



# SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This summer, **South County Outreach** saw a dramatic increase in individuals and families seeking our housing and food services. With the cost of living and cost of food on a continual rise, it is no surprise that over **1,500 households** frequented our pantry in the early summer months. And while the need was high, so was the support from our local community. SCO is grateful to our community for the numerous food drives, in-kind and monetary donations, and overall generosity of our friends and supporters.

As we prepare for the Fall and **National Hunger Awareness** month, South County Outreach is in need of canned and fresh food to keep our shelves stocked and keep more people fed in Orange County. We cannot do this important work alone, and now even more than ever, SCO needs our community to come together and take care of one another.

We are hoping you will join us in leaving a positive impact on the lives of those who need it most – whether that is by volunteering with us, hosting a food drive, donating kitchen essentials to our **Food Market**, or making a monetary donation – every effort counts to ensuring no one goes to bed hungry or without a roof over their head.

With your help, South County Outreach can continue to provide the necessary resources families and individuals need. We hope you will consider getting involved and you can learn more about opportunities with SCO by visiting [www.sco-oc.org/get-involved](http://www.sco-oc.org/get-involved).

Best Regards,

LaVal Brewer  
President & Chief Executive Officer

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Charity Classic Golf Tournament

Join South County Outreach on Friday, November 18th at the Aliso Viejo Country Club for our Charity Classic Golf Tournament.

South County Outreach is proud to collaborate with Aliso Viejo Country Club for this unique fundraising event. Join us for a day of golf, camaraderie, food and drinks all for a great cause!

Sponsorship and golf opportunities available. Visit [www.sco-oc.org/charity-classic](http://www.sco-oc.org/charity-classic) for more info.



## Dana Point Turkey Trot

Save the date! Celebrate the 45th Annual Dana Point Turkey Trot Thursday, November 24 – Thanksgiving Day! South County Outreach is proud to be one of this year's charity partners.

The Dana Point Turkey Trot continues to support local non-profit organizations and charities by donating proceeds from the race. Please consider making a donation to South County Outreach during online registration checkout.

Join us for a fun-filled, family friendly event and receive 10% off by using our promo code **'SCOFAMILY'**.

Register now and learn more at [www.turkeytrot.com](http://www.turkeytrot.com)



## Mayor's Breakfast of Compassion

Hosted by the Laguna Niguel Interfaith Council on Thursday, September 22, 2022 at the Crown Valley Community Center (29751 Crown Valley Pkwy, Laguna Niguel)

7:00 am Ballroom opens  
7:30 am Breakfast served  
9:00 am Program begins

A portion of the event registration will benefit South County Outreach. Please submit registration form no later than Thursday, September 15, 2022.

For more information, contact Jim McGinley at [602-418-0058](tel:602-418-0058) or [jmcinley.kofc12834@gmail.com](mailto:jmcinley.kofc12834@gmail.com).

If you would like more information on these events, please contact Dennis Williams at (949) 687-2401 or [dwilliams@sco-oc.org](mailto:dwilliams@sco-oc.org).

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## David & Robin Rogers

For Dave and Robin Rogers, community is everything. Having worked in local government for many years, Dave has seen first-hand the great work of many local organizations making a difference for the people they serve. When the opportunity to take an early retirement arose in 2019, Dave quickly jumped at the chance to get more involved and give back to the community he loves so much. He saw how his wife Robin was so dedicated to causes she cared about, being a long-time volunteer with local animal care and pet adoption centers, and he wanted to find something they could do together.

That's when Dave remembered South County Outreach. For the Rogers', it was important to support a local organization that they knew directly helps their community and the people in their own neighborhood. They found that opportunity with Upscale Resale, SCO's thrift store that benefits families and individuals facing food insecurity and homelessness in Orange County.

Every Monday for the last two years, Dave and Robin have volunteered at Upscale Resale Thrift Store. Even when the store relocated, Dave and Robin found ways to continue to help. "With the bigger location, there is more opportunity for the public to come in," says Dave. "And more space for the stuff we sort through."

**"It's always an adventure, and you never know what is going to be donated," says Robin.**



Upscale Resale accepts donations three days a week (Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays between 11:00 am – 2:00 pm) of new and gently used items from clothing and accessories, home décor, furniture, toys and more. Volunteers like Dave and Robin are essential to making sure items are ready for customers in the store. With every purchase supporting SCO's programs and services, Dave and Robin know the importance of the work they do.

**"This has been a great experience and you don't have to donate a lot of time," says Dave. "There's camaraderie, a sense of accomplishment, it's something that people should experience."**

The Upscale Resale thrift store is located at 23461 Ridge Route, #D in Laguna Hills and is open Tuesdays -Fridays 11:00 am – 5:00pm, Saturdays 10:00 am – 4:00pm, and Sundays 10:00 am – 3:00 pm.

For a list of all volunteer opportunities, please visit [www.sco-oc.org/get-involved/volunteer](http://www.sco-oc.org/get-involved/volunteer).



# PACIFIC LIFE FOUNDATION 2022

## Walter B. Gerken Award

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The **Pacific Life Foundation** has been a partner of South County Outreach for more than 20 years. With their focus on having a positive impact on communities through the power of giving, the Pacific Life Foundation has played an important role in helping South County Outreach achieve our mission of ending hunger and homelessness for our neighbors in Orange County.

