

28th Annual Fundraising Event
Sunday October 24, 2010
2:30 - 6:30 pm

Discovery World Museum at Pier Wisconsin
500 North Harbor Drive, Milwaukee

Dinner catered by The Bartolotta Catering Company & Events
Adults - \$50 – Reserved Table for 10 - \$450

We are still in need of live and silent auction, and raffle items. Please consider donating an item to benefit our Fundraiser.

To make a reservation or donate an item for the auction, please contact Jodi Kessel Lyon at the SOS Center at 414-449-9964 or jodil@soscenterinc.org.

The SOS Center would not be able to carry out its mission of basic education and human care through Christ's love without your support. Thank you!

SOS CENTER

STRENGTH OF SAVIOR



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

Ashley Brown

'We were blessed this past school year to have twelve 8th grade students registered in our After School Program. Some of their academic accomplishments were highlighted in our last newsletter and we are proud to say they all finished the school year strong and have been promoted to high school! One of our students, Ashley Brown, was asked to give a speech at her 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony. She was recognized by Hi-Mount School for her efforts to positively influence her peers. Her teachers often went to her and asked her to speak to fellow students who were struggling with their work or attitude. She did an outstanding job in motivating her classmates to work hard in school and to dream of a future beyond middle school and high school. Ashley routinely came to the SOS Center after school to complete her homework and work on her school projects. She led by example and made it ok and even cool to be a good student. Ashley has a strong faith in the Lord and does her best to live her life in His grace. She is spending her free time this summer helping her mother in her daycare and looking for a part time job.



Annual Fundraiser - Fall 2010

The SOS Center's Annual Fundraiser is planned for Sunday October 24 from 2:30 pm – 6:30 pm. We have once again been blessed with the use of The Pilot Room at Discovery World Museum at Pier Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Many of you received a Save-the-Date card already and invitations will be mailed next month. If you have not received a card and would like an invitation please contact Jodi Kessel Lyon at the SOS Center 414-449-9964 or jodil@soscenterinc.org. Tickets are \$50 each or \$450 for a reserved table of 10. This includes dinner by Bartolotta Catering and entertainment by Cheryl McCrary and the Heir-Born Band, as well as a live and silent auction, raffle items and a cash prize raffle drawing.

As a 501(c)(3) organization we rely on the generosity of individuals and businesses to make donations of goods and services to our auctions. We are asking you to consider making such a donation, which is tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Contact Jodi at the SOS Center at 414-449-9964 or jodil@soscenterinc.org if you are interested in donating an auction or raffle item. Your support of our event helps keep our programs free of charge and open to our clients. Your support is greatly appreciated! Thank you!

SOS Center Board of Director Nominations

The SOS Center is looking for candidates for its Board of Directors. Our annual meeting will be held Saturday October 9, 2010 where we will elect four (4) board members for a three (3) year term each. The SOS Center is grounded in the belief that each person is a unique creation of God and is offered a full life as promised by Jesus. The Center provides services in education, tutoring, sewing classes, GED preparation and spiritual care. Please consider joining us in this very important and Christ-Centered ministry. Please contact Jodi Kessel Lyon at 414-449-9964 or jodil@soscenterinc.org if interested. All nominations are due by **September 10, 2010**.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208
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Strength of Savior
SOS Center, Inc.

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SOS Center Update

Change and Challenges

¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, **who does not change** like shifting shadows. (James 1:17 (New International Version))

God does not change as stated in the preceding verse. However, the rest of us must put up with change everyday as it impacts us personally as well as the organizations where we work and volunteer. Change brings different challenges, but also opportunities for God to respond as only He can through the love and generosity of His children.

I was recently elected Board Chairman to complete the term of Mr. John Wolck who did a great job for the SOS Center in his leadership and commitment to serve. John will remain on the board until his current term expires.

