



SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

UPSCALE RESALE HAS A NEW HOME!

This new year brings big changes! South County Outreach is pleased to announce the opening of the new location for our Upscale Resale Thrift Store. To commemorate, the grand opening took place on March 24th and we would like to thank everyone who attended!

In 2020, we received 57,572 donations for the store. Due to the overwhelming generosity of our neighbors, we knew we needed to expand to a more spacious location with a better storefront. With this new space, we are not only able to store more items, but now we can beautifully display those items to sell.

We would also like to give a special thanks to the Laguna Hills Chamber of Commerce, SCO volunteers, board members, and staff for attending the event. Without all of their support, we would not have had such a successful grand opening.

If you haven't already, please stop by Upscale Resale and shop for a cause. Upscale Resale not only sells gorgeous and unique home goods, clothing and more, but when you shop, you are also helping South County Outreach serve more people in need.

Upscale Resale

23461 Ridge Route #D, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 | (949) 855-4158

Hours: Monday-Friday 11am-5pm | Saturday 10am-4pm | Sunday 10am-3pm



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Though 2020 is over, the complications caused by COVID-19 remain. The loss of income has caused an increase in people not being able to pay their rent or provide food for their families.

From the bottom of our hearts, we wish to thank our volunteers for dedicating their time to helping make sure that no one goes to bed hungry or without a place to call home. Because of their generous efforts, we were able to distribute 737,146 pounds of food to thousands of families and individuals in need! Our volunteers helped ensure more families were able to receive help, whether it was through the food program or through our rental and utility assistance program.

Last year, we were able to integrate **more than 1,700 unique volunteers** into our programs. But we want to highlight some exceptional volunteers who stood out with their hard work and dedication during these difficult times: Emma Regalado, Anne Burns, and Julie Sullivan!

Emma Regalado lives in Ranch Santa Margarita, works full-time at Trader Joe's and is a full-time student at Cal State Fullerton, studying Psychology. Emma has been volunteering at SCO for two years, helping in our food pantry, and discovered our organization through a friendly customer.

"I'm interested in ending homelessness in our community because, while I know where my next meal is coming from, others have no idea."

Anne Burns resides in Irvine and works part-time for the County of Orange on special projects. She worked in healthcare management prior to that. Anne has been volunteering at SCO for three years help in different roles, ranging from the front desk to events, and most recently, the food pantry.

"I'm passionate about preventing hunger and homelessness because, in a country and county with so much wealth, excess, and waste, it is unnecessary for people to go without enough food or a place to live."

Julie Sullivan resides in Dana Point and is retired after a 37-year career in sales management. Julie has been volunteering at SCO for three years helping in the food pantry. "People fall on hard times and need a hand up."

There is no possible way that we could ever show the extent of our gratitude. We could not do this crucial work without these volunteers, nor we would we want to, because they give our organization its spirit.

We hope that our volunteers will choose to continue supporting SCO. The continued generosity is what keeps our organization running smoothly, and we are proud to have accomplished so much with their help.

For information about volunteer opportunities, please contact Cassie Owens at cowens@sco-oc.org or 949-380-8144 ext. 217.

2020 YEARLY RECAP

IN 2020, WE HELPED:

5,540 LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS

distributing **737,146** pounds of wholesome, high-quality food and **\$338,908** in rental and utility assistance.



OUR CLIENTS WERE:

homeless families, the underemployed, unemployed, seniors, veterans and other at-risk residents of Orange County.

36% were children. **22%** of those children were under the age of 5.

659 seniors. **42%** were 75+ years old, and **62%** were women.

58% of our clients reported a female head-of-household.

OUR FOOD PANTRY:

provided emergency, non-perishable and fresh food to an average of **1,600 RESIDENTS** each month.



OUR HOUSING PROGRAM:

housed **26** homeless and housing-insecure families last year, helping them reach self-sufficiency by providing **14,850** bed nights.

OUR HOMELESS PREVENTION PROGRAM

paid **224** months of rent and **57** bill utility payments. **656** clients received Case Management.



OUR UPSCALE RESALE THRIFT STORE:

sold **57,572** items donated by the community.



DON'T TAKE YOUR HOUSING FOR GRANTED

From the time she was born until she was 21, Tiffany grew up in the foster care system – bouncing from home to home. At the age of 20, she gave birth to her daughter, Zion, and aged out of foster care shortly thereafter.

