



south county

# Outreach

Fall 2018

## Food Pantry

7 Whatney, Suite B,  
Irvine, Ca 92618  
(949) 380-8144  
www.sco-oc.org  
Email: sco@sco-oc.org

## Food Pantry Hours

Monday, Wednesday,  
Thursday & Friday  
9 am - 3:30 pm  
and Tuesday  
12:30 - 3:30 pm

## Computer Learning Lab/ Cox Tech Center

(949) 380-8144 ext. 212

## Upscale Resale Thrift Store

23502 Ridge Route #G  
Laguna Hills, Ca 92653  
(949) 855-4158

## Upscale Resale Hours

Monday - Friday  
11 am - 5 pm  
Saturday  
10 am - 4 pm

## Upscale Resale Donation Drop-Offs

Monday - Friday  
11 am - 3 pm

## Vehicle Donations

1 (800) 320-0476



## FROM FLOODED TO FORTUNATE

It's been a hectic couple months here at South County Outreach. On Monday, August 13, we had an incredible Back to School event for our families which had been in the works for months.

We ended the Back to School event feeling invigorated and grateful for our neighbors. Then, late Tuesday night, a water pipe burst, resulting in a flood which left our food pantry, food warehouse, computer learning lab, and downstairs offices severely damaged. When our team arrived Wednesday morning, they were shocked to discover over three inches of water on the first floor and water running out the front door. We spent the better half of the day just doing what we could to get the water out - from mops to brooms - we swept as much out of the food pantry as we could before the remediation company arrived.

Once we realized the severity of the damage – that we would most likely be completely taking apart our food pantry and computer lab – we quickly shifted gears to preserving the perishable foods that would otherwise be lost. Food pantries across Orange County came to our aid, picking up over 4,000 lbs. of perishable foods in an effort to avoid wasting what was in our 11 commercial freezers and refrigerators.

We then set to clearing out the computer learning lab. After realizing that all of our cords and cables had been submerged in the water leak, including the chargers to our 8 laptops donated by the Sage Foundation, we sent them off to investigate whether the computers and cords would need to be replaced from damage. Our computer learning lab is a place where the underemployed and unemployed come to improve their computer skills, and is a haven for our clients who would otherwise be unable to send in job applications, print resumes, or develop necessary knowledge of programs like Word and Excel.

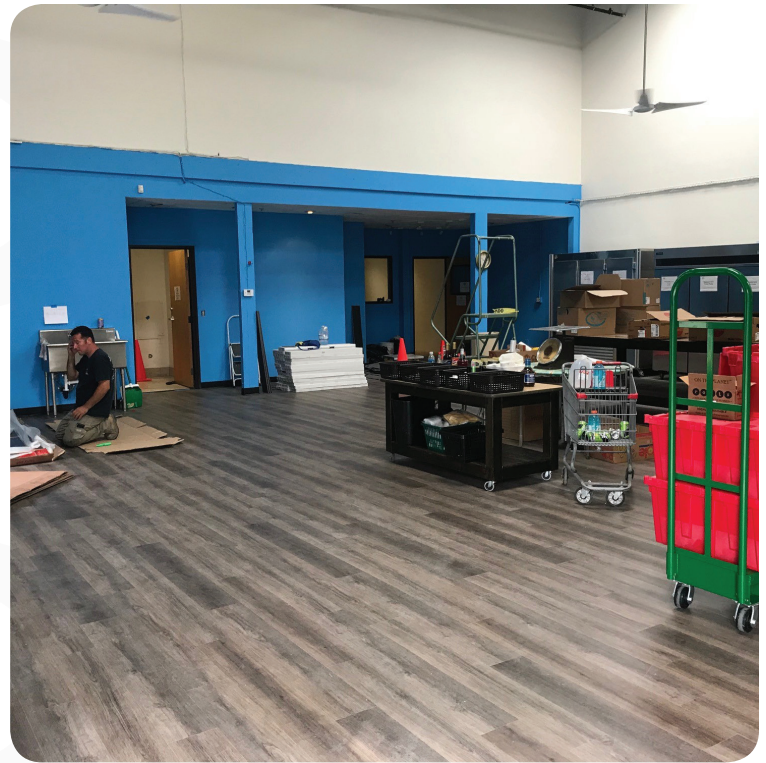
From here, we were forced to close our food pantry doors for a week while restoration workers brought in dozens of fans to dry out the moisture and remaining water. During this time, we discovered further damage in the drywall, flooring, the food shelving, bathrooms, and closets, resulting in repair estimates at \$100,000. In an effort to continue serving our hungry families, and in huge part to the support and monetary