Making the transition from director to chairman is a big change. Add to that, an Executive Director who has been around just about a year with all the other changes going on in social ministry and everyday challenges, there's a lot to manage. Unfortunately, during transitions, we miss some things, misplace names and addresses, or fail to follow through on sending information. If we have failed in any of these areas with you, we apologize and ask your forgiveness. Please let us know with a call or email that you would still like to receive information about SOS or be part of the ministry we provide. Please call me directly on my cell at 414-405-7190 or contact Jodi at the SOS Center.

In an effort to stay on top of things and move the SOS Center to the next level, we have engaged the consultative services of Mr. Edward McDonald, Community Resource Development Educator, from the University of Wisconsin Extension. Mr. McDonald's services are free of charge and another example of our university working together with community based organizations to improve themselves and the lives of community residents. Mr. McDonald will take the SOS Center's directors through a self assessment and strategic planning process in the next several months so that we are able to share with you the SOS Center's vision and mission in January 2011.

Change is inevitable. But understanding and utilizing the tools of change management, we will all be fine with the help of God.

Change management is a systematic approach to dealing with change, both from the perspective of an organization and on the individual level. Change management has at least three different aspects, including:

- adapting to change
- controlling change
- effecting change

Our challenges in starting the GED Program were overcome by a grant from the Siebert Foundation. Our challenge now because of the success of the program is to expand the GED hours of our Program Director to be more responsive to the needs of the community. The Summer Camp was filled to capacity. Our challenge next year is to serve more children with the help of other churches. Our Afterschool program will be starting soon. We've had some challenges recruiting volunteers so we are asking anyone, a group from your church, or place of business to come and spend some time with the kids helping with homework, reading stories, or doing Bible study to help us meet the challenge. No matter what we face, we remember God's Words, "I am with you always".

God's Blessings to all,
Johnnie Fields Jr.
Board Chairman, SOS Center Inc.

Support the SOS Center - Shop Pick N Save

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.

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!

Youth Summer Camp

Wow! Where has the summer gone? Our Youth Summer Camp has come to an end and we were once again blessed by the hand of God to have another safe and successful summer. Our seven week camp was jam packed with activities to keep our students busy and we have many people to thank...forgive me if I miss someone, but know that all of you have impacted these kids in a positive and loving way!



Faith Lutheran in Germantown

Thank you to Jim Duncan, Pastor Kaul and everyone at Faith Lutheran in Germantown for hosting a day of fun with inflatables, games, crafts and excellent food! Our Redeemer in Wauwatosa for VBS (see below).

Mary Lightbody and all those at Brookfield Lutheran for inviting us to share in their 7th and 8th graders Life in Jesus Camp. What a great experience of sharing and fellowship! Joanie Kolton, Parish Nurse, from Sherman Park Lutheran Church and School for teaching us about hygiene, nutrition and brushing our teeth. And Margie Spaeth of Divine Shepherd for improving our reading two days a week. We were also able to take the kids on field trips to the Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee Police Dept., North Point Lighthouse, Cool Waters and roller skating as well.

Thank you also to Gwen Goehner of Divine Redeemer and all those who helped her collect school supplies and backpacks so we may send every Summer Camper back to school well prepared. Thank you as well to Trinity Freistadt for collecting school supplies and backpacks also as we try to fill those ever growing school supply lists!

A special thank you to all of our donors and supporters who answered our Donation Plea letter earlier this summer. Your financial contributions have allowed us to teach the children about Jesus Christ while keeping them safe from the dangers of too much time on ones hands without enough to do. Thank you and may God continue to bless your kind and giving hearts.

Vacation Bible School at Our Redeemer

Thank you again to our wonderful friends at Our Redeemer in Wauwatosa for inviting us to be a part of their week long "High Seas Expedition" VBS in July! Our summer campers had a wonderful time learning more about Our Savior Jesus Christ and making new friends! The children made crafts, sang songs, shared snacks and heard Bible stories. Kirsten Karraker and Deanna Sapiro did an outstanding job organizing and putting on VBS for the week. Kirsten said "What a blessing it was to have you and the SOS children join us! We all loved having them with us... they made the week so much richer. They've made me so much richer."



