



FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Another year is coming to a close, and as we look back on **2022**, one word comes to mind: gratitude. We are grateful that **South County Outreach** continued to provide nutritious and fresh food to thousands of households this past year and throughout the pandemic. We are grateful for the generous support we received from our local supporters, government partners, and donors to keep our doors open for the growing number of families and at-risk individuals reaching out to us for rental and utilities assistance. And we are grateful for a community that whole-heartedly believes in our mission of ending hunger and homelessness. It is because of **YOU** that we are able to reach more people who may not know where to get help in their times of need.

People like **Daniel**, who visits our food pantry every other month, need our help now more than ever to assist with his family's food needs. Before the pandemic, Daniel used to work an hour away from his home in **Lake Forest**. Like so many businesses during that time, his company had to downsize and Daniel was without work for almost a year. While Daniel eventually found a job closer to home, he still needed help to provide enough food to make full and nutritious meals for his family. Little did Daniel know that he had neighbors down the street who could help - **South County Outreach**. Daniel recalls that even after living in the area for so long, he did not know about the services SCO provided until an SCO volunteer who went to his church gave him more information. Now, Daniel has become a friendly face that all our pantry volunteers enjoy seeing whenever he comes by.

There are so many people in our community, just like Daniel, who work hard to support their loved ones, but still need additional support themselves in order to make ends meet. While we take time to gather together this **Thanksgiving** and count our blessings, let us also remember to share our blessings when we can. Your generosity can help South County Outreach provide fresh produce, eggs, protein, dairy and so much more for families to create meals they can share together during the holidays and all year.

If you are interested in helping feed a family in need, please donate by visiting www.sco-oc.org/donate.

Best Regards,

LaVal Brewer



TAX-WISE YEAR END GIVING STRATEGIES

Here are some ways you can shift tax dollars to charitable dollars to support South County Outreach this year:

Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA –

Persons aged 70 ½ or older can distribute up to \$100,000 from their IRA to a qualified charity like ours. This may lower your income and taxes.

Donor Advised Fund –

Make a tax-deductible gift to South County Outreach from your Charitable Gift Account or Donor Advised Fund.

Outright Gift of an Asset –

Make a gift of stock, real estate or another asset, avoid paying capital gains tax on the transfer and receive a tax-saving charitable deduction.

What about investments that have decreased in value? Of course, these can be donated as well, but you will lose the benefit of a capital loss deduction. Consider selling depreciated property and **donating the proceeds**. Your tax deduction will be the same as if you gave the property, but you will also have a loss deduction to offset the taxes on other gains you may have.

How you make your gift can often affect how much your gift will be. Choosing the best property and timing for your gifts may even allow you to make a larger gift to SCO at the same after-tax cost to you! Also, saving taxes now may even have a “multiplier” effect as the money you save continues to **grow for the future**.

Everyone looks forward to the new year and its promise of new opportunities. Did you know the old year might also yield rewarding returns? As you look ahead, consider some **year-end decisions** that can make a big difference, not just for the new year, but for many years to come. There are a number of pitfalls to avoid when planning your estate. Poor planning is one of them and can result from a mere omission in assets or failure to plan. Another pitfall can involve making the wrong decisions about how to transfer your assets to the people and organizations that mean the most to you.

For more information and to make a donation to SCO, please contact:
Dennis Williams at (949) 687-2401 or dwilliams@sco-oc.org.

VOLUNTEER Q&A

Esther and Jay

Volunteering is one of the most rewarding experiences you can have. It is even more enjoyable when you get to experience it with other amazing people who give their time to help end hunger and homelessness in our community. Just ask Jay and Esther, who have become a dynamic duo in our Food Pantry.

How did you get involved with South County Outreach?

Esther: I am a community member from Mission Viejo, and have been a volunteer at SCO since September 2005 after retiring as a social worker. I heard about South County Outreach because I used to send clients here for services.

Jay: While going back to school and working part-time, I wanted to get involved and found South County Outreach through a volunteering website. I attended an orientation and started volunteering in August of this year. On my first day, I met Miss Esther and ever since, we have tag-teamed working the produce counter in the food pantry.



What do you like about volunteering at SCO?

Esther: When you retire, you have to have a plan and have a list of things you want to do. I had already done everything on my list and decided I wanted to do more by volunteering.

