

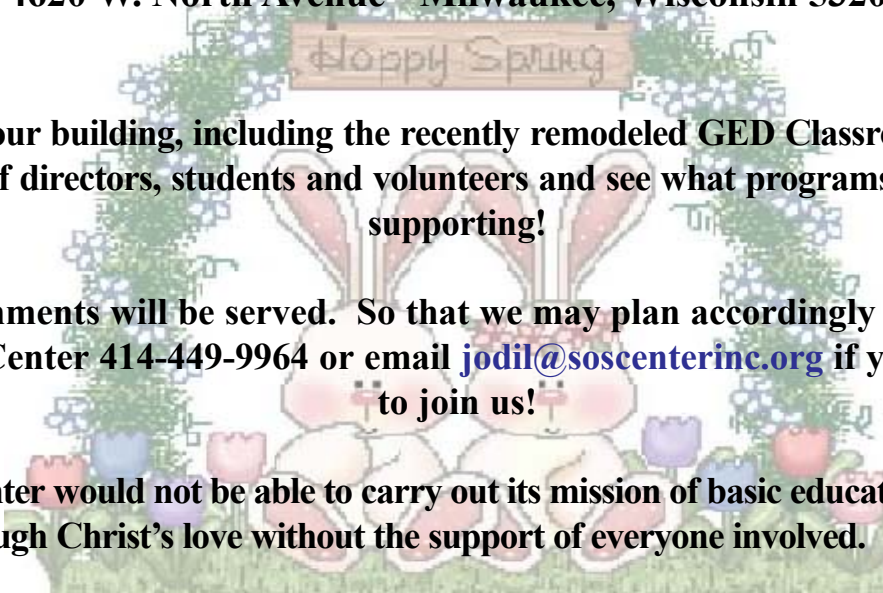
**SOS Center Open House**  
**Sunday April 18, 2010**  
**12 PM - 3:00 PM**

4620 W. North Avenue • Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

Come tour our building, including the recently remodeled GED Classroom, meet our staff, board of directors, students and volunteers and see what programs you have been supporting!

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 basic education and human care through Christ's love without the support of everyone involved. Thank you!



**SOS CENTER**

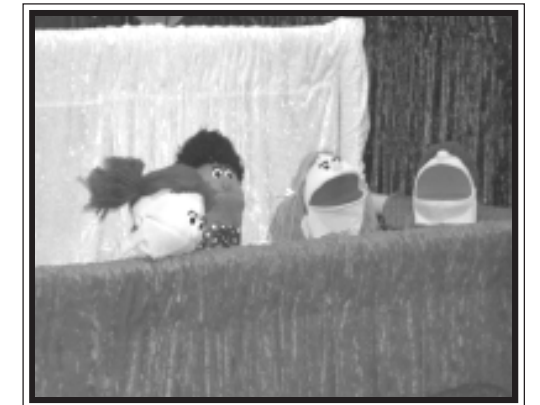
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SOS Center, Inc. • 4620 West North Avenue • Milwaukee, WI 53208 • P(414)449-9964 • F(414)449-1934 • [www.soscenterinc.org](http://www.soscenterinc.org)

**Annual Christmas Dinner and Puppet Show**

The SOS Center's Annual Christmas Dinner and Puppet Show celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ were held on December 12, 2009. Promise Puppets from Hales Corners Lutheran Church provided entertainment that young and old alike enjoyed. Over 20 volunteers from Hales Corners also cooked and served a wonderful dinner of turkey, stuffing, green beans, mashed potatoes and rolls. Desserts were provided by SOS Staff and Board of Directors, as well as members of Trinity-Freistadt and Our Redeemer Lutheran Churches. No one went away hungry that day!



Through the generosity of NorthPoint Community Church, Divine Redeemer, Living Word and Beautiful Savior Lutheran Churches, Two-Tunics from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lockers Florist and CERAC, Inc., we were once again able to send all of our students and their families' home with Christmas gifts! Stockings filled with candy for the kids were donated by Erin Wilson, Peace Lutheran Church in Neenah and SOS Staff. 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!

**Annual Fundraiser - Fall 2010**

The SOS Center Fundraiser Committee is already hard at work planning our Annual Fundraiser! Look for more information in our Summer Newsletter, and for Save the Date cards in your mailboxes. We rely on donations and results from our fundraiser to keep our programs free of charge and open to our clients. Your support of our event through a donation or purchase of a live auction, silent auction or raffle item, or purchase of a dinner ticket is greatly appreciated. Please consider donating to the SOS Center through our Annual Fundraiser. Contact Jodi Kessel Lyon at 414-449-9964 or [jodil@soscenterinc.org](mailto:jodil@soscenterinc.org) for more information. Thank you!

**Our Wish List**

The Sherman Park area surrounding the SOS Center has approximately 43,000 residents in a culturally diverse community. 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 the needs of the children and their families who are challenged daily by the effects of low/no income, broken families, crime, drug abuse and socioeconomic stresses.