Brad and Terryunsai

SOS Center Graduates First GED Student!

Ms. Lawanda Cutwright has successfully passed all five sections, Math, Reading, Writing, Social Studies and Science of her GED Exam at MATC! She is the first SOS student to sit for and pass the exam. The start up of our GED Program was funded by the Siebert Lutheran Foundation in 2009 and has been in operation one year now.

Lawanda's success was celebrated at the July Board of Directors Meeting held at the Center. Along with the Board Members and GED Instructor Pastor Dr. Daniel Whitelaw, Mr. Ron Jones, President of the Siebert Lutheran Foundation, was on hand to congratulate Lawanda. Lawanda gave a short speech at the meeting and below is her thank you letter to the SOS Center. Congratulations Lawanda!

"First of all, I want to begin by giving God all the glory for allowing me to obtain my GED. It's truly been a work of His grace. At the age of 16, I dropped out of high school, had a son and got a job to support my child. It was very difficult being a teenage mom and I underestimated the challenges I would have by not staying in school and getting my high school diploma.

I got a cake decorating job at Sam's Club and because of this I was able to stay off welfare for 15 years. Of course, this job did not last and I realized that in order to get another job, employers are insisting that applicants have at least a high school diploma or GED. That's where the SOS Center comes in. I believe and know that the Lord lead me to the Center where there is a great after school program, summer youth camp and GED program that was ideal for my situation.

I particularly like the self-paced model of the GED lab and the friendly support the people at The SOS Center gave me. On June 28th after 7 months of continuous effort, I received my GED certificate and I look forward to attending the graduation at MATC in December. The GED lab has truly been a gift from the Lord and I want to thank the staff for helping me arrive at this goal so I can now pursue my college education at MATC. Thank you so much."

Lawanda Cutwright
7/12/10



Adult Basic Education and Sewing Student, Geraldine Dickson

By; Suzanne Frost

We were in the midst of our Tuesday morning tutoring session when I looked up and saw tears in Geraldine's eyes. "Are you crying, Geraldine?" I asked. "Yes," she replied. "But why?" I continued. "I'm just so happy!" she answered. "I'm learning!!"

Life wasn't easy for Geraldine Dickson when she first came to Milwaukee in 1967 from Atoka, Tennessee. Having been both a young wife and mother at age 14, she never really had the opportunity to keep up with her education. Now divorced and in her 50's, Geraldine still dreamt about eventually getting her GED and earning her living by doing alterations on clothing. Two years ago, when a friend read the sign for the SOS Center and told her about the classes being offered, she became a student here. She received Basic Education instruction the first year and eventually joined the Wednesday Sewing classes taught by Chrystal Moecker. When she returned for her second year, it became my privilege to be her Tuesday morning Basic Education teacher.

Many students come through our doors with different needs. While some come for instruction in our English as a Second Language Program, others come for just basic instruction in reading and math. Some days 7-8 students may appear looking for help. It is difficult to say "No", so they learn to appear at staggered times, ESL and ABE students alike, patiently taking turns as they are given individual assignments. (More volunteer tutors are always welcome for our multi-cultural population.)

When I first came to the SOS Center three years ago, answering Armita Harmon's call for a reading specialist, I thought I would be the one doing the "giving" while my students did all the "receiving". Students like Pun E., Chong Ye, Neng, and Geraldine quickly proved me wrong. We would often open with prayer and a simple children's Bible Story. Even our non-Christian friends learned to bow their heads for prayer. Some days Pun E would sing a Korean Christmas hymn. Others would offer a prayer request. Geraldine and I would always end our sessions sharing favorite Bible verses, telling why they are special. When Pun E's best friend died, Geraldine offered words of comfort. When members of my family were thought to be ill, Geraldine and the others would pray for them.

The SOS Center isn't just a place to learn to read, sew or prepare for the GED. It's a place where Christ is shared and dreams have a chance to come to fruition. Just ask Geraldine.