Jay: Volunteering has been a great experience and SCO has been flexible with my school and work schedule. Everything was clear from the beginning- the goals and expectations while volunteering - and everything else I could learn in-person and be hands-on. For me, it feels like a "home" environment where everyone is friendly, welcoming and you start to work with some of the same people every day – like Miss Esther.

Why people should volunteer with SCO?

Esther: It's a good way to get out of the house, meet people and give back to the community.

Jay: If you are thinking about volunteering, there is a reason you're thinking about doing it. Get involved - it is a gratifying, unifying, and humbling experience and it is nice to see yourself directly impact someone's day.

SCO has several volunteering opportunities during the holiday season and all year-round. Whether you volunteer in the food market, at our [Upscale Resale](#) thrift store or host your own food drive — we promise the experience will make a lasting impact on you and the clients we serve.

For a list of all volunteer opportunities, please visit www.sco-oc.org/get-involved/volunteer.



A SEASON OF GIVING

It's hard to picture the holiday season without food. Yet, nearly **300,000 people** in Orange County are facing hunger not just during the holidays, but every day.

Hunger doesn't take a holiday break and thanks to the generosity of our donors and volunteers, South County Outreach continues to serve **2,000 children, seniors and adults** at our food market each month. Your endless support and compassion has empowered us to feed our community with dignity and respect every single day.

Despite this, we know that this time of year will still be difficult for many. We have seen more people come to our door asking for **food and housing assistance** this year than we have seen in the past two years.

With rising food prices and higher costs of living, hunger and homelessness can affect anyone from any walk of life. Each of our clients at **SCO** brings their own backgrounds and life experiences, and food is often a way for people to honor family traditions or celebrate their culture. It can evoke **powerful memories and emotions**, providing more than just sustenance.

As the holiday season kicks off, SCO asks others to consider what diverse, traditional holiday meals look like for people from different backgrounds? Because many dishes require fresh ingredients like milk, eggs, and butter that expire quickly, clients come to SCO's food market for these staples. Many rely on assistance from SCO during the holidays so they can cook a delicious meal while **celebrating togetherness** with their families.

Your support this season will ensure our SCO food market stays stocked with perishable pantry staples so our clients have a chance to celebrate their own traditions with loved ones.

Your contribution at any amount directly impacts the thousands of children, seniors, and families SCO serves each year in Orange County.

\$10 will help a child bake two dozen cookies with their family

\$50 will provide a family of four with enough fresh food to make a delicious Thanksgiving feast

\$100 will provide 25 seniors with enough milk, eggs, and butter for the holiday season

\$500 will enable 60 individuals to have a delicious and complete holiday meal

\$1,000 will provide 111 households with essential dairy items and eggs

We appreciate your support and have provided a donation envelope in this mailer for your convenience. As 2022 draws to a close, we ask our SCO family to join us **nourishing our neighbors** this holiday season and always.

For any questions about donations, please contact Dennis Williams at dwilliams@sco-oc.org or 949-687-2401. To make an online donation, visit www.sco-oc.org/donate.



CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

During this time of year, being “home for the holidays” can have a different meaning for those experiencing housing insecurity. For families and individuals struggling on a daily basis, even the smallest amount of support can make the biggest difference in keeping them safe in their own homes.

As this year draws to an end, the team at South County Outreach reflects back on the clients who made an impact on them. While some clients may still experience bumps in the road ahead, these SCO staff members are confident their clients are now on their way to safely being “home” this holiday season:

Tanner:

I worked with a client who was connected to us through our work with the Family Solutions Collaborative (FSC). She was a single mom with three kids who had just lost her job back in August. Through our rapid rehousing program for families, we helped her pay the deposit on a new place to live and provided rental assistance through December of this year. Not only that, but we also connected her with our Upscale Resale thrift store to help furnish her new home and helped her apply to the SoCalGas CARES program to assist with utilities. By connecting her to important resources, we are helping set her up for success moving forward.

Ivy:

I worked with a family who had 6 people living in their household. Both parents were disabled, but the husband did not qualify for disability. Even with the older kids all working, the family struggled to make payments for their home. Through our programs at SCO, we provided rental assistance for a month and utilities assistance for 3 months. While they’re not out of the woods yet, the family was so grateful for the support and we’re happy we could be there for them during such a difficult time.

