

SOS Insights

from my desk to your heart

Hopefully, you have received the email I sent you this past Tuesday with your invitation to participate in our [“Take Stock” survey](#). If you have already shared your thoughts, I thank you for your time. If you haven’t, I hope you can find a few minutes before the end of the month as we would like to review everyone’s responses as soon as possible. This is how we will use your input.

We know how challenging these past few months have been on children, youth, adults, seniors and families in our community. We see the impact firsthand when we provide food vouchers and other essential services to clients who have lost their jobs and can’t feed their families. We see it on the faces of isolated seniors when we deliver meals or groceries so they can remain safe at home. And we hear the anxiety on the other end of the phone as a frantic single mom asks for counselling support as she struggles to cope with all the uncertainty.

We know the last few months have been difficult for residents who contact us for help, but what about all the other people who haven’t reached out yet? **We want to have a better sense of how the community of District 69 has been coping and what they believe has changed because of COVID-19.**

For example, as we begin to plan for the restart of our child, youth and family programs, question 3 of the “Take Stock” survey asks, *“From your perspective, what are the most pressing issues facing children today because of the pandemic?”* This is followed by a series of multiple choice answers including: *“affordable recreation, social opportunities, poverty (hunger, housing etc.), anxiety/depression, and lack of positive mentors.”* We ask that same question as it pertains to youth, adults, seniors, and families.

We also ask you to weigh in on whether you think the mental health and financial needs of residents have become worse, have not changed or have improved because of the pandemic. There is space for you to provide your thoughts about any other emerging issues that you feel should be addressed as a result of COVID-19.

Your answers to these questions will help us prioritize the needs of children, youth, adults, seniors and families so that SOS can continue its legacy of providing relevant programs and services that meet the needs of community residents.

We know we’re going to be living with COVID related restrictions and a degree of uncertainty for many months to come. SOS will need to be adaptable. Your input to our [“Take Stock” survey](#) will help us shape the future as best we can for what we know now.

Your contributions of time, donations and shopping at our Thrift Shop, and your financial contributions to our [Grateful Hearts](#) campaign, are enabling us to plan, create and implement

programs and services that benefit our entire community. For as we believe, when one person is vulnerable, we are all vulnerable.

Thank you for your partnership.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susanna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susanna Newton
Executive Director
Society of Organized Services