*continued on page 2*

donations we've received from so many of YOU, we reopened our food pantry on Wednesday, August 22 with limited distribution. This meant that while we were unable to provide Client's Choice shopping (which would allow our clients to select what they need similar to regular grocery shopping), we were able to distribute pre-packaged boxes of food with the help of amazing volunteers. We then began purchasing daily perishable goods instead of picking them up as part of our grocery rescue program – spending approximately \$350 a day. In this way, our clients were at least able to leave our doors with a jug of milk, a selection of vegetables, and bag of apples in addition to the nonperishable foods we're able to provide.

Granted, it's taken a devastating toll on our clients, who relied on our Client's Choice model to give their families specific dietary options they need. Gloria, a food pantry client, was one of many affected. Her daughter has a gluten allergy, so being able to select appropriate foods that wouldn't hurt her stomach has been vital to Gloria. "It's been hard seeing the food pantry like this. They have to give us prepackaged bags of food now, and I don't want to be wasteful, but my family doesn't eat a lot of processed foods. We'll be grateful when the pantry gets repaired, because this is the only one I know of that lets us choose what foods we want and need for our family."

Steve, a single father of two growing boys, had similar sentiments regarding the dissemination of our Client's Choice model. "My boys eat a lot of protein, and before the pantry went through this flooding, I was able to select more hearty options. Now, we're thankful to receive anything, but it's hard when you have to tell your kids they can't eat the kinds of food they're used to eating. They have to settle. It's hard explaining that to them."



In the midst of this, we've seen a truly remarkable outpouring of support from our local community and beyond. From the moment we shared with our friends and partners, they've done everything they can to help. From coverage in the Orange County Register to ABC Channel 7 News, the community has banded together in our time of need. In the months since we published the damage, we've received more than \$80,000.00 in monetary donations. This includes donations from local faith organizations, businesses, and individuals who have generously stepped up in our time of need. One of our donors, Robin, saw our campaign on Facebook and drove to our offices to personally deliver a cash donation. Robin said she and her children had been saving funds for the Jewish tradition of Tzedakah, and they knew South County Outreach was where they wanted their charitable coins donated.

We are a long way from normal. Insurance was slow to process but restorations began on October 4, and took several weeks to complete. Getting our food pantry up and running was our top priority, and we're looking forward to providing Client's Choice shopping to our families in time for the holiday season, which is our busiest time of the year. We see our families nearly double during the fall months, from 40 families daily to almost 100 families every day in need of food.

We are surrounded by a community of businesses, families, and individuals who know how important our work is at South County Outreach. Our fight to end hunger and homelessness isn't over.

In 2017, we received 46% of our food donations from grocery rescue programs – that's 465,460 lbs. of food. Want to learn more? Visit [www.sco-oc.org](http://www.sco-oc.org)

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT



## GLENN TANAKA OF TANAKA FARMS

One of South County Outreach's most active partners, Glen Tanaka of Tanaka Farms donated 14,045 lbs of fresh and local produce to our Food Pantry in 2017. Since their first donation in 2010, they have consistently delivered beautiful and ripe fruits and vegetables year-round, providing our clients with nutritious and healthy cooking options for their families. In the past 8 years, they've provided us with 81,489 lbs of perishable goods.

### You're the owner of Tanaka Farms - can you give us some history about your farm and how it found its home in Orange County?

"Tanaka Farms started out mainly as a wholesale farm, specifically strawberry and tomato farming. I got out of college and took over the farm with big dreams to be a big time farmer, and for years we were shipping product all across the United States. When we moved to Orange County in 1998, we had downsized considerably and had developed a following doing school tours as a community service project. Schools would come to us and we'd show the students how we grow fruits and vegetables. The kids loved it, so we decided to expand on what I call 'agri-tourism' or 'ag-education.'