On **June 6, 2022**, the Pacific Life Foundation hosted their annual grant reception with over **200 local nonprofit professionals**. This event is a unique opportunity for attendees to network and mingle with their peers in the local nonprofit sector. Of special significance during this event was the announcement of the **Walter B. Gerken Community Service Award**, a recognition selected by the Pacific Life team based on merit, relationships and mission-work. Traditionally, the selected nonprofit is informed of this recognition prior to the event, but this year the recipient would find out during the reception. To the surprise of all in attendance, it was **South County Outreach** announced as the 2022 Walter B. Gerken Award winner!

This award validates SCO's continued efforts to serve our customers with dignity, respect, and the power of choice. South County Outreach is proud of the work we do for our community, and we are grateful for all the remarkable people who make it possible – board, staff, volunteers and partnerships like the Pacific Life Foundation.

To make a donation or partner with SCO, please visit [www.sco-oc.org/donate](http://www.sco-oc.org/donate).



## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

For many, the road to self-sufficiency can take many twists and turns, and sometimes a little help is needed to take that first step. During the last recession, **Veronica** and her husband found themselves at one of these crossroads in life when they both unexpectedly lost their jobs. Her husband decided to change careers and pursue his dream of design and enrolled in Manufacturing and Architecture classes at Saddleback College. It was a big step, since their son had just turned two.

Veronica needed help with her next step in life, and thanks to a referral from a local social services agency, she came to **South County Outreach**. Veronica discovered SCO had a computer lab that offered classes in Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint. Knowing her computer skills were in need of an update, she started to enroll in everything that was available and learn as much as she could. It was through one of her instructors that Veronica was connected to a temp agency where she received her first part-time job since being laid off. It was with an insurance/financial services company, and within 8 months, Veronica became a full-time employee and eventually **Director of FP Relations**. She has since continued to advance her career, just starting as a **Business Director** with a Property Management company.

Life took another unexpected turn recently when Veronica's mother was diagnosed with cancer overseas with no medical insurance. Veronica needed to learn new ways to manage her budget with more people under her care and additional medical expenses piling up. In addition to the drastic rise in the cost of living in Southern California, she had to find a way to educate herself in budgeting and saving during these difficult times. When Veronica heard about SCO's new Summer Financial Literacy series, she was one of the first to sign up. **"The topic of the education series is so important," says Veronica. "How to read your finances, how to save even a little bit at a time is very important."**

Veronica credits the classes she took at SCO as the reason her life has changed. And thanks to South County Outreach, she is able to confidently take the next steps toward a stable lifestyle and financial independence. You can help change the lives of SCO clients like Veronica. Visit [www.sco-oc.org/donate](http://www.sco-oc.org/donate) to learn more.

# INTRODUCING SCO'S NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM

While food and housing are important ways to address food insecurity and homelessness, creating long-term solutions to these issues require different approaches. People in need of food or financial assistance are often also in need of a variety of other resources to overcome the obstacles poverty presents. Through skills and job training programs, **South County Outreach** is working with our partners to help our clients move out of poverty and towards greater economic stability. **Employment** helps people overcome poverty and hunger, and with immediate needs met, individuals can focus on building new skills that enable them to earn a living wage, achieve economic stability, and access opportunities for advancement- thereby creating stronger families and neighborhoods.

To help more unemployed and underemployed local residents reach self-sufficiency, South County Outreach is expanding our direct services and support by re-imagining our **Education Programming** into a robust workforce readiness program. The revitalized program will offer individuals an opportunity to explore new industries, develop desirable skills and “climb the ladder” to self-sufficiency. SCO will collaborate with local companies and experts to develop the program curriculum and materials.

This summer, in partnership with **Farmers & Merchants Bank**, SCO launched a 4-part education series for adults. More than 20 of our current clients took an important step towards their financial independence, learning from experts how to best track income and expenses, develop spending and savings plans, repair and improve their credit, and more.

By **increasing resources** for skills development, modernizing career navigation, assisting individuals along their career pathways, and providing necessary transition assistance, SCO is ensuring that our most underserved neighbors can succeed.

For more information on all the services South County Outreach provides, please visit [www.sco-oc.org/get-help/](http://www.sco-oc.org/get-help/).





# LEGACY OF HOPE

## Recognizing Asset Giving

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The **Legacy of Hope** is a group of people who help perpetuate South County Outreach's influence through their gifts and commitments to long-term support. Individuals and couples qualify to become members of the Legacy of Hope 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**

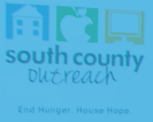
Gifts and commitments may be directed to benefit **South County Outreach's** overall work or designated to support a particular program. The commitment, rather than the amount, is the overriding factor in qualifying for membership in the Legacy of Hope.

The goal of the Legacy of Hope program is to help you plan your **estate and charitable giving** in a way that benefits you, your family and charities like South County Outreach. There are several ways you can make these planned gifts and enjoy tax and income benefits. If you have questions, please contact us. We look forward to helping you.

Legacy of Hope 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, members will hear first-hand how current funds are being used to further the important work of South County Outreach.

Should you qualify for membership in our Legacy of Hope, or if you would like more information, please contact Dennis Williams at 949-687-2401 or [dwilliams@sco-oc.org](mailto:dwilliams@sco-oc.org).





# south county outreach



## South County Outreach

7 Whatney, Suite B, Irvine, CA 92618  
[www.sco-oc.org](http://www.sco-oc.org) | 949.380.8144

### Food Market

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

### Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9am to 2pm | Friday 9am to 11am

### Upscale Resale Thrift Store






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

### Hours:

Monday CLOSED | Tuesday-Friday 11am to 5pm | Saturday 10am to 4pm | Sunday 10am to 3pm

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### Social Media

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