

Save-the-Date for the 7th Annual Road to Home Fundraiser

This year's 7th annual fundraiser, The Road to Home, will be held on Thursday, October 6, at Zingerman's Cornman Farms. Enjoy music, hearty appetizers, and a silent auction of unique bowls and experiences. The event chairs this year are long-time supporters of SOS, Andy and Megan LaBarre. "We support the mission of SOS because it helps people and families in their time of greatest need and empowers them to lead stable, productive lives," says Andy LaBarre. The LaBarres have previously served as honorary committee members for this event.

"We are most passionate about the work SOS does to ensure that children do not suffer the hardships of homelessness, but instead know the stability, dignity and success that comes when a community engages to improve their lives."

"We support the mission of SOS because it helps people and families in their time of greatest need and empowers them to lead stable, productive lives."

— Andy LaBarre, 2016 Event Chair

Andy works at the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber of Commerce as the vice president and director of government relations, and is currently serving as the Washtenaw County Commissioner for District 7. Megan works as a special education teacher at Dexter High School. They are proud parents of two young children.

Please save-the-date for The Road to Home Fundraiser on Thursday, October 6, 2016. Tickets sales begin on August 1st and will be available online at www.soscs.org.



Andy & Megan LaBarre
Road to Home Event Chairs



Left, above, above right:
2015 Road to Home guests and
donated items for silent auction

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OUR MISSION

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

From the Executive Director



For 46 years SOS Community Services has been a pioneer in the Ypsilanti community, serving people in need and connecting them to vital resources. In the early 1990s SOS started a shelter program for families and by the mid-90s developed a continuum of supportive services, which included children's programs and employment support. SOS has a rich history in Washtenaw County, and has continued to adapt to meet the changing needs of the community.

I'm writing you—our devoted supporters—to let you know about program changes at SOS. We have been notified of a reduction of grant funds, and this means SOS will not be running our annual Sunny Days Summer Activities Program. We believe now more than ever that children need a safe place to go during the summer months. Over the last two summers, gang violence in Ypsilanti has been on the rise and children have been injured. We are committed to offering programs to combat summer learning loss, to help children have fun, and to keep children safe.

In response to this need, we will be providing a collaborative summer program, in partnership with the Family Learning Institute, called the Summer Success Academy. The Success Academy will run for six weeks (two days a week) from July through August. Children will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math) activities to help ensure they stay academically on pace. This program will provide tutoring to children, a safe environment, and fun hands-on activities.

In the fall we will still provide our comprehensive tutoring program, Girl Scouts, and in-home visits through the Parents-As-Teachers program for children below age five.

It's because of the generosity of individuals—like you—that SOS is able to continue to provide the necessary programs to the most vulnerable families. Thank you for supporting families in need. We appreciate your partnership.

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

Rhonda Weathers
Executive Director



Left to Right: Rebecca & Lee from UM ISR Feeds deliver children's summer items to SOS. Lori and Ashley from Freudenberg-NOK donate food items from their work place collection to SOS.



Renovations at the Resource Center

The SOS Resource Center has a new look thanks to a generous grant from The Buhr Foundation. SOS has been able to do some much needed renovations by replacing the front door, and installing brand new stairs. More than 6,000 people each year walk through our front door in need of food, utility assistance, transportation, personal care items, benefits access, and other resources. Now we can say goodbye to the drafty door and narrow stairs, and hello to a new wooden door and widened stairs. We are proud to continue to serve the community with an updated facility that is welcoming for all the people who count on SOS for help and the volunteers and staff who help them!



Job Developers Alliance Host Job Fair

The Job Developers Alliance of Washtenaw County (JDA) hosted Community Employment Connect!, an invite-only job fair for individuals receiving job-readiness services from one of the participating agencies.

Community Employment Connect!, held at the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, brought 16 employers and 75 job seekers together. There were five resource tables available so job seekers could get access to assistance with child care and transportation. The event yielded very positive feedback from both employers who found excellent candidates, and job seekers who gained strong job leads.

JDA consists of nine non-profits including SOS Community Services, Ann Arbor Housing Commission FSS Program, Michigan Ability Partners, Washtenaw County Michigan Works!, VA Health Care Ann Arbor,

Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, Jewish Family Services, Work Skills Corporation, and Michigan Rehabilitation Services. The goal of JDA is to combat barriers to employment; the group strives to bridge gaps between employers and job seekers.

Erin Loomas, ROSS services coordinator, stated: "The Job Developers Alliance was very excited about the outcome of our third Community Employment Connect! event. This year we doubled the number of employers present compared to last year, and provided the opportunity for job seekers to connect with more resources. The JDA welcomes and encourages other organizations and employers to partner with us." Organizations or employers that are interested can contact Erin at erini@soscs.org or **(734) 323-8249**.





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SAVE-THE-DATE

The Road to Home Fundraiser

Thursday, October 6, 2016

Zingerman's Cornman Farms

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Includes a silent auction of unique bowls and experiences, hearty appetizers from Zingerman's, and great music in an elegant barn and farm house.

Zingerman's
Cornman Farms
Dexter, Michigan



Upcoming Events

Pedaling Home Bike Fundraiser

Bikers of all ages and stages are welcome to join SOS Community Services for Pedaling Home: A Bike Ride to End Family Homelessness on Saturday, August 6 at 9 am. Enjoy the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti border to border trails with a family-friendly ride or take on an adults-only route. For more details visit www.soscs.org.



SOS Empty Bowls Booth @ the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival

Local potters create handmade bowls, which are donated to SOS. SOS sells the bowls at the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival. Stop by our booth in Riverside Park to purchase a beautiful bowl. All proceeds benefit the SOS Food Pantry. Want to volunteer? Email:

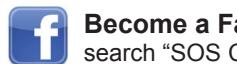
volunteer@soscs.org.

Festival Dates:

Friday, August 26, noon—8 pm

Saturday, August 27, 10 am—8 pm

Sunday, August 28, 11 am—8 pm



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