When the economy took a dive nine years ago, we thought we'd really suffer, but schools dropped nearly all of their scheduled field trips except for ours. Families, instead of going away to vacation, stayed home and supported the farm as an activity to do together. We're family-oriented; what we've developed into and what we want to do is grow food and feed the neighborhood, and that's where South County Outreach comes in."

### Tell us more about your partnership with South County Outreach.

"There are times when we just can't sell everything, so we reached out to South County Outreach because we wanted someone local to be

able to benefit from a smaller amount of produce. We make multiple trips to your Food Pantry, or your volunteers will come pick up from us. It's been well-received and the clientele really does enjoy the fresh produce. It's great being a part of that. Ultimately, we want to get more food distributed. I love that South County Outreach services the local people. Farming is a seasonal job, and I know many South County Outreach clients are also part-time or seasonal workers; that type of employment makes it difficult to stay financially stable. Our team feels a great satisfaction being able to help that demographic."

### How can the community get involved with Tanaka Farms?

"We grow about 60 different types of crops throughout the year. In the summer we have our watermelon tours and every weekend families can come enjoy fresh produce and activities. In the spring we have a fun strawberry picking tour, it's actually a very popular date idea for young couples! In the fall we have our Pumpkin Patch, which is our busiest event; the last three weeks in October bring in a 1/3 of our yearly income. I love the instant gratification that comes along with having fresh produce for sale at our farm stands. You get to see people taste the fresh fruits and vegetables right in front of you. Our motto is education, entertaining, and feeding families all year round. When families come out to our farm to support us, it allows us to be able to support organizations like South County Outreach."





# BACKPACK BASH RECAP

Last year, we gave away **1,025** backpacks. This year, with your help, we gave away **2,000!** After months of collecting backpack donations full of supplies for our clients in grades K-12, it all came together for an epic event held at our 7 Whatney headquarters!

Full of family, food, and fun, we helped **229** kids get ready for the school during our annual Backpack Bash. We had over 2,000 backpacks donated from amazing groups, families, and individuals. Kids were able to pick their own backpack based on grade level, and both young students and teenagers loved getting to choose a backpack that catered to their individual style. Aside from going home with a backpack full of supplies and snacks, kids received complimentary haircuts thanks to our amazing hair stylists from salons all over Orange County who donated their time and talents to us! They truly gave our kids a reason to smile and feel composed before the school year begins.

We also had a huge surprise shoe donation from Soap.ly and A Snail's Pace - their donations allowed us to give each of the children a brand new pair of shoes. We had everything from metallic gold light-up sneakers to red high tops to pink winged flats. Knowing how important it is for children to go to school with a sturdy pair of shoes that will get them through the long day, this donation of shoes was incredible.

It was a truly magical evening, and everyone, from staff to volunteers to clients, had a memorable and exciting time together. At South County Outreach, community is at the heart of everything we do—whether it's ending hunger, housing hope, or giving our next generation of leaders the tools they need to succeed, we're doing it together, with your help.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Visit [www.sco-oc.org/get-involved/](http://www.sco-oc.org/get-involved/)



THANK YOU  
TO ALL OF OUR  
BACKPACK EVENT  
SPONSORS,  
VOLUNTEERS,  
HAIR STYLISTS,  
AND DONORS.





Amazon Smile is a great way to give back while getting your Christmas shopping done!

**GO TO:**

[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

.5% of every purchase is donated to us!

**PLEASE SELECT:**

SOUTH COUNTY OUTREACH  
as your charity when shopping!

**SHOP:**

Like normal! The only difference is that now, you'll be making an impact.

## END OF YEAR GIVING TIPS

1

**Make sure to make your contribution before December 31.**

As you may know, by the time you fill out your income tax return in 2019, it will be too late to make a charitable donation for this year.

