

# SOS Center Open House

Sunday April 10, 2011 • 12 PM - 3:00 PM

4620 W. North Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

Come tour our building, meet our staff, board of directors, students and volunteers and see what programs you have been supporting!

Door Prizes will be given away and light refreshments will be served. So that we may plan accordingly please R.S.V.P. to the SOS Center 414-449-9964 or email [jodil@soscenterinc.org](mailto:jodil@soscenterinc.org) if you will be able to join us!

The SOS Center would not be able to carry out its mission of “Christian care, educational instruction and life skills activities for children and adults in the Milwaukee area” without the support of everyone involved. Thank you!

Parking in the SOS Center lot is limited. There is additional parking across the street behind Wendys and also one block west in the city parking lot on the corner of Lisbon and West North Avenue.

SOS Center, Inc.  
Strength of Savior  
4620 W North Ave.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

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# SOS CENTER

## STRENGTH OF SAVIOR



SPRING

2011

SOS Center, Inc. • 4620 West North Avenue • Milwaukee, WI 53208 • P(414)449-9964 • F(414)449-1934 • [www.soscenterinc.org](http://www.soscenterinc.org)

## 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Event

The SOS Center’s 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Event was held on Sunday October 24, 2010 in the Pilot Room at Discovery World on Milwaukee’s lakefront. We are truly blessed to say we raised more than the previous year and nearly doubled our net profit! Many thanks to all who gave of their time, talents and treasures to make the 2010 Fundraising Event a success! The auction could not have happened without the donation of items from over 80 individuals and businesses, thank you! The SOS Center would like to acknowledge and give a sincere thank you to the following businesses and individuals who sponsored and/or volunteered for the event.

### Corporate/Individual Sponsors

- Supreme Cores, Inc. - \$1,000
- Paul and Heidi Grossmann - \$500
- Will Enterprises - \$283
- Weissman Automotive - \$100

### Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

*Thank you to the following local chapters- for their matching funds:*

- Northeast Waukesha County
- Ozaukee County
- South Washington County
- West Central Milwaukee County

### Contributors

- Janelle Meyer-Brown and Bartolotta Catering and Events
- Cheryl McCrary and Heir-Born Praise Band (Entertainment)
- Aerodef Productions for the Video
- Dean Krueger – Master of Ceremonies
- Brian Axtman – Auctioneer
- Pastor Peter Kelm – Opening Prayer
- Pastor Daniel Schneider – Closing Prayer
- Immanuel Lutheran Church for the Stage

### Event Committee

- Jodi Kessel Lyon
- Mary Todd-Krueger
- Keith Konen
- Ellen Grossmann
- Tracy Zimdars
- Don Niedfeldt
- Trina Jashinsky

### Volunteers

- Lori Konen
- Kim Wankowski
- Nicholas Wankowski
- Abby Wissmueller
- Adam Wissmueller
- Hannah Zimdars
- Sara Otto
- Michelle Franke
- Ryan Grossmann
- Erika Hurdis

### 2010 SOS Center Board of Directors

- Johnnie Fields, Chairman
- William Redmond, Vice Chairman
- Ellen Grossmann, Secretary
- Patrick Weege, Treasurer
- Chuck Brandt
- Suzanne Frost
- Trina Jashinsky
- Keith Konen
- Donald Niedfeldt
- Kevin Rather
- Mary Todd-Krueger
- John Wolck
- Tracy Zimdars
- Rev. Daniel McMiller

Doris Church,  
Honorary Charter Member

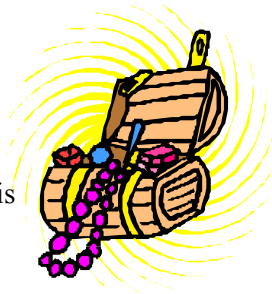
Founder Kenneth Greve with his son, Dennis Greve



“Please mark your calendars for our 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Event on Saturday, September 10, 2011”

## Hidden Treasure

By: Johnnie Fields Jr., SOS Center Board Chairman



Hidden Treasure was the topic of my morning meditation when I sat down to write this article. It was based on Mark 4:14, which says, the farmer sows the word. Ken and Arlene Greve were the farmers who originally sowed the Word for the SOS Center. Now, all of us at SOS, our supporters, and clients have become sowers of the Word.

