

February 2011

Just Days Remaining to Register

“[Discovering Our Community](#)” Forum Set for Feb. 5

The [Spirit of St. Louis Women’s Fund](#) (SOS) is sponsoring its first [“Discovering Our Community”](#) forum on Saturday, Feb. 5, from 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the [Charles F. Knight Executive Education Center](#) at Washington University. The [registration](#) fee is \$25 per person.

Registration information and an [online registration form](#) are available at [www.soswomensfund.org](#), or contact **Kathy Frost** at 314-302-0758.

Designed to equip SOS members and guests with information critical to understanding the needs of our community, this forum will feature expert speakers talking about the hot topics and emerging trends in SOS’ five funding areas: education, health, environment, social services, and arts and culture.

“SOS members believe in joining together to give for greater impact,” says [Vicki Sheehan](#), SOS president. “By combining our dollars, it is easy to see how we can

have a greater impact together than we can by making individual gifts. I believe the importance of combining our collective knowledge, experience and education can be an even greater influence on the effectiveness of our giving.”

Discovering
 Our
 Community
 Examining the needs around us

The morning will begin with **Mike Muin** of the [Missouri Economic Research and Information Center](#) to discuss economic and workforce trends. Speakers addressing the five focus areas include [Dan Buck](#), former director of [St. Patrick’s Center](#) and now executive director of [Cardinal Glennon Children’s Foundation](#), who will address social service needs in the area, and **Cynthia Prost**, president, [Arts and Education Council](#).

Prost will speak about cultural currency and the [value of creativity today](#).

With environmental problems often affecting the poor disproportionately, [Dr. Timothy Keane](#), executive director and dean of the [St. Louis University Center for Sustainability](#), will discuss the case for humanistic sustainability. “Sustainability can be interpreted in many ways, but when you consider it from an ethics perspective, we can recognize there is an urgent need to change from the irresponsible consumption and unbridled development of the past,” says Keane.

Rounding out the day’s speakers will be [Dr. James Kimmey](#), president and CEO of [Missouri Foundation for Health](#), discussing the impact of health care reform, and [Dr. Don Senti](#), interim superintendent, [Parkway School District](#), talking about student needs and options.



(From left) **Lynn Dole**, **Vicki Sheehan**, College Bound Executive Director **Lisa Orden Zarin**, Little Bit Foundation Co-Founder **Rosemary Hanley**, **Barbara R. Nikolychik** and **Nancy Rodney** at the Seven Gables Inn.

SOS Members Learn More About Passion for Giving

Twenty-five SOS members and guests gathered at the Seven Gables Inn on Nov. 10, 2010 for an educational forum featuring two dynamic women speaking about “finding your passion in giving.”

Lisa Orden Zarin, founder and CEO of College Bound (also an SOS member), and **Rose Hanley**, co-founder of The Little Bit Foundation, engaged the audience with stories of how they started their organizations and the personal motivation and commitment that guided them. Both The Little Bit Foundation and College Bound are past recipients of SOS grants.

SOS Committee Spotlight

Nominating Committee

Purpose: The SOS Nominating Committee recruits and nominates SOS members for leadership roles as officers and board members.



Shelby Schagrin

Time Commitment: The committee meets three times each year. Its members also consult with each committee chair to determine potential new leaders, and reaches out to individuals to explore their interest in serving.

Size: Eight – and welcoming more!

Function: During first quarter 2011, the committee is actively recruiting mem-

bers for leadership roles to serve in the next few years. **We are currently looking for members who are interested in serving on the board. We would love to meet with all members who are eager to assume a leadership role in SOS.** We are sometimes unaware of members who are interested in becoming more active in SOS, so please contact any member of the Nominating Committee if you have an interest or questions. **It is really fun, interesting and gratifying to become involved in SOS leadership!** Leaders are recruited and nominated via this committee.

If you are interested in a leadership position or would like to tell us about a member you believe is an excellent candidate for the board, please contact Shelby Schagrin as soon as possible.

Why Serve on the Committee: Serving on the Nominating Committee is a great way to get to know members, recruit new leaders and continue the great volunteer leadership of SOS. We welcome new members to this committee.