2

**Donations help the donor! Consider using no-cash assets.**

Look at the stocks you have held for more than a year; it may be wiser to make a gift using stocks that have sizable appreciation instead of cash. You can receive an income tax deduction for the value of the stocks and avoid capital gain tax when the stock is sold.

3

**If you are over 70 ½ years of age, consider making a direct transfer from an IRA or SEPIRA to South County Outreach.**

Neither you nor your heirs will pay income tax on the distribution of the assets. Also, because charities do not pay income taxes, your full amount will go directly to benefiting South County Outreach.

4

**Did you know that 65% of large companies have matching gift programs?**

Local companies like Sage and UBS are just a few - make sure to talk with your business to see if this is an option.

5

**Talk to your advisor.** Before making any significant gifts, have your CPS, attorney or other advisor help you plan and understand the impact of the gift on your estate and 2019 income tax return.

Now through  
November 30!

# adopt a family



**1,191**  
Families  
adopted in  
2017

To get started:  
[www.sco-oc.org](http://www.sco-oc.org)

## 3 EASY STEPS TO IMPACT:

GET MATCHED  
with a family



BE SANTA  
and shop for food & toys



SHARE JOY  
meet your adopted family & deliver  
gifts, smiles, & holiday cheer



## FASHION, FOOD, & (F)ilanthropy

In need of some new fall fashion? You're in luck! Our locally owned thrift store, Upscale Resale, is full to the brim with trendy clothes, unique gifts, and one-of-a-kind treasures for your friends and family. Don't believe us? See for yourself and hold an Upscale Resale Fashion Show at your next event! We bring the models, you bring some friends!

Our latest show was at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Laguna Hills and it was a blast! Big thanks to the Geneva Presbyterian Women's Group for having us!

Are you part of a women's club or group that would be interested in having Upscale Resale put on a fashion show for you? Or are you interested in helping out as a model? Contact our Upscale Resale Manager Bunni Ickes at 949-855-4158 or email [bickes@sco-oc.org](mailto:bickes@sco-oc.org) And don't forget to check us out on Instagram and Facebook for the #OutfitOfTheWeek!



a thrift store by: **south county outreach**



# HOLIDAY TEAM SPOTLIGHT

## Tell us a little about your backgrounds and what led you both to South County Outreach.

**ROBIN:** I started at South County Outreach two years ago. I just decided I had this extra time on my hands after retiring, and I wanted to give back to the community. I feel blessed to be in a position to do that; my neighbor told me about South County Outreach. I came to volunteer and I spent the first year helping with our Rental and Utility Assistance program. In 2016, Arline recruited me to do the Adopt-A-Family program.

**ARLINE:** I've been at South County Outreach for four years. Through my church we'd done some work at Second Harvest sorting food, and their website led me to South County Outreach. South County had a volunteer position open for the front office, and I love doing admin work, so I started there every Tuesday. Then it became Tuesday and Friday, and then came the Adopt-a-Family program. I loved it, but it was a lot of work for one person, which is what led me to recruit Robin the following year.

## What can you tell us about the Holiday Programming here at South County Outreach?

**ARLINE:** This year we're hoping our Holiday Programming goes even better than last year. We've got a few changes in the works.

**ROBIN:** There's basically three interlocking programs—Adopt-a-Family, Support-a-Senior, and then the Toy Store. The Adopt-a-Family and the Support-a-Senior programs get opened up to sponsors in October, and the family clients enroll between October and November with the knowledge that if they aren't matched with a sponsor by November 30, they'll be able to attend our one-day-only Toy Store event on December 15 where parents "shop" for toys for their kids. For senior clients, however, if they don't get matched they don't get matched... that's something we'd like to see change—last year we were able to get 174 seniors adopted, but we serve close to 800 seniors every year.

**ARLINE:** We'll be matching sponsors with their families throughout the fall, but families can also choose to enroll solely in the Toy Store event if they'd prefer not to be matched. For seniors, they have a really difficult time choosing gifts for themselves. They ask for cleaning supplies instead of personal things; they just want help.