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!

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## SOS Center Update

Spring has arrived at the SOS Center, and we are enjoying every minute of it, including all of the clean up that comes with it! I must continuously thank my wonderful volunteers that come out in full force when there are projects and work to be done here at the Center. They have completed the remodeling of the restroom for the GED Classroom, replaced fixtures in other restrooms, dry walled and painted one of the offices, cleaned out rooms and moved furniture so we could have our carpet laid in a day. And all of this in the past month, thank you! It is truly a team effort keeping the Center going and I sincerely appreciate the hard work and dedication of everyone involved.

Our Annual Meeting a few months ago brought four new members onto our Board of Directors. It is my pleasure to welcome the following to our SOS Center Family. Brenda Batom joins us from Mission of Christ Lutheran Church in Milwaukee and has known our founder Mr. Ken Greve for many years. She met Mr. Greve as a child when he knocked on the door of her mother's home and they have been friends ever since. Don Niedfeldt joins us from Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Pewaukee and brings board membership and mission trip experience with him. Kevin Rather comes to us from NorthPoint Community Church in North Lake, bringing with him valuable board experience. And finally, long time volunteer Tracy Zimdars from Our Redeemer, Wauwatosa joins us. A warm welcome and thank you to each of you!

Our most recent members will be serving a three year term and join the following on the SOS Center Board; John Wolck, Chairman of the Board, Bill Redmond, Vice Chairman, Sue Frost, Secretary, Patrick Weege, Treasurer, and Directors Johnnie Fields Jr., Ellen Grossmann, Trina Jashinsky, Keith Konen, Mary Todd-Krueger, South Wisconsin District - LCMS Representative President Rev. John Wille and Honorary Charter Member Doris Church. I extend a genuine thank you to the entire board for their time and efforts in guiding the future of the SOS Center. Great things are happening here! Please join us for our Open House Sunday April 18, 2010 from 12 noon to 3:00 pm. and see what we have been up to!

Finally, I am excited to have accepted the position of Executive Director here at the Center. My first months here have been a learning experience and I look forward to working with the Board of Directors and staff in continuing the mission Ken and Arlene Greve started in 1982. I would love to meet each of you and share the SOS story with you. If you would like a tour of the Center or would like me to speak to your congregation or group about the Center please contact me at 414-449-9964 or [jodil@soscenterinc.org](mailto:jodil@soscenterinc.org). I hope to see many of you at our Open House!

Peace and Grace,

Jodi Kessel Lyon  
Executive Director

## Support the SOS Center - Shop Pick N Save

The We Care Program helps non-profit organizations raise additional funds through supportive shoppers who use their Advantage Plus Club savers card. Registering your Pick N Save Advantage Club card with the SOS Center's number 718300 at any Pick N Save service counter and showing your card each time you shop, will help support the Center.

### Partners in Ministry

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

In particular, the **SOS Center** invites you to become a monthly pledge partner. Such regular financial support provides the cash flow to meet monthly expenses.

If you desire to become a pledge partner, please fill out and send in the completed form below. The **SOS Center** will acknowledge your gifts and keep you informed.

Yes, I/we want to become **Partners in Ministry**. Please accept my monthly donation of:

\$10  \$20  \$50  \$100  Other

OR

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

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

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

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

**Check**  **Mastercard/Visa/Discover**

**Card Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Card Security Code (3 or 4 digits):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Card Holder:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Thank you for your generosity and continued support of our ministry!**

## After School Program

The SOS Center's After School Program has 57 registered students. This is our largest group to date! We have had over 1,600 pairs of little (and big!) feet come through our doors since the beginning of the school year. March was our busiest month with 367 students attending! Students come Monday through Thursday arriving after school at approximately 2:30 pm and staying until we close at 6:00 pm. We serve all of the students a snack and meal everyday.

We have a great group of kids coming to the Center, ranging in age from K4 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This includes 12 eighth graders, mostly boys, coming on a regular basis and it is a blessing to see them so well behaved and working hard in school. They will all be off to different high schools throughout Milwaukee after this year, and they will be missed at the SOS Center next year!

It is hard to believe we are entering the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the school year already! Where has the year gone? All of our students work hard to complete their homework every day and improve their math, reading and vocabulary skills. We are so proud when they rush in showing us their report cards and their Award Certificates from school for "B Honor Roll", "Best Effort" and "Most Improved Behavior". It is at these times that we are shown how much of a positive impact we truly have on our kids. We asked some of the students what they would be doing with their time and where they would be if they didn't come to the SOS Center. These are some of their responses...

