

The Season of Giving



Right to Left: 1) Members from the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity delivered six large meals for families in need during the holiday season. 2) This year over 200 turkeys, along with an assortment of traditional side items including mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy and more were distributed for Thanksgiving at the Resource Center. Employees from Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing N.A., Inc. volunteered to distribute food items.

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New Children's Programs at SOS

This year SOS Community Services is offering two new programs for children in Washtenaw County. First, The Detroit Auto Dealers Association Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan awarded SOS a \$30,000 grant to start the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program. In addition, SOS received a \$25,000 award from the James A. and Faith Knight Foundation to support the new program.

The PAT program is an evidence-based program that focuses on providing information, support and encouragement so that parents can help their children prepare for school. This program will serve 45 families per year with children ages five and under that have been referred through emergency shelter and rapid re-housing programs in Washtenaw County, as well as families residing in the Ypsilanti Housing Commission sites.

Another new children's program starting is called the STAR Program, which stands for Skills Training And Recognition. Kids in grades fifth through eighth participate in a series of workshops after school designed for them to learn a skill set and later apply that skill in the community. SOS will serve 200 children per year from Ypsilanti Middle School and Lincoln Middle School.



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OUR MISSION

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

From the Executive Director



This is a wonderful time of year! It's a time to celebrate our successes and begin to set new goals for the New Year.

This year marked the start of our Choice Food Pantry. Consumers are able to choose the food they receive based on dietary needs and preferences. The new format has been embraced by the consumers, and the broader community. Thanks to the support of generous donors and Food Gatherers, our agency can better meet the needs of the community.

When consumers visit the pantry they can feel empowered to make decisions, and try new fresh vegetables, which are a key ingredient in the recipes the pantry provides. On average the food pantry serves 150 households each week. Starting in January, the food pantry will be able to serve families six times a year (plus one holiday) instead of four.

As 2014 comes to a end, we can celebrate the start of new additional children's programs. Children are the innocent victims of homelessness and often don't have a voice. Our new programming will allow children to be better prepared to start school, empower parents, and teach children a skill set that they can take with them into their future. It's exciting to think about the positive impact SOS will have in the New Year. On behalf of SOS, happy holidays and a happy New Year!

In partnership,

Rhonda Weathers
Executive Director

How We Helped this Season

- Over **200** turkeys and traditional food items distributed to families.
- This year **37** families in need were provided gifts.
- More than **40** local organizations collected food, personal care, and household items.

Special thanks to all the supporters of our holiday giving programs. Because of you families will have a memorable holiday!

Success at the Road to Home Fundraiser

Over 160 guests enjoyed a night of delicious food and exciting auction items at the beautiful Zingerman's Cornman Farms. Of the 88 auction items available for bidding, guests could choose from private golf lessons, weekend stays at up-north cottages, theater tickets, hotel packages, unique bowls and more!

During the event, there was a brief program, during which, Jeff Hudson, an SOS Food Pantry Volunteer, was announced as winner of the Blue Dog Volunteer Award. The award is given to volunteers who exemplify hard work, dedication, and passion as they partner with SOS in order to make a difference in the lives of others. In addition, a former consumer spoke about the importance of SOS and her journey toward housing stability.

Special thanks to this year's event chairs, Louise & David Lutton! Thanks to the generosity of event guests and sponsors, \$57,000 was generated in response to this event. On behalf of all staff, consumers and volunteers at SOS—thank you!



David & Louise Lutton thank guests for attending the SOS fundraiser and share why they are passionate about the mission.

Thanks to Our Event Sponsors!

Presenting Sponsors



TOYOTA

Let's
Go
Places



Beautifully Filled Bowl

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Arbor Brewing Company | DTE Energy |
| Bank of Ann Arbor | John & Cindy Nixon |
| Charles Reinhart Company Realtors | Family Fund |
| Debbie & Mike Tirico | Mary & Bill Kinley |
| Domino's Pizza | Nelson, Kellman & Associates |

Balanced Meal Bowl

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Christine Green | Retirement Income Solutions |
| Gail & Paul Steih | St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor |
| Mike Allemang & Janis Bobrin | Terumo Cardiovascular Systems |
| Oxford Companies | LTI Information Technology |
| Real Estate One | Matt Miller from Charles Reinhart |



Rhonda Weathers, Executive Director, presents Blue Dog Award to Jeff Hudson.

Jeff Hudson: 2014 Volunteer of the Year

Jeff is a volunteer with the SOS Food Pantry and helps to lead a large-scale food delivery every Monday. Jeff has been an SOS volunteer since 2011 & has completed 313 hours of service work in the Food Pantry. He is a consistent leader who is invaluable to the operation of the program.



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Upcoming Activities

Calling All Volunteers!

Consider volunteering at SOS in the New Year. There are lots of opportunities to help in our food pantry, children’s programs and more! Learn more by calling **734.484.9900** or email volunteer@soscs.org.

Collect Household Items

The families we serve need basic household items. Host a drive with a school club, service group, or with your family! For more information, call **734.485.8730** or visit www.soscs.org.



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