## Do you have any special memories to share about the Adopt-a-Family program?

**ROBIN:** I've seen photos of sponsors dressing up like Santa and Mrs. Claus to give their adopted children presents. It's so sweet. Also, Prime Lending has different teams who'll adopt a family, and each team goes above and beyond what is expected since they have big groups



contributing to each family's gifts and donations. Truly, though, every adopted family feels so grateful of whatever their sponsor decides to give, big or small.

## What is your favorite part of the Holiday Programming?

**ARLINE:** I love the joy you see in the family when they get matched. The happiness that you see on parents' faces when they come to the Toy Store is incredible—pictures don't do it justice. Our Food Pantry really transforms into a huge Toy Store, with rows and rows of toys, shoes, and clothes. Christmas at South County Outreach is my favorite time of the year.

**ROBIN:** There are so many of our senior clients who are alone, so seeing how grateful they are simply having a family visit them, and bring a meal, is humbling. They just want connection. They don't even want a gift, they just want someone to stop by and chat with them over dinner.

## You both seem like a great team. What is it like working together?

**ROBIN:** I love working with Arline! We have so much fun; it's such a rewarding program. I've adopted families myself both years which has been very special.

For more information about our  
Holiday Programming schedule, visit  
our website [www.sco-oc.org](http://www.sco-oc.org)



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## KEVIN CLEMENTS & THE JSERRA SWIM TEAM

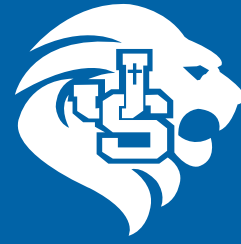
Coach Kevin Clements and his varsity swim team at JSerra Catholic High School are making waves at South County Outreach. Every year, he brings in his team of 70 to help clean and organize South County Outreach. He and his team understand the impact of their hard work in our fight against hunger and homelessness.

### Can you give us your background?

KEVIN: I grew up in Orange County, then went on to swim at Auburn University and after graduation, swam professionally for a couple years. I began coaching in 2005. I coached at the University of Southern California from 2010-2014, and then I came back to Orange County to JSerra. Being at Jserra has been a great decision, and being able to surround ourselves with the Catholic faith made switching from the collegiate to high school level an easy decision. At JSerra, I'm the head swimming coach, as well as the Aquatics Director and Assistant Athletics Director.

### How did you get involved with South County Outreach?

KEVIN: We have a parent on the team who had done some volunteer work with South County Outreach through his church. He told me about your work and I reached out, so now my team and I have been volunteering with South County Outreach for about two years. I really enjoy it and I get great feedback from the kids; they love it. We get a fantastic turn-out whenever we come help out. These students are given so many global opportunities to give back through JSerra, like building aqueducts and wells in Peru, so this is a really local avenue of giving back we pursue as much as we can.



““[The students] leave South County Outreach with a better idea of the value of hard work.”

--

- Kevin Clements, JSerra swim coach

### What makes South County Outreach different?

KEVIN: Initially, we needed to fulfil a community service requirement. But South County Outreach became so much more than that - it was so different than what we've done previously, because we're working behind the scenes and we loved that it was a mission-fit with JSerra. We do good work with South County Outreach, and that's why the students love it so much. I have kids come up to me during off-season months asking when we're going back every year.

### What do you like the most about volunteering with South County Outreach?

KEVIN: The thing I like about it the most is the manual work we have the kids do when they come to volunteer. Especially in 2018, when everything is at the push of a finger tip, and gratification comes so easily, it's important for them to see the value in working towards something and giving back. They leave South County Outreach with a better idea of the value of hard work.

If you would like to get your team or group involved with South County Outreach, email our Volunteer Manager, Amy Swanson, at [aswanson@sco-oc.org](mailto:aswanson@sco-oc.org) or call 949.380.8144 ext. 217 to get started.







# TURNING HOUSES INTO HOMES

## JEROME'S BROUGHT HOME TO MY FAMILY TODAY

Two years ago, Chantel and her family had nowhere to turn. Diagnosed with breast cancer, her new medications, which were meant to keep her stable, caused seizures. She ended up losing her manufacturing job due to the seizures, and her partner struggled to support her and her three children. Having lived in and out of motels for over a year, Chantel was losing hope in a future for her and her family.

