

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

YOUR NEWSLETTER FROM SOUTH COUNTY OUTREACH

SPRING 2024

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You keep families safely together

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Your generosity in action

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Come shop for a cause!

20%

increase in demand for services last year



Thank you for helping South County Outreach serve 8,138 individuals with our food and housing services last year.

You Bring Hope and Joy to families in need during the holidays

Amid the holiday season, a single mother and her daughter found themselves at the heart of a transformative journey.

Lennar Homes, known for its commitment to community, teamed up with South County Outreach to embark on a special project. Their mission was to refurbish two units owned by South County Outreach and make a haven for joy and comfort for our tenants. Lennar employees volunteered their time and talent to create something magical for the deserving family.

The renovation kicked off in early December 2023. Skilled craftsmen and passionate volunteers worked tirelessly, transforming the tired space into a cozy haven. In a matter of 4 days, the unit blossomed into a



Because of your generosity, Priscilla's family celebrated the holidays in their new home!

place of warmth and hope as Lennar Homes added a new coat of paint, brand new flooring, a renovated kitchen and bathroom vanity, new appliances including a stove, dishwasher and fridge, a new dining room set, and furniture for the little girl's room.

South County Outreach provided additional support, ensuring that the family had a

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A Letter from LaVal

I am thrilled to introduce our new monthly newsletter, an avenue to share inspiring stories, updates, and impactful ways you can contribute to our mission.

At South County Outreach, we are committed to alleviating hunger and homelessness, and this newsletter aims to deepen our connection with you, our valued community. Discover success stories of lives transformed and stay informed about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and initiatives.

Your continued support has been instrumental, and this newsletter is a way to express our gratitude. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of those in need. Thank you for being an essential part of the South County Outreach family.

LaVal Brewer
President & CEO

Families together and safe, thanks to you

In June 2023, South County Outreach was introduced to a remarkable individual who had been grappling with the daunting reality of homelessness on and off since 2021. Ivy, a part-time medical technician, and a mother of three, faced the complexities of balancing work commitments while ensuring the well-being of her children. While Ivy could rely on her sister's bathroom facilities, her family was never guaranteed a place to live long-term.



A glimmer of hope emerged when Ivy found a relative willing to provide housing for her family starting in January. However, she would need assistance for the first two months to ensure a smooth settling-in process and gather enough

At South County Outreach, we are committed to fostering positive transformations.

initiating a request through the Family Service Center (FSC).

savings for long-term stability. Our SCO Case Manager worked hand in hand with Ivy, helping gather the necessary documentation and

Luckily, the request was approved, and Ivy's relative committed to providing housing for a minimum of six months. This collaborative effort not only addressed immediate housing concerns but also brought Ivy one step closer toward financial stability for herself and her children. At South County Outreach, we are committed to fostering positive transformations and providing meaningful assistance to those navigating challenging circumstances. Ivy, and others like her, are a testament to the impact of collective efforts in turning the tide from homelessness to stability.

Transforming Lives

Stories from those we serve

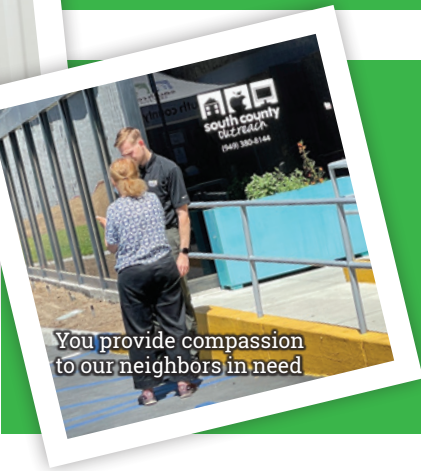
I am so happy to have found this place.

I love being able to shop for what I need like a regular grocery store. I am grateful for all the work SCO does to help people in the community.



If only more organizations handled concerns

with the compassion, empathy and timely approach often needed. I am blessed to have received so much help from South County Outreach. THANK YOU.



Everywhere I turned

all I saw was smiling, helpful, friendly people who genuinely wanted to serve and help out someone down on their luck. It's really comforting to know that people like you still exist in today's world.



We are extremely fortunate

to have been given the help during what was one of the scariest times in our lives & we are happy to have a happy, flourishing family now.



Learn more about how you can help families in our community by visiting www.sco-oc.org/get-involved

Client Connections



Your support makes a direct impact on our neighbors who are on the verge of hunger and homelessness. Vee's story is a great example of how SCO does more than just feed people but gives them hope.

How do you use SCO services?

I use the SCO food pantry once a month. My autistic daughter struggles to communicate, and when she picks her own food from the SCO food pantry it makes her happy and lasts for the whole month.

How did you learn about SCO?

I applied for housing in the city and hadn't heard back in 6 months – we were homeless. A volunteer at another food bank connected me with someone at SCO and they immediately told me they could help us.

How did SCO help you?

SCO handled all the communications for us without me having to go through the hassle of even more paperwork. SCO helped with the first month rent and the deposit. Without them, we wouldn't have housing.

With Your Help

Vee was able to overcome homelessness and continue to provide for her daughter. Your support helps SCO clients stay in their homes and overcome difficult times in their lives.

Shop for a Cause

Our newest thrift store in Laguna Niguel opens



South County Outreach hosted a Grand Opening weekend for its second thrift store, Upscale Resale Laguna Niguel. The Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on February 8 was

attended by over 40 city officials, chamber members, and community partners, including the entire Laguna Niguel City Council. LaVal Brewer, President & CEO of South County Outreach, spoke about our vision and explained how shopping at Upscale Resale directly supports our mission to end hunger and homelessness.

The weekend continued with community-based activities, showcasing Upscale Resale's partnership with the local community. Upscale Resale hosted a Succulent Making Workshop, led by local business JustSuccIt, as well as a Super Bowl-Themed Storytime, with Laguna Niguel Mayor Kelly Jennings reading to the children in attendance. Games, snacks and giveaways for the kids made for a unique, family-fun event. A Weekend-Long Food Drive was also held at the store, where shoppers could drop off shelf-stable items for the SCO food pantry.

Upscale Resale directly supports our mission to end hunger and homelessness

Our grand opening was a success and we welcome you to visit us at 28985 Golden Lantern St, Suite B102 in Laguna Niguel. Hours of operation are Tuesday - Friday 11am -5 pm, Saturday 10 am- 4pm.

Hope & Joy *from page 1*

safe place to stay during the home improvements and offering not only physical assistance but also emotional support, creating a network of care that extended beyond the renovation.

As the final touches were put in place, including a Christmas tree and gifts for everyone, the renovated home stood as a testament to the power of collaboration and compassion. Lennar Homes and South County Outreach had not only renovated this condo but had also revitalized the spirits of a resilient mother and her daughter.

On the morning of the "big reveal," the family was welcomed back to their transformed home. Tears of joy sparkled in their eyes as they crossed the threshold. The holiday season had brought not just lights and decorations but a renewed sense of belonging and security. Thanks to the efforts of these organizations, and supporters like YOU... this mother and daughter could now live a comfortable life in a home filled with love, warmth, and the promise of a brighter future.

YES! I want to give...

- \$250 can feed a family for a week
- \$500 can feed a family for 2 weeks
- \$750 can feed a family for 3 weeks
- \$_____ to feed a family in-need



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Please charge my gift to:



CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE

AMOUNT

CARDHOLDER'S NAME (please print)

PHONE NUMBER

CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE (required)

TODAY'S DATE