***"I would probably be at home every day playing video games."***

7<sup>th</sup> grade boy

***"With my mom, playing basketball with my brother or at home playing DSI (hand held game)"***

6<sup>th</sup> grade boy

***"Go to daycare, watch movies or play on the tot lot (at daycare)"***

4<sup>th</sup> grade boy



As you can see, none of the boys mentioned homework. Offering our students a safe Christian environment and the time to focus and do their homework is making a difference in their lives! Thank you to everyone who supports the SOS Center, whether financially or with your time. You are making a difference!

## English as a Second Language

After marrying in 1973 in Laos, escaping the ongoing Vietnam Conflict to Thailand in 1980 and settling in Stockton, California in 1992, Zoua Vue and her husband, along with their five children, moved to Milwaukee seeking better economic opportunity. A cousin of her husband already lived here, helping them settle in. The family has lived here since 1998 and now has 10 children and three grandchildren.



Zoua runs a certified daycare where she takes care of six children including her grandchildren. She has had Hmong friends translate for her to run the business. Zoua's days are very busy with her family and she does not have time at home to learn English. Her children are bilingual and translate for her when necessary or speak in her native language. Zoua's children are very happy she is learning English, because her daughter doesn't have to go to the store with her nearly as often now.

Zoua said, "Everything is hard", when asked what the hardest part was about living in the United States and not speaking English. If she wasn't coming to the SOS Center, Zoua said she would not go anywhere else to learn English. She comes to the SOS Center because it is close to her house and she likes the one on one help she receives. The tutoring gives her a quiet time to learn and it has helped her to read books.

Zoua began coming to the SOS Center with her husband's aunt about 10 years ago. She said there were a lot more students and tutors then, both in the morning and afternoon. She used to come in the morning but now attends three afternoons a week for at least an hour each day. When classes resumed in September 2009 after summer break, Zoua was without a regular tutor. Concordia University students and others stepped in and tutored her until Paul Davis came to the rescue.

Paul has a degree in English and is currently a substitute teacher looking for a full-time position. He heard about the opportunity to tutor while volunteering at the SOS Center's Annual Christmas Dinner. A member of Hales Corners Lutheran Church, Paul volunteered with his family and fellow congregation members to prepare and serve dinner to SOS Center families this past December.

Paul said he knew he had the time in his schedule now to tutor and felt the timing was right to do it. "Zoua cares a lot and is a very hard worker", said Paul. As with any student, some days you accomplish more than others but the reward when she "gets it" is the best. Paul has used his education and resources in this position, bringing in his own teaching tools and knowledge. Paul is a wonderful and dedicated tutor filling a great need at the SOS Center at just the right time. Thank you to both Zoua and Paul for their desire to always to do their best and to strive for success in everything they do!

## GED Program

Our GED Preparation Classes, taught by Pastor Dr. Daniel Whitelaw, continue to grow since the launch in September 2009. We have 150 registered students with an average of over 100 students coming through our doors each month. We continue to register new students every day. Our students are extremely grateful for our cost free program, which is made possible by the Siebert Foundation and numerous donors. The following are testimonials from some of our students...

*"The Pastor helps me out a lot. If you don't understand something he will help you out. Within a couple of months I have learned a lot. The students here are friendly too."*

*"I'm grateful for the SOS Center and the GED Lab. I've been out of school for over 30 years...I'm thankful for Pastor Whitelaw who always encourages me and keeps me from giving up."*

*"The Center is a blessing from God. Pastor Whitelaw is a man of God! He's well educated. The Center is a place that I am pleased to have found. I feel I am getting the best help to obtain my GED. Here I am encouraged to receive all that I can and I am told often I can do this, and I believe I can."*

*"To the founders of the SOS Program, I would like for you to know that I enjoy the program very much. The computers help me to improve my skills and learn the keyboard. The workbooks are great too. But what I really enjoy is the convenient hours and the ability to work at my own pace. Thanks a lot."*



## Volunteers

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! The SOS Center would not be here without the numerous volunteers that keep our building and programs running. From the very beginning in 1982 the Center has relied on the skills, talents and generosity of its volunteers and today is no different. If I start to mention all of my volunteers by name I will surely miss someone! Not wanting to do that I will list some of the projects they have completed and again extend a huge thank you to everyone!

- Filling dumpsters on Clean Up Days
- Repairing and replacing kitchen and bathroom fixtures
- Dry walling and painting rooms
- Laying new tile floor
- Remodeling the GED Classroom
- Bricking in outside basement windows
- Moving furniture for new carpet
- Organizing the books in our library
- Remodeling GED bathroom
- Sorting and organizing clothing
- Tutoring



Volunteers from Hales Corner Lutheran Church

I can't say enough how much I appreciate all of the time and effort the volunteers put into the SOS Center. It is truly a labor of love! If you would like to be a part of our team in any way please call Jodi or Tiffany at 414-449-9964 or email Jodi at [jodil@soscenterinc.org](mailto:jodil@soscenterinc.org). Thank you for your generosity of time and continued support of our ministry!