Contact: Nominating Committee Chair **Shelby Schagrin** at shelbyschagrin@yahoo.com or phone: 314-727-8832.

Nominating Committee

Members: Chair **Shelby Schagrin, Laura Armentrout, Terry Bernstein, Lynn Dole, Felice Joyce, Phyllis Langsdorf, Ilene Ordower and Marilyn Ratkin.**



Elaine Queathem



Parker McMillan

Website Committee

Purpose: The Website Committee was formed to update the SOS website to function as a more effective communications tool in serving the needs of all SOS members, SOS committees and the organizations applying for funding. We anticipate launching a new and improved website in 2012.

Time commitment: We are in the process of meeting with individual com-

mittees during 2011 to define needs. Meetings typically last about one hour.

Size: Eight—and welcoming more!

Function: With SOS membership continuing to grow, we have many members with different levels of interest in SOS. The website is one of the best vehicles to inform members about current activities as well as past grant recipients. The website is intended to reach all members of SOS and be able to satisfy their curiosity about who we fund, how we make those decisions, when the next coffee will occur, who will be speaking at the next educational event and so much more. It is also a tool that helps facilitate our grant-making process and ease of membership service and recruitment.

Why Serve on Committee: Because we want the website to be the very best it can be!

Contact: Website Committee Chair **Elaine Queathem** at equethem@yahoo.com or Co-Chair Parker McMillan at pbmcmillan@gmail.com.

Website Committee Members:

Chair **Elaine Queathem**, Co-Chair **Parker McMillan, Leslie Corey, Kathy Frost, Melissa Jones, Felice Joyce, Vicki Sheehan and Gwen Wesley.**

*SOS gratefully acknowledges the donation of newsletter services by **Casey Communications, Inc.** www.caseycomm.com*

President's Message

By Vicki Sheehan



What a wonderful year we are having at SOS Women's Fund! We have many new members, and our programs are developing into more than envisioned when we began nearly five years ago!

It seems as though the world is now "getting" who we are and what we do! In fact, many members understand who we are and what we do better than ever before. They like to work together as equals to determine the best ways to invest the funds we pool together with our donations. They like learning about our community, and getting to know one another. They like the professional,

streamlined structure and variable time expectations for our members. They know every opportunity is designed to be meaningful and not laborious. No time-wasting, trivial jobs here!

One of the nicest opportunities that SOS offers members is the opportunity to grow with the organization. Leadership at SOS is accessible. We welcome new participants! We love getting to know new people and hearing new voices on committees and at the board table. New ideas are welcome, and all members truly can influence and shape the future of this organization.

The reason I am speaking about leadership this month is that the Nominating Committee will shortly begin reviewing our membership list for recruitment to our leadership team for 2011-2012. **Shelby Schagrin** chairs the Nominating

Committee, and she wants to hear from you if you are interested in becoming involved, or have a great idea for someone else whose talents and time might be well-placed in a leadership position for SOS. (See page 2.) Shelby or I can answer any questions you may have about what might suit you and what time commitments are associated with involvement.

Just as no money is wasted at SOS, no time is wasted either. Your time is valuable, and we offer only opportunities to learn and develop personally in the leadership positions at SOS. Call us or email us to raise your hand! I truly believe *you will be glad that you did!*

Yours in Spirit!
[Vicki Sheehan](#)

Welcoming & Connecting Our Members

The SOS Membership Committee recently hosted three events to gather current, new and potential SOS members for great times and good food! The events were at Citygarden on September 23, 2010, Craft Alliance on November 18, 2010, and at the home of **Alison Ferring**, who graciously hosted a holiday event on December 10, 2010.



(From left) **Patti Blumeyer** and **Amy Whitelaw** on November 18 at Craft Alliance.



(From left) **Jan Craig**, **Linda Finerty** and **Stacey Smith** enjoy Citygarden on September 23.



(From left) **Gwen Wesley** and **Marcia Wand** visit at the Terrace View on September 23.



(From left) **Susan Barrett**, **Lynn Schenck**, **Vivienne Ford** and **Pam Trapp** on December 10.

Interested in Hosting an SOS Gathering?

