



SOS
community
services

Lifelines

Spring 2015

Support the SOS Dine & Donate Benefit

Are you interested in raising funds to support SOS while bringing business to your favorite Ypsilanti restaurants? Come join us for our Dine & Donate Benefit the weekend of March 13-15. Dine & Donate participants can enjoy Ypsilanti favorites such as:

- Chili from Ypsilanti Food Co-op
- Soup from Beezy's Café
- Hearty lasagna from Harvest Kitchen (closed March 15)

Other delicious options from Maiz Mexican Cantina, ABC Microbrewery, and more! When Dine & Donate customers order a specialty meal item, participating restaurants will donate a percentage of the sale to SOS.

Special thanks to our restaurant partners for their support. Stay tuned for more details about this exciting event!



S.T.A.R. Program

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Seventh grade students at Ypsilanti Middle Schools will get to explore their interests by learning new skills and engaging with the community through our upcoming Skills Training and Recognition (S.T.A.R.) after-school program!

In this program, students will practice skills such as painting, cake decorating, and woodworking. After students master these skills, they will use what they have learned to give back to the community and be recognized for their accomplishments. S.T.A.R. volunteers will help to run the program, teach these new skills, and act as positive adult role models.

According to Denee Walker, S.T.A.R. program coordinator, the program's benefits are numerous. "The S.T.A.R. Program has proven to be effective in reducing instances of problem adolescent behaviors such as alcohol, tobacco, drugs, pregnancy, violence, etc. Students learn how to positively contribute to their community while obtaining skills they can continue to build upon."

The program is set to begin this spring and will run from March 9 to May 29, 2015.

Want to join in on the fun? Volunteer!

Learn more by contacting Jessie Dunavant, development and volunteer coordinator, at 734-484-9900 or e-mail jessied@soscs.org.





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OUR MISSION

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

From the Executive Director



Happy 2015! We are very excited to be starting a new year and continuing to help families in need! Although it is only March, we have already started making an impact in 2015 as we launch a new children's program – the S.T.A.R. Program.

Last year, the SOS Resource Center connected over 4,000 households with access to healthy food, responded to over 70 requests for DTE utility assistance, and provided hundreds of other referrals to families looking for resources in the community. We could not have reached this many members of our community without the kind and devoted hearts of our volunteers. We want to continue to be a place where individuals partner with us to make a difference in someone's life.

Here at SOS, there is always a place for you as a volunteer. So often I hear that a volunteer came to serve and give, and instead they were the one who learned something new from our consumers. Our volunteers have a variety of experiences at SOS, some of which are shared in the SOS Volunteer Spotlight on page 3.

For many families, SOS programs are a lifeline to basic necessities. The need is large, and we need your help! We are working to recruit more volunteers who can give their time and talents to support programs at SOS such as the food pantry and after school programs.

As a fellow member of our community, I hope that you join us once again as we serve families in Washtenaw County. Here's to another year of helping families find housing stability!

Rhonda Weathers
Executive Director



Special thanks to all our volunteers who donated their time and talent to benefit SOS this year. To see a full list of our volunteers visit www.soscs.org.

SOS Volunteer Spotlight

At SOS, we sincerely appreciate the hard work of all of our wonderful volunteers. We are honored to highlight the following volunteers who have gone above and beyond this year to positively impact SOS and the families we serve.

Molly Wozniak and Susan Boll: Children's Program Volunteers

Molly Wozniak & Susan Boll have volunteered with the SOS Girl Scouts Program since the fall of 2014. Every Wednesday, Molly and Susan generously provide education and entertaining activities to help girls learn new skills and have fun with their friends.

Molly and Susan became SOS volunteers to become more involved in the community. They love interacting and building relationships with the girls and appreciate how they work together and help each other with projects.



Susan Boll and Molly Wozniak prepare an activity for the Girl Scouts.

"Getting to know these girls scouts has shown me that no matter what path life takes you, these wonderful girls find happiness in the seasons, holidays, helping each other, family, friends and strangers. They have touched my heart in a remarkable way." – Susan

"Volunteering with SOS has taught me a lot about homelessness and the impact it has on children. It's also shown me the resiliency of these girls and how SOS may brighten their future." – Molly

We would also like to highlight the extraordinary efforts of volunteers who assist in our other program areas:



Thom Elliott: Food Program Volunteer

Thom Elliott has been a dedicated Food Program Volunteer since the summer of 2014 and has since taken on a leadership role during the food distribution process every Wednesday. In addition, he helps with stocking and unloading food on Mondays.

"Volunteering for SOS has given me a sense that I am actually contributing to my community in a concrete way. I am part of a team of people who care about the state of the world and are attempting to do something about it. The greatest means of helping one's self that I am aware of is helping the other, and SOS has allowed me to do just that." – Thom



Julie Santinga: Development Volunteer

Julie has been a volunteer with the development department since the fall of 2014. In that time she has helped coordinate events such as The Road to Home Fundraiser, Sponsor-A-Family, and Sponsor-An-Apartment programs.

"Through this process, I met some really good people that have enriched my life. It also opened my eyes to all the needs that exist in our community and the important role this organization plays in serving those needs." - Julie



Ashli Logan: Administrative Volunteer

Ashli has been a volunteer in our front office since December 2014. As a new volunteer, Ashli has learned the role very quickly and become an important asset to the office.

"As a Sociology student at EMU, my heart has always been with helping people and understanding their struggles. Homelessness is a much overlooked problem and SOS does such great work helping families in the community, I knew I wanted to be a part of it!" – Ashli

Thank you to all our highlighted volunteers for your dedication, generosity and kindness!



101 S. Huron St. • Ypsilanti, MI 48197



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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 Children’s Books

The families we serve need books for children five years old and under. 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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