With a lack of stability in Tiffany's life, she came to realize an underlying state of depression and busied herself jumping between living situations, hoping to quell her emotional and psychological trauma. She prioritized her basic needs to circumvent this emotional turbulence, and felt secure knowing that, at the very least, her basic needs were met with a roof over her head and transportation. After years of instability, she wondered if this was all she was worth.

Having nowhere safe to go, Tiffany resorted to living in a filthy, infested motel with her daughter, who was only four at the time. Racked with a sense of unworthiness, she contemplated suicide and truly believed a stranger would provide a far better life for her daughter than she ever could. Luckily, Tiffany got the chance to sit down with South County Outreach (SCO) and secured emergency shelter for her little family that was clean and safe. Tiffany attributes being accepted into SCO's Transitional Housing Program to one of the agency's interns who took particular interest in Tiffany's case, believed in her, and advocated for her family.

With the Transitional Housing Program's budgeting assistance, career coaching, and mental health services, Tiffany finally had the opportunity to refocus some much-needed attention on herself. Tiffany was already working as a Certified Nursing Assistant, but knew it was not enough to provide the life she envisioned for her family. She knew of the financial and emotional success college had afforded her friends and loved ones. Tiffany considered how a college education might better enable her to provide for Zion and, without hesitation, enrolled in Orange Coast College in August, 2020. This first semester proved to be arduous; but with consistency and determination, Tiffany was able to graduate and start her journey from existing to thriving.

As the end of her Transitional Housing Program drew to a close, Tiffany prepared to secure a home of her own, but this was challenging as she was met with rejection after rejection. Again, she wondered what the next step might be and if this was the peak of her life. Tiffany found out that her college built a series of apartment complexes just off campus, but there was still the possibility that she could not afford it, or even qualify for a unit. Still determined to thrive, Tiffany applied, qualified, and signed a lease with university housing services. Shortly after moving to her new home, Tiffany landed a position with the Orange County Department of Education and no longer questions whether she can cover her rent each month.

After years of adversity, Tiffany and Zion, now 25 and 5, reflects on one of the keys to her growing success: the unwavering support of South County Outreach. She also considers therapy to be integral to the perseverance of those who struggle to also overcome mental health issues, stating, **“if you don't feel good about yourself, you cannot reach the peaks that you are meant to see.”** Having come from a trauma-based environment, Tiffany is fervent about the importance of the life-changing support of seeking help. **“If we look for help and get support, it will change our lives. I never thought in a year I could do half of what I did. I will continue to move forward because I know I'm worthy”**



HELP
THEM HOME
A GIVING DAY FOR
OC'S HOMELESS

&



**19 ORGANIZATIONS ARE COMING
TOGETHER TO RAISE \$1,000,000 TO
END HOMELESSNESS ON APRIL 28.**

HELP THEM HOME

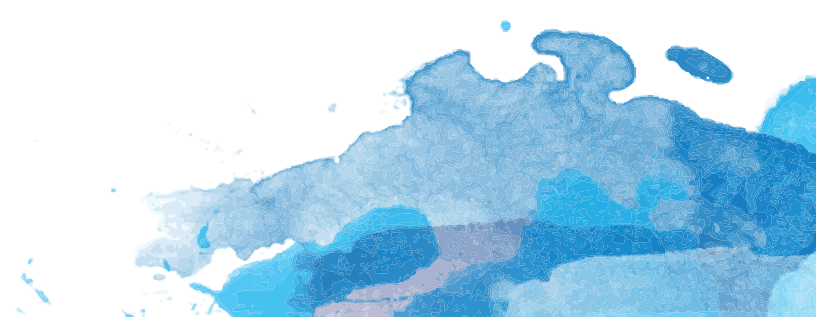
South County Outreach is partnering with the Orange County Community Foundation and 19 local nonprofits to host Help Them Home 2021 - a giving day campaign on April 28.

**OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE \$30,000 TO DIRECTLY SUPPORT HOMELESS FAMILIES,
AND THOSE AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS!**

Funding our continuum of Homeless Prevention programs is important now, more than ever, in the wake of a global crisis. Though 2020 is over, the effects of COVID-19 remain. The fallout from lost income and financial uncertainty has put many families at risk of essential utilities being disconnected — or worse — being evicted and losing their homes entirely. Prior to the pandemic, one in three California households were already struggling to meet basic needs. Low-income households in Orange County increased due to climbing rental costs and food prices. In 2019, the area's unemployment rate was 2.6% and at the end of 2020 it was 6.4%—more than double.

Help Them Home is vital to the sustainability of our communities' most vulnerable residents. Join us on April 28 and help us end hunger and house hope.

We need your support to serve more families, children, seniors, homeless, and those at risk of homelessness to create a more vibrant and thriving Orange County. Help Them Home is a timely opportunity for the community to come together in support of our struggling families and prevent a temporary financial setback from becoming a socio-economic crisis for your neighbors. Visit our website and social media pages on April 28 to find out how you can help!





HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY AND TOMORROW

Dear SCO Friends and Supporters -

South County Outreach recently decided to establish a planned giving and endowment development program. We are doing this to better prepare our families, our community, and South County Outreach for the future.

Over the years, families have been generous in supporting faith groups, educational institutions, and many charitable agencies that give strength and meaning to our way of life. Each of us has our favorite causes we regularly support. Even in years of economic decline, we have consistently increased our giving at SCO.

When we think of the word "philanthropist," most of us envision those relatively few, very wealthy people who direct their fortunes to their chosen charities. This article is the first of several that will share information on how each of us can be a philanthropist in our own way.

We are thankful for the interest, support, and leadership that so many have given over the years to make our organization the vital institution it is today. We hope that, through our efforts, you will consider a planned gift to South County Outreach to ensure the financial security of our work for future generations.

Best Regards,
LaVal Brewer
President & Chief Executive Officer

SOUTH COUNTY OUTREACH - LEGACY CIRCLE

Recognizing Asset Giving

The Legacy Circle is a group of donors who help perpetuate South County Outreach's influence through their gifts and commitments to long-term support.

Donors qualify to become members of the Legacy Circle in one or more of the following ways:

- Making an outright gift to the Endowment Fund of securities, property, or other marketable assets;
- Creating a charitable trust or life estate gift to benefit South County Outreach
- Naming South County Outreach as a beneficiary of a new or existing life insurance policy, retirement fund, or another asset;
- Naming South County Outreach to receive a gift through a will or living trust.

Gifts and commitments may be directed to benefit South County Outreach's overall work or designated to support a particular program. The commitment, rather than the amount, is the overriding factor in qualifying for membership in the Legacy Circle.

Legacy Circle members will gather each year to celebrate South County Outreach's work; and receive the heartfelt thanks of the organization for their generosity. Each year, they will hear first-hand how current funds are being used to further the work of South County Outreach.

For More Information: Thank you for your interest and continuing support of South County Outreach. We would be pleased to visit with you about these and other gift ideas. Should you qualify for membership in our Legacy Circle, or if you would like more information, please call Dennis Williams at dwilliams@sco-oc.org or 949-380-8144 ext. 218.

WELCOME NEW STAFF



Manny Cervantes joins us as the Pantry Operations Coordinator. He loves Baseball and writing scary short stories.



Ivy Nguyen join us as an Eligibility Worker. Her hobbies include hiking, catching sunsets, and yoga.



KD Nguyen joins us as the Marketing & Communications Coordinator. His hobbies include boxing, films, and comics.



Ruby Osorio joins us as the Homeless Prevention Case Worker. Her hobbies include jumping rope and listening to true crime podcasts.



Angela Riley joins us as the Compliance Coordinator. She enjoys watching scary movies and recently took up carpentry as a new hobby.








Megan Ryan join us as an Eligibility Worker. In her free time, she enjoys crocheting, and baking.



south county outreach

Social Handles

-  South County Outreach (@outreachoc)
-  South County Outreach (@outreachoc)
-  South County Outreach
-  South County Outreach
-  South County Outreach (@outreachoc)

Food Pantry

7 Whatney, Suite B, Irvine, CA 92618
Phone: 949.380.8144, ext. 207

Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9am to 2pm | Friday 9am to 11am
Appointments preferred but not required.

Upscale Resale Thrift Store

23461 Ridge Route #D, Laguna Hills, CA 92653
Phone: 949.855.4158

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