In the neighborhood surrounding the SOS Center the average family income in 2000 was less than \$28,000 and approximately 30% of the adult population did not hold a high school degree. The SOS Center is prayerfully addressing these needs along with the changing needs of those who are challenged daily by the effects of low/no income, broken families, crime, drug abuse and other socioeconomic stresses. Our greatest accomplishment has been providing services and spiritual guidance to the poor in Milwaukee's inner city for 29 years. We have provided thousands of residents of all cultural backgrounds with avenues to find their love for Christ and use their faith in Christ to enrich theirs, their families, and their community's quality of life.

Three main points of the meditation were *make a decision, prepare yourself, and stay in faith*. Through our strategic planning process, specifically our Vision Statement, I am asking all of you to join us in helping this vision come true.

### -SOS Vision Statement

Within the next three (3) years, the SOS Center will become the premier social service organization by

- Putting into place functional and compliant governance
- Identify and develop programs/directors, paid support staff and volunteers
- Develop full time GED/Adult Education, Holistic Health Care, Sewing Program, Nutrition Program, After School Program, Youth Summer Camp, and Bible Studies.  
Furthermore...GED Program to accommodate 100 graduates per year, provide 35 feeder students per year from ABE to GED, secure another facility to offer life skills activities including budgeting, finance and nutritional programs.
- Capital improvements to provide a state of the art facility and restore the building to its original state
- Onsite Maintenance person
- Activate members of 60 different congregations
- Fund Development to raise \$900,000 over three years for operations

Our Board of Directors and staff have made the decision of where we want to go. We have begun preparations to support our decision, and we are putting our faith in Christ to bless these ministries to glorify his name. We have also updated our Mission Statement to reflect our current direction.

*The SOS Center is a nonprofit social services agency that provides Christian care, educational instruction and life skills activities for children and adults in the Milwaukee area.*

We are reminded in 2 Corinthians 4:7, But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

We no longer want the SOS Center to be a hidden treasure in our community, but a light for all to see. We can do this through your continued support and with the help of God.

## How You Can Help!

As the SOS Center carries out its mission and programs, loyal and regular supporters are essential. Whether as a prayer partner, a financial contributor, a volunteer, or a board member, you can be a partner in ministry.

If you wish, you can donate through our secure payment system, PayPal, on our website [www.soscenterinc.org](http://www.soscenterinc.org) or if you prefer to write a check you can fill out and send in the completed form below. The SOS Center will acknowledge your gifts and keep you informed.

Please accept my donation of: \_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

The SOS Center is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

## Our Wish List

In-kind donations help the SOS Center stretch our resources. You can help the SOS Center save hundreds of dollars by donating items from Our Wish List. Please visit our website at [www.soscenterinc.org](http://www.soscenterinc.org) and click on **Our Wish List** for a complete list. Thank you!

## Volunteer Tutors

The SOS Center provides a variety of volunteer opportunities in support of our mission. Currently our greatest need is for tutors. If you are interested in tutoring any of our students we would love to have you! You don't need to be a teacher, just have a little time and a desire to help others! If you are interested and available for at least an hour and a half during any of the times listed below contact Jodi Kessel Lyon at 414-449-9964. Training is provided.

Basic Education: **Tuesdays 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

GED Preparation: **Monday – Thursday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Fridays 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

After School Homework Program: **Monday – Thursday 3:30 pm – 5:45 pm**

## GED Program

The SOS Center's GED (General Equivalency Diploma) Preparation Classes have been so successful we have extended the hours of the classroom by 17 hours a week! The GED Classes are now open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday and from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on Fridays.

