Roberts-Antieau, and —most notably—a guitar autographed by the Rolling Stones.

Thanks to the support of sponsors and local community members, \$86,000 was raised in support of SOS's mission to house and prevent homelessness for families.

The Road to Home Sponsors

Brimming Salad Bowl

- Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Care Network of Michigan
- Ann Arbor Electrical Institute IBEW 252
- Mary & Bill Kinley
- OLD NATIONAL BANK
- Gail & Paul Steh

Beautifully Filled Bowl

- Ann Arbor State Bank
- ANN ARBOR DOING LIFE DIFFERENT
- Ypsi REAL
- ARMSTRONG/ROBITALLE/RIEGLE
- Bank of America
- Reinhart
- ANN ARBOR TUNNEL
- Domino's
- DTE Energy
- J. KELLER
- PNC BANK
- MOLINA HEALTHCARE
- Nelson, Kellmann & Associates
- SESI
- ST. JOSEPH MERCY ANN ARBOR
- Zingerman's

Balanced Meal Bowl

- AMERICAN ROADS
- Bill Miller & Glenna Frank Miller
- Comerica
- DEXTER BUILDERS
- Dykema
- SIDETRACK
- Retirement Income Solutions
- UGP

- Arbor Beverage Company
- Salt Springs Brewery

Thanks to Our Partners!

Thanks to the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation for awarding SOS an operating capacity grant in 2017. This grant is given to organizations that are recognized as highly effective and high impact nonprofits serving Washtenaw County. This donation supported SOS's mission to improve housing stability by providing housing for families, access to resources, and children's services.



Old National Bank Foundation donated \$10,000 to SOS in support of the rapid re-housing program. The funds provide leasing costs and case management to homeless families. This generous donation allows SOS to secure \$40,000 in matching funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide housing to families.



Thanks to Toyota for donating \$5,000 to SOS's Parents As Teachers (PAT) program, which helps parents learn how to foster healthy growth and development for their children. PAT coordinators participate in weekly home visits with families, plan monthly play groups, and make referrals for children to get health screenings and evaluations. This program helps children age 0 to 5 prepare for success in school.



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Stable Housing Brings Hope

Read how one mother of four children overcame homelessness, and regained hope for her family's future.

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www.soscs.org

Upcoming Activities

Volunteers Needed

Become a SOS volunteer today! Are you passionate about fighting hunger and homelessness? We are looking for individuals to help sort and stock shelves in the food pantry, or greet visitors and respond to callers at our administrative office. If you are interested, email volunteer@soscs.org.

Join Amazon Smile!

Support SOS all year long! Select SOS as your charity of choice when shopping on Amazon. When you shop, SOS can receive a percentage of your purchase price. Visit www.smileamazon.com to register today!



Want to Make a Difference?

Host a drive to collect items families most need: personal care items, diapers and wipes, or household items. For more information, check out our wish list at www.soscs.org.