

CHRISTMAS GIVING

We've been given the greatest gift on earth with the birth of Jesus. Through His birth, God showed the extent of His love for us, a love that is sacrificial, present, and life-giving. Jesus is called Emmanuel, God with us. He meets us where we're at and doesn't leave us there. Life with Him would not be possible without His first sacrifice to dwell among us. Christmas is a season that repeatedly serves as a reminder of God's greatest gift in Jesus.

As Christmas approaches we are gearing up for a season of remembering the impact of Christ's birth in all of our ministry programs. The Christmas parties for our kids and teens consist of serving a special meal, doing a Christmas activity, hearing the good news of Jesus, receiving a New Testament Bible from the Gideon's, and receiving a gift. At SOS, we are on mission to extend the love of God in tangible ways. We plan to provide gifts for entire families who wouldn't be able to experience it otherwise. This is done through the generosity of our community and ministry supporters.

We are continuously challenged through our ministry to extend the love of God in tangible and sacrificial ways during these times and we ask that you join us! We cannot do this without the generous stewardship of our community and supporters. Would you consider partnering with us this Christmas season? Details for how you can do so can be found on the insert. Thank you for extending God's love towards the kids, teens, and families in our ministry!

BEAUTY FOR ASHES

VIVIAN'S STORY

"My name is Vivian. I grew up with a mom who loved to party and was not there for me emotionally. I felt like I was unwanted. I became very angry and built up walls inside my heart. At the age of ten, I was invited to SOS Ministries. There, I met people full of the love of God. I was not used to all the kindness and compliments I received at SOS. I wanted to know what made them so happy. I was taught to pray for my mom and God was faithful.

At a Friday night service my mom gave her heart to Jesus. She started staying home, reading her Bible, and going to church. This changed her marriage and she became the mom that we needed.

At eleven years old I was tired of being angry and I gave my life to Jesus. I joined the teen girls' class and God began to set me free. The walls built up in my heart started coming down. I quit cutting. I started testifying about the power of the living God. I was free, I was loved, and I knew God was in control.

At fourteen, I began to pray that I would be able to spend time with my dad and God answered. That summer, my brother and I went to spend the time with my dad. That was the darkest and most terrifying time of my life. My father sexually abused me which left me feeling disgusted, terrified, confused and angry at everyone-including God. I lost trust. Walls came back up. I stopped praying. Men were no longer safe. I felt

alone and I began to believe the lies of the enemy.

However, I attended a women's retreat at SOS, and there I experienced the power of prayer, love, and forgiveness. I met with a girl who had been through the same kind of abuse as I had and asked her how she was able to forgive. I learned that it was my dad who had made a terrible choice, and he was responsible for his actions. I realized that forgiveness was for me. I was the one who was stuck, miserable, and a prisoner to my pain.

I asked God to forgive me for being angry.

God did not leave me. He loved me and what had happened had broken his heart. He has given me beauty for ashes. God took what the devil meant for evil and has used it to make me a stronger person. He made me confident in Jesus. My answers to life's problems have been found! God is real! He can heal you and give you

**"God is real!
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 heart."**

a new heart."

We are so blessed and grateful to witness Vivian's life and so many others' being transformed by Jesus in such a way that they return to bring others the message of Hope. Vivian is now happily married, lives in College Station, works at a bank and keeps attending the SOS Women's Bible Study, and volunteers with SOS Teen Girls. We thank Vivian for sharing her amazing story of God's endless miracles!



Children's Christmas Party



Children's Christmas Party



Hearne Christmas Party



Women's One Day Retreat 2020

SOS WOMEN'S RETREAT

For the past 28 years, God has used SOS Ministries to bring many daughters and their households to His Kingdom. During the summer of 1995, our Women's Ministry felt the need for the women to get away from all the hustle and bustle of life to somewhere quiet and safe in order to meet with God. The idea of spending a weekend with God during "Women's Retreat" quickly followed and since then, our Women's Ministry has witnessed so many women giving their hearts to Jesus at our retreats. Women

of all walks bring their hurt, pain, and struggles and are unconditionally loved. Women get to share the struggles they go through in life and in that, lots of loving relationships are formed. We are blessed to see our women experience peace, healing and growth in their faith in the Lord and fellowship with each other through participating in various activities (including worship, amazing stories of God's miracles, crafts, games, etc.) during each retreat.



Women's One Day Retreat 2020



Women's One Day Retreat 2020

This year, our Women's Ministry will have its retreat on Saturday, November 13th, in a beautiful place surrounded by the Holy Spirit with lessons and prayers on how to become a vessel of honor based on 2 Timothy 2:20-21. Our prayers for this retreat are for our women to grow deeper in their relationship and walk with Jesus, receive the unconditional love and acceptance from one another, and to become honorable vessels for Lord. (2 Timothy 2:21). Thank you to our Women's Ministry Leadership Team, our amazing volunteers, and every servant heart that has helped put on this event! We hope to see you at our retreat!

DID YOU KNOW?

Last year, as a part of SOS Ministries' annual giving of Christmas gifts, **OVER 375** kids and teens and **25** families received presents! It is because of the generous donations of people like you that we are able to be the tangible expression of the gift of Jesus Christ.



make an impact

Enclosed is my special gift of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other _____

☐ MONTHLY

☐ ONE-TIME

☐ ADD ME TO THE E-NEWSLETTER (email address)

UPCOMING EVENTS

**NOV
13**

Women's Retreat

**NOV
15-18**

After School Program, Children's, Teen's,
Women's & Hearne Thanksgiving Parties

**DEC
3**

SOS Volunteer Banquet

**DEC
6-9**

After School Program, Children's, Teen's
Women's & Hearne Christmas Parties



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