The extension of hours and the continuation of the program have been generously funded for 2011 by the Siebert Lutheran Foundation, which also provided the money to start the program in 2009. It is money well invested. The GED Exam consists of a test in each of the five subject areas; Reading, Writing, Social Studies, Science and Math. A minimum score of 410 is needed on each test with a cumulative score of 2250 needed to successfully earn a GED Certificate. The exam is not easy and many months of preparation, both in our classroom and at home, are needed to earn a GED. We applaud all of our 25+ students who diligently work so hard every week to attain this goal in their lives! May God continue to bless them and give them the strength and grace to continue their education.

As announced in our last newsletter, Ms. Lawanda Cutwright successfully passed all five sections of the GED exam in June 2010 and is currently enrolled at MATC. On February 4, 2011 Mr. Lee Kern earned his GED certificate with a combined score of 2620 (2250 is minimum to pass)! Congratulations to Mr. Kern and we wish him much continued success at MATC this fall. Below is Mr. Kern's story as written by him:



**Mr. Lee Kern**

**10/14/10**

*Making this transition into school again over the course of time has made me a stronger person with of course having the blessings and grace of God on my life. In my youth after I turned 18, I worked downtown in a men's formal wear shop for 5 years. Then I began working for a printing company that happened to be next to MATC. I worked there for 25 years and when they moved to Oconomowoc, I had to commute for 15 of those years.*

*When the plant closed, I enrolled in a program that helped me get into MATC where I received my certificate in CNC Machines. I then went to work in Franklin for the next 4 years until the plant experienced widespread layoffs.*

*I've been slowed by the two surgeries I've had on my back but finding the SOS Center has given me the strength to go for my dream of getting my GED. I have come a long way since starting, and seeing young people coming in to get their lives together will always serve as a positive motivation for me.*

*My fondest wishes go to Mr. Dan Whitelaw, Ms. Jodi Kessel Lyon and everyone associated with the SOS Center.*

*May God Bless you and thank you very much.*

## GED Program, continued

Darlene Rivas is another GED student who has been coming to the SOS Center for the past year and a half. Below is her success story.

**10-12-10**

*My story is just like so many other women of today. I dropped out of school when I was in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. By 16, I was pregnant and married. I raised two children who finished school and some college. I took care of my grandchildren so that my children could work. I also work a full-time job. I've been a housekeeper for over 20 years.*

*Now I find myself at 52, divorced and no more children to care for. One day I passed the SOS Center and saw the sign on the lawn, Free GED Classes. I went in and signed up. I've been going to the classes three days a week, for a year. The classes are not easy, I can't tell you how many times I've wanted to just give up, but I keep coming back because I'm doing this for me, and I want victory!*

*I'm so grateful for this lab; I have this opportunity to achieve something that I passed up a long time ago. I'm sure everyone here feels the same way. Thank you for your continued support of the lab.*

*With much gratitude,  
Darlene Rivas*



Darlene Rivas

Since Darlene wrote this letter, she has taken 4 of the 5 tests of the GED exam and is scheduled for the final one soon. But the big news is that she scored of perfect **800** on her Reading Test! This is a very rare score. A score of 410 is required to pass. A score of 650 or higher would rank Darlene in the top 5% of high school graduates worldwide, so she is in an even more elite group! Way to go Darlene!

## Part Time GED Instructor Needed

With the increased hours of the GED Preparation Classes the SOS Center is looking to hire a Part Time GED Instructor for 16 -20 hours a week Monday through Thursday. Responsibilities would include providing tutoring, direction and instructional care to students. Supervise Lab activities and help maintain a safe, quality learning environment. Demonstrate genuine desire to help students succeed by offering one-on-one assistance, encouragement and follow-up care. Believe in and support the overall mission of the SOS Center which is to, "provide Christian care, educational instruction and life skills activities for children and adults in the Milwaukee area." If you have an interest in this position please email your resume to Jodi Kessel Lyon at [jodil@soscenterinc.org](mailto:jodil@soscenterinc.org), fax to 414-449-1934 or send regular mail to 4620 W. North Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208.