Ruby:

I worked with a single mom who was behind on a utility bill. We were able to assist with a large portion of her bill, and even though we always wish we could do more, she was so grateful for even the smallest amount of help. Sometimes the gratitude from our clients makes a huge impact on us.

You can help make a difference in the lives of our SCO clients this holiday season. Visit www.sco-oc.org/donate to learn more.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Many nonprofits are looking for ways to engage members of their community. People are often asked to think of ways to dedicate their time, talent, and treasure to a cause they believe in. For South County Outreach, long-time supporter **Mark DeBellis**, Division President of **Westamerica Communications**, has generously given of his time, talent, and treasure in support of SCO for more than a decade.

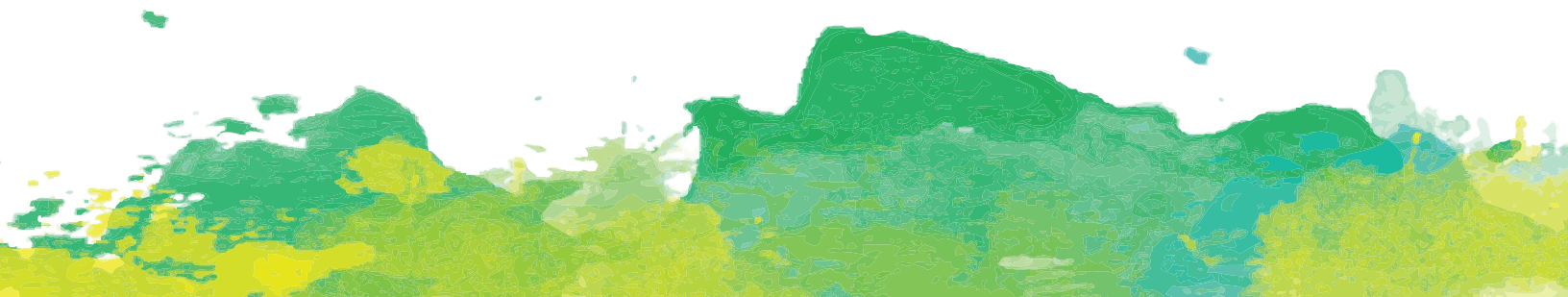
Mark was first inspired to get involved with South County Outreach back in **2005** when one of his employees shared that her father, Stu Taylor, was on the board of directors. The board was looking for some help with outreach efforts and after meeting with Stu, Mark found the mission of SCO aligned with his heart and interest, and he joined shortly afterwards.

The mission of **South County Outreach** really speaks to Mark, as his family went through some chaotic periods growing up. When his parents divorced, Mark remembers his mother having her hands full and struggling to raise four children on her own. "I remember there was always more month left at the end of the money," says Mark. His family struggled with food insecurity and even homelessness, and relied on help from friends and family to survive. Mark believes a resource like SCO would have been a wonderful lifeline for someone sharing his same experience growing up.

Mark continues to support SCO today and believes in the work being done in south **Orange County**. He feels there is a huge need for services that may not always be seen and finds himself referring people that are in need to South County Outreach. "Homelessness and hunger must continue to be perceived as a transitional situation. One that people work through but don't stay in. SCO has the structure to provide a way out for those in this circumstance," Mark says. "A caring spirit combined with the right tools and resources results in a positive outcome for SCO clients."

The team at SCO continues to be grateful for our family of supporters, like Mark, donors, board members, and volunteers during this **holiday season and beyond**.

To make a donation or learn more about partnering with SCO, please visit www.sco-oc.org/donate.





empty
bowls

SAVE THE DATE

April 13, 2023

*Seegerstrom Shelby Event Center, Irvine
starting at 6:00*

Taste and sip to end hunger and house hope with South County Outreach's Empty Bowls hunger awareness fundraiser! South County Outreach will collaborate with locally renowned chefs to treat attendees to a night of tastings and fundraising with the goal to provide pantry essentials to those experiencing food insecurity.

Presented by
South County Outreach

www.sco-oc.org

For more information, contact Dennis Williams at dwilliams@sco-oc.org or call 949-687-2401.

south county outreach



South County Outreach
7 Whatney, Suite B, Irvine, CA 92618
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

Social Media

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