She was told about South County Outreach, and decided to give it a try. Chantel and her family have seen great changes since coming to South County Outreach as she continues to work towards recovery. They didn't have much—a couple of mattresses on the floor for the children and a sofa for the living room. Linda Janzen, our Director of Housing and Homeless Prevention, adds "Chantel has been in our program since mid-March 2018. By obtaining transitional housing, Chantel has been able to stabilize her family and begin to address her health issues."

In the last five years, our condominiums have provided transitional and affordable housing to **148 families** (187 adults and 292 children). In 2017, we housed **30 households** at the cost of **\$316,000**. Chantel and her family became one of those 30 households.

With the help of Jerome's Furniture, Chantel was finally able to provide a home for her family. They were beyond grateful.

*"It's good to remember where we came from, it keeps us grateful." -Chantel, South County Outreach client*

Cheyney Stivalet, the Director of Engagement at Jerome's Furniture, says that seeing the joy and thankfulness on the faces of Chantel and her family was a truly priceless moment, and knowing that they "made that kind of impact is why we choose a partner like South County Outreach." Many of our clients arrive with belongings in storage.

At South County Outreach, we rely on partners like Jerome's to help us make an IMPACT in the lives of our clients and the South Orange County community. Chantel agreed, saying, "This is such a blessing. I never thought I'd be here! Two years ago I had given up... now, I look around and I get to say, 'This is mine.'"



Are you a contractor, furniture company, or leasing office looking to make your own impact? Our condos house 30 families each year, and our Adopt-a-Condo program allows your organization to get involved in helping our families feel at home. To get started, call 949.380.8144.

# You can give hope and joy to our neighbors in need this holiday season by donating to South County Outreach.

What if you were hungry?

How many of your happy childhood memories are about the holidays?



**Did you know:** Orange County ranks 2nd in California in hunger? In this wealthy community, there are thousands of residents - good people going through difficult times in their lives - who are struggling to put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads.


- **\$20** provides 20 meals
- **\$117** pays for a week's worth of computer classes
- **\$84** feeds a family of four for a week
- **\$1,000** helps avoid eviction
- **\$200** supplies 83 days of food
- **\$4,800** pays a family's housing and services for a month

# Festival of Trees

Friday, November 30, 2018

6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Park Place Irvine



Thanks to  
Festival of Trees  
I have a home  
for Christmas!



## A Tradition of Hope Continues

On November 30, a holiday tradition of hope continues as South County Outreach hosts its 5th Annual Festival of Trees Auction and Reception at Park Place Irvine.

We invite you, your family, and friends to attend our highly anticipated reception and tree auction. It will be an evening full of live entertainment, tasty provisions and holiday cheer. All proceeds go toward our housing programs which provided over 20,000 nights of shelter for families in 2017.

"Thank you for helping us this Christmas; my kids weren't going to receive any gifts this year.

Thank you for giving us a place to live! You've given my family the best present of all - love.

Everyone at South County Outreach will always be in my prayers. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

*Sincerely, the Moore Family*

#### Contact:

Kaleigh Burns | [kburns@sco-oc.org](mailto:kburns@sco-oc.org)  
949.380.8144 x218

Tickets start at \$125

Sponsorships start at \$500

[www.sco-oc.org/festival-of-trees](http://www.sco-oc.org/festival-of-trees)

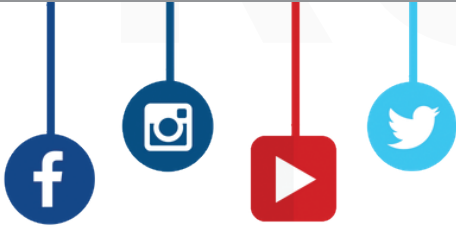


South County Outreach  
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Irvine, CA 92618

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Santa Ana, CA

We're  
Social!

Tag us!  
@OutreachOC



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*Save the Date!*

**Tuesday | April 9 | 2019**

El Niguel Country Club

**EMPTY  
BOWLS**



Visit [SCO-OC.ORG](http://SCO-OC.ORG) for more information