

## BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHING AND SUPPLIES

As summer winds down, the time has come for children and teenagers to prepare to head back to school, which also means parents must begin the task of gathering school supplies and clothes for a new school year. Preparing to go back to school can be a financial challenge, leaving many children and teens to attend their first day of school without the necessary supplies to have a successful year. At SOS, we strive to eliminate the stress of the season by doing our best to assist as many families as possible with their back to school needs. Each summer before school starts, we take families to purchase back to school clothes and supplies so they feel prepared to begin the school year. Whether it is purchasing new school clothes or essential school supplies, we hope to bless as many of our kids and teens as possible. SOS is committed and willing to go to great lengths to see the children and teens that we serve succeed. We believe that if we can help the children of SOS prepare for school, we are better equipping them to be a light for Jesus in their schools. Would you consider partnering with us to help us provide back to school clothes and supplies for the kids and teens at SOS? To be a part of helping our kids and teens prepare for school, see the insert or visit our website at: [www.saveourstreetsministries.org/give](http://www.saveourstreetsministries.org/give)

Thank you for partnering with SOS to help our children and teens start the school year with all the supplies they need! Your faithful "YES" gives us the power to reach out and be a tangible expression of the love of Christ to the families throughout the Brazos Valley!

## VIVIAN'S STORY

God has blessed us abundantly with willing, servant-hearted, devoted staff and volunteers that seek to further His Kingdom and share His truth. Vivian has been with us since she was a teen girl, herself. God has revealed himself to her time and time again.

"I grew up with a mom who was absent emotionally and a dad who was in and out of jail. When he was out, he would beat my stepmom in front of me. I also had a stepdad who loved to drink. As a pre-teen, I was angry and battled with identity issues. I was suicidal from many internal battles that I didn't talk about. At 11, I started attending SOS. From there the walls I built up slowly came down every Thursday at SOS teen nights. At this point, my mom had given her life to Christ and was living a life that glorifies God, and through this I witnessed God's faithfulness. I was tired of not feeling wanted. I accepted Christ into my life and got baptized. Once I accepted Christ, I felt like I belonged, I felt worthy, loved and most importantly I felt safe. I began praying that I could see my biological dad and that summer my prayers were answered. I was able to see him, but when I did, he would sexually, physically, and mentally abuse me. I remember when it was happening, I asked God why? I became angry at God and put every wall up. I felt disgusted, unworthy, and that it was my fault. I became fearful of men. I didn't want to hug any man, an uncle, cousin, friend, my spiritual fathers and not even my stepdad. I questioned everything.

After a couple of years of being angry. I went to an SOS Women's retreat. A woman who attended the retreat was molested and she learned to forgive. I remember thinking I want to be free and not weighed down from what happened to me. I asked her how she forgave the person who did this to her. In that conversation, I learned that God didn't hurt me. My dad CHOSE to listen to the enemy! The truth is, God is so amazing and loving that he allows us to choose to follow him. Sadly, my father didn't follow him. With this truth, I forgave my dad and began to pray for him, and I could honestly say I loved him.

I stopped going to SOS and eventually, the weight of all my brokenness and my past caught up to me. I remember one night I wanted to end everything—the pain, anxiety, and confusion. I cried out to God and told Him 'If you're still with me, save me from this pain. I found SOS again and was surrounded by people who were battling in prayer with me and for me.'

Vivian has continued to grow and walk in God's mercy and grace. Her experience as a former SOS teen has allowed her to use her story to connect with our current SOS teens. We are thrilled for her to step into the role of Teen Girls' Director starting this fall! God has given beauty for ashes and continues to make His name known through our brokenness.

## Beauty for Ashes



FCA Camp 2024



Women's Ministry GIANT Garage Sale



Back to School Shopping



On Location



# GIANT GARAGE SALE

God moved in miraculous ways through our Women's Garage Sale! Time and time again He reveals His provision, sovereignty, and grace through Garage Sale, and we are grateful to witness it. Through God's mercy and kindness, we were able to raise over \$20,000 to help send 65 women to our Women's Conference. Our Assistant Director, Carmen Maxwell, shared this story with us from this year's Garage Sale.

"This year we asked all our volunteers to shop on Thursday along with a few people we felt that God asked us to allow to shop early as well. This year, we had a family from Ukraine that came to shop early. When they came here from Ukraine, they came with 1 suitcase each, looking to rebuild a life for their family. As the family spent time shopping, we felt the Holy Spirit asking us to bless them and let them shop for free. Once they came to pay, we told them it was all free. The mother took off running and crying, and the father looked me in the eyes and said, 'I guess this is what grace feels like'. In that moment, we were reminded of the purpose of what we were doing. We want to always stop for the activity of God. The Garage Sale has always been more than a garage sale. We have learned and been reminded that the greatest rewards are not the amounts raised or items sold, but the greatest rewards are for the Kingdom."

We are so grateful for National Charity League and all our volunteers who spent countless hours preparing, picking up items, and ministering to all those who attended. We would not have been able to make this happen without their hard work and faithfulness!



## DID YOU KNOW?

God blessed our Women's Ministry GIANT Garage Sale with **OVER \$20,000** this year! A huge THANK YOU to National Charity League Inc., Aggieland Chapter, our Women's Ministry Leadership Team, and all the servant hearts who came to volunteer, donate items, shop, and help with this event!



## IGNITE THE NEXT GENERATION

The heart of this capital campaign is to create space for more families to experience God's love. We are excited to announce we have raised \$590,000 towards the Challenge Grant from the J.E. & L.E. Mabee Foundation! **We need your help to raise the remaining \$290,000 before THIS October to FINISH the campaign!** Visit [SaveOurStreetsMinistries.org](http://SaveOurStreetsMinistries.org)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

July  
26-27

Women's Ministry Retreat

July  
26-30

Stoney Creek Camp

Aug.  
2

First Friday Prayer & Worship

Aug.  
3

Back to School Shopping

Oct.  
1

"Made for More" Annual Banquet



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