## Health Fair and Coat and Blanket Drive October 2010



Kids learning about Dental Health

The Concordia University Nurse Practitioner students once again put on a Health Fair at the SOS Center on October 22, 2010. It was held in conjunction with the Center's Annual Coat and Blanket Drive. The Nurses had booths on cholesterol, hygiene, asthma, diet, blood pressure, diabetes, car seat safety, crib safety and eye exams among other topics. They also provided healthy snacks and lunch. Thank you to everyone involved, it was a great success!

A special thank you to all of the organizations, churches and individuals who donated coats, blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, clothes, etc. to the SOS Center during our annual drive. We received more than we ever have and are so

fortunate to be able to provide to those in need especially during these cold winter months. Thank you to Jim Duncan, Pastor Tom Kaul and members of Faith Lutheran in Germantown for helping distribute the coats and blankets during the Fair.

## NewThreads of Hope



Receiving Brand New Crib

Over the years, NewThreads of Hope along with Two Tunics have supported the SOS Center with new clothing donated from local corporations and we are exceptionally grateful. The fall of 2010 brought us a once in a lifetime blessing through NewThreads of Hope and the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA). During September, JPMA embarked on a five city education and sleep product donation tour in which Milwaukee was included. In an effort to address the co-sleeping issues in Milwaukee, JPMA donated to NewThreads of Hope brand new cribs, portable play yards, wearable infant blankets, HALO Sleep Sacks and onesies from the "This Side Up" campaign. The SOS Center was fortunate to in turn receive some of these items for our families. This coincided perfectly with our

Annual Health Fair and we were able to supply expectant mothers with much needed cribs for their newborns. A huge heartfelt thank you to Dennis Brand of NewThreads of Hope and Ron and Carolyn Schmeling of Two Tunics.

## Annual Christmas Show and Dinner

The SOS Center's Annual Christmas Show and Dinner celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ was held on December 11, 2010. This year, instead of our traditional puppet show, After School Director, Tiffany Phillips, directed the children of the After School Program in "The Christmas Story," while other students read poems. The students worked very hard preparing for the performance. They rehearsed in their spare time after homework was complete and it was a joy to watch them perform! We hope to make the student's performance a part of the show every year. When the entertainment was over we were treated to a fabulous meal of turkey, stuffing, green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls and desserts provided by over 20 volunteers from Hales Corner Lutheran Church. No one went away hungry! A special thank you to Hales Corner for once again preparing and serving dinner. It is so wonderful to be "taken care of" that day by such a wonderful group, thank you.



Joseph (Jaylin), Shepherd (Ileontay) and Angel (Allyn)

Through the generosity of NorthPoint Community Church, Divine Redeemer-Hartland, Peace-Neenah, St. Paul's-Grafton, Trinity-Freistadt-Mequon and Beautiful Savior-Mequon Lutheran Churches, and Lockers Florist, we were once again able to send all of our students and their families' home with Christmas gifts including Gift Bags (Trinity-Freistadt) and Bibles (Divine Redeemer)! In spite of the cold and rainy weather, it was a truly amazing day to see our SOS Center families, staff, board of directors and all of our volunteers come together to share a day of celebration. We are so blessed!

In addition to the above gifts, two groups, The Dean and Mary Todd-Krueger Family and the National Honor Society of Milwaukee Lutheran High School adopted families from the SOS Center community and provided them with Christmas gifts and food. We are increasingly blessed with the generosity of our donors. Thank you all for providing gifts to a mother who would not have had presents for her children on Christmas morning. And to another mother who did not have beds, furniture, linens or daily supplies in her recently acquired apartment. It is through these acts of love and generosity we are able to give our families a helping hand. Thank you.



MLHS - National Honor Society Students and SOS staff