The SOS Membership Committee is interested in knowing whether any SOS members are interested in hosting a gathering of SOS members and prospects at their home or place of business. Committee members are available to help the hostess plan the event and invite guests. The committee is also happy to provide printed SOS material and attend to share information. To explore what's involved and/or express interest, please contact SOS Membership Chair **Gwen Wesley** at gbcwesley@sbcglobal.net or 314-971-0674.

Welcome to Our New SOS Members!

SOS welcomes 15 new members through January 2011! Please extend a gracious welcome to the following:

Patricia Allen	Vivienne C. Ford	Kimberly D. Mills
Nancy Anderson	Lisa Greening	Linda M. Peterson
Peggy Ford Barnhart	Michelle M. Harris	Mary Riew
Susan Barrett	Janet L. Kirby	Diana K. Svec
Meg Coghlan	Caroline Korybut	Heather Wood

Spirit of St. Louis Women's Fund
c/o Greater St. Louis Community Foundation
319 North Fourth Street, Suite 300
St. Louis, MO 63102

Please add the email address,
soswomensfund@soswomensfund.org,
to your email address book to be sure
you receive all regular SOS communications
and that it is not sent to SPAM filters.

Grant-Making Update: Site Visits Set for February-March

The SOS Grant Committee is now re-searching and preparing to visit grant applicants to be placed on our ballot in April 2011.

The 24 SOS members serving on the Letter of Inquiry (LOI) Subcommittee reviewed more than 137 applications requesting more than \$4.3 million. That's up from 88 organizations seeking nearly \$1.2 million in 2009. Committee members selected 26 nonprofit applicants seeking a total of about \$380,000 to submit proposals.

Now the Site Visit Subcommittee, which also reviews proposals, is gearing up for its tasks. Site visit team members received the newly published *SOS Site Visit Handbook* at the January 26 kickoff meeting. Six teams formed of 32 SOS members are currently reviewing proposals in preparation for site visits, now being scheduled for February and March 2011.

"SOS and the organizations we fund are so fortunate to enjoy the efforts of such an engaged membership," notes SOS Grant Committee Chair **Felice Joyce**. Heartfelt thanks are extended to Grant Committee participants.

Site visit team members are looking forward to learning more about how our applicants are serving our community. They are eager to assemble and share details with our membership by mid-April in preparation for voting.

Other news of note: To build decision-making skills involved in philanthropy and strengthen leadership among members, the Grant Committee offered two workshops in fall 2010.

Wendy Henry, CPA, BKD Inc., led a workshop on understanding financial statements. **Stephanie Riven**, former executive director and founder of the Center of Creative Arts and now with David Bury & Associates, presented a workshop on analyzing proposals and tapping the content of proposals for site visit discussions and evaluations.

Thanks to SOS Grant Committee Participants

Amy Peck Abraham
Terry Bernstein
Carol Claypool
Leslie Corey
Lynn Dole
Jane Eiseman
Ann Ferguson
Gretta Forrester-Gaffney
Laura Friedman
Nancy Gellman

Debbi Gilula
Linda Grayson
Judith Harris
Laure Hullverson
Melissa Jones
Felice Joyce
Janet Jump
Susan Lipstein
Parker McMillan
Mary Moog

Julie Moran
Ilene Ordower
Elaine Queathem
Marilyn Ratkin
Nancy Rodney
Nancy Sachs
Shelby Schagrin
Sandra Schlicht
Julia Schoettley
Mary Schoolman

Vicki Sheehan
Alice Sherwood
Peggy Symes
Tracey Temanson
Susan Thomson
Pam Trapp
Gwen Wesley
Jean Wolff
Heather Wood

SOS Story of Impact

Boys Hope Girls Hope of St. Louis by Laura Friedman

Arecia learned to play the flute. Justice took a summer English course. Taylor went to a college-prep seminar. Iesah took a choir trip. Dorothy was able to purchase a soccer uniform and shoes. Malik took a pottery class. Leo, Seth, Michael, Richoun and Jacob all went to summer camp. An SOS 2009-10 grant of \$10,000 to Boys Hope Girls Hope of St. Louis made these experiences possible by funding fees, transportation and tuition. Malik said, "I was so excited when I was told that I would be doing a pottery class...it provided me with an experience outside of my everyday coloring. I hope I can do this again soon."

