

Spirit through Service at S.O.S. Passaic

A Message from Reverend Ann Benedetto,
Board Chairperson of S.O.S. and educator for 25 years.

This summer S.O.S. (safe shelter house for battered women and children in Upper Passaic County) has had the wonderful opportunity to sponsor a summer youth employment program to assist with the many tasks at the shelter house, day care center, and office.

The human spirit is empowered through giving and receiving, and "Spirit through Service" has been the guiding philosophy of this important project. The intersection of the summer youth employment program and S.O.S. has made an incredible contribution to all participants. It is a shining example of how cooperation between communities will empower and compel all involved toward positive, productive, and cooperative goals.

Our youth workers have written about their experiences. Below are some excerpts describing their feelings about the program and the people they have met.

"My favorite thing to do at the shelter is to work with the kids or work in the office. This job is really special to me, and the people there are very special too." -- Shadollar McManus.

"I feel better when I work at the shelter. I want to give some of the kids what I didn't have in my day care or childhood." -- Arthur Lorde

"The thing that touches me most is that the kids get very attached to me. I like that because I have a little brother and I love him as much as I love those kids." -- Jahirra Rodriguez

"I think S.O.S. is a good place to work. Ann Benedetto is the best friend a teenager or a kid could ever have. Sarah, the house mother, is good too. I like her and everybody else. I feel that everyone is a good worker and all the kids are good." -- Julio Pérez

"What I feel about the shelter is that everybody there has a warm, welcome, smiling face that makes you feel good. As for the staff, they are very strong and kindhearted, and they welcome me and others with kindness and caring." -- Alethia Vasquez

"The thing that touches me the most at the shelter are the people, Sandra, Mary, Belle, Sarah, Sandy and Lena, and the way they care and are always there for each other and for other people. I would love to continue to work at the shelter." -- Venus Alfinez

"My favorite person for whom I like to do my best is Jessica. She reminds me of one of my sisters. Before I leave the shelter, I'm going to give her a gift." -- Sophia Chely

S.O.S. Upper Passaic County Shelter for Battered Women and Children

Office: 201-728-0287, 831-0898
Hotline: 201-728-0007

Our shelter is a family/community and our circle of support creates a spiral effect of positive energy and achievement among our residents, dedicated staff, and volunteers.

Our vision guides the development of our programs and that vision is to break the cycles of violence that are passed from one generation to the next. The children are a major focus of our programs, for they are our future.

In addition to ongoing operational funding support, for our children we need:

- **Mentors for Mothers:** Adults who can spend an hour or two a week counselling, listening, guiding our Moms.
- **Big Brothers and Sisters, Grannys & Gramps:** to take an interest in a child and spend some time with him or her.
- **Adopta-Families:** to include a child from our shelter on family outings such as fishing, hiking, swimming, picnicking, day trips, camping, visits to a park, etc.
- **Volunteer Babysitters** are always needed and welcome.

Please contact our office if you can help in any of these areas, or if you would like a speaker to address your group.

201-728-0287 or 831-0898

S.O.S. Wish List

If you, or anyone you know, can help out with any of the following needs, please contact us at: 201-831-0898 or 728-0287.

Children, Day Care Center	Shelter House	Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCR • Toys • Bikes / Trikes • Bike Rack • Art Supplies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCR • Trash cans • Dressers • Food • Fencing • Vacuum • Small Refrigerators • Small Stoves (electric) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint • Linens • Tools • Brooms • Fax Machine • Office Supplies (paper, envelopes, pens, file folders) • Macintosh Computers • File Cabinets • Telephones • Copy machine

S.O.S.

...Help someone on the road to independence and self-reliance...

Donate your car to S.O.S.

We need road worthy vehicles, able to pass DMV inspection. Got a good car that's been a chore to sell?...

Give yourself a tax break...

Donate the vehicle to S.O.S.

We've got a deserving driver!!!

Contact S.O.S. at 201-728-0287