If you have an interest in volunteering at the SOS Center, as a tutor to adults in the morning or children in the afternoon, please contact Jodi Kessel Lyon at 414-449-9964.



Board Member and volunteer, Sue Frost with student Geraldine Dickson. Geraldine is wearing an outfit she made in the SOS Center's Sewing Class.

Volunteer Margie Spaeth

The SOS Center has long relied on committed volunteers and current times are no exception. Margie came to us full of enthusiasm and a love of helping children to read. Most of us who volunteer have many other areas of our lives that occupy our time and volunteering becomes harder and harder. We understand this and it is with God's grace we thank Margie for all she has contributed to the SOS Center. Below is her story as told by Margie.

Psalm 119:68 – You (God) are good and what you do is good

I have been privileged to volunteer at the SOS Center on Mondays after school this past year and on Tuesday and Thursday mornings this summer. I first heard about the Center when my friend Sue Olsen was working there, a number of years ago. I have been involved in an inner city prayer group that has met monthly for over 15 years too. My husband and I are members of Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church.

My husband Wally and I have been blessed with three adult children, Rachel, David and Mark. My day job is teaching 4K (a.m.) and 4K/5K (p.m.) at Grace Lutheran School, Oak Creek. I also am privileged to have a tutoring business for children with reading difficulties after school and on Saturdays at my home in Oak Creek. Senator Herb Kohl recognizes 100 Wisconsin teachers a year. I was honored by this senator to be a recipient as a Teacher of the Year in 2006. To God be the glory!

Margie Spaeth with Summer Campers

Often when I have driven to the SOS Center I have prayed for the neighborhoods and the people I have passed, walking the streets. The teacher in me wants to make a difference, wants to instruct, but also inspire the young people that I have come to meet. My spirit has been touched by the thoughtful questions posed by these young people and blessed by their hugs as I worked with them.

The SOS Center is a wonderful haven for the children who spend time there, hearing God's Word and receiving educational help in various ways. Sharing God's love and knowing that His timing is perfect is a blessing. Our son Mark joined me in volunteering a couple of times this past year at the SOS Center.

I stopped coming to the SOS Center for a couple of months this past spring. Our youngest son, Mark, 25, died at home on April 3 of an accidental, acute heroin toxification. Our older adult children were home from MN for the Easter weekend. We had just had a wonderful time sharing how the Lord was working in each of our lives before we went to bed, that Good Friday evening. When we realized that Mark's bedroom light was on about 2 a.m. on Saturday and he was unresponsive, slumped behind his bedroom door, I began CPR on our son. Have you ever had to do that procedure on a loved one? I still have flashbacks about that early morning! Rescue personnel came very quickly and did all they could, but Mark died on his bedroom floor.

At this writing our family is still reeling from this tragedy! I am not going to bore you with the attempts that were made to get Mark help for drug addiction. Thousands of dollars were stolen by him from us during the months that we attempted to help him. Bottom line, God will not be mocked! We have no doubt that we will see Mark in heaven when we arrive. We know that this young man had a relationship with Jesus, despite the oppression of the heroin addiction.

Drug addiction abounds, whether one lives in the inner city or the suburbs. Jesus, however, is Victor, even over that addiction. Remember, I said God's timing is perfect? On Good Friday, April 2nd, Mark and I had a wonderful day together—taking a walk, grocery shopping, and cleaning a bit in anticipation of his siblings coming home for Easter from Minnesota. He shared too, that night, he had read through most of the Old Testament during the month of March, and even read the book of Mark. He reconnected with his Savior although he later reverted back to the hateful addiction. If you remember, this all happened Easter weekend—a time to remember Christ's resurrection, a time to remember His promise to His followers, and our eventual resurrection with Him in heaven.

Since Mark's death our family has experienced God's mercy as never before! Mercy means loyal kindness. We literally know that Jesus holds our Mark in His arms, but He also has us by the hand as we walk through this gut-wrenching valley of missing our delightful son.

Romans 8:38 For I am convinced that neither DEATH nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the LOVE OF GOD that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Margie Spaeth with Summer Campers