

Inside Saratoga: SOS call answered

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More than 150 people braved the heavy rain and occasional rumble of thunder to attend an open house held by Shelters of Saratoga (SOS) Thursday, June 23, at 14 Walworth St.

Guests enjoyed lunch and tours of the homeless shelter throughout the three hour event. Those who conducted the tours answered numerous questions and each touring group consistently commented on how homelike the conditions were.

“We felt it was time to open our doors to the community and open their eyes to the realities of homelessness in Saratoga County,” said John Penzer, SOS’s executive director. “Despite the rain, we could not have had better results. We also wanted the community to know about our short- and long-term plans for expansion to meet the community’s growing needs.”

Former Assemblyman Bobby D’Andrea, interviewed by Star 101.3 radio said “People need to understand what a great service SOS has provided the area with over 20 years. People also need to know how important your donations are — cash, food, and so forth — to help the homeless.”

Guests received marvelous door prizes and were treated to a large lunch spread.

“We want to thank all of the many community business donors and volunteers who made this event possible,” said Kelly Reinhart, president of the SOS Board of Directors. “What an encouraging show of support.”

Among those in attendance were Mayor Scott Johnson and his wife, Julie, representatives from the offices of Congressman’s Chris Gibson; Sen. Roy McDonald and Assemblyman Jim Tedisco, Saratoga Springs Supervisor Joanne Yepsen, Saratoga Springs City Commissioner of Public Safety Richard Wirth, the SOS Board of Directors, Commissioner of the Saratoga County Department of Social Services Robert Christopher, Ray O’Conor, president of Saratoga National Bank and Wilton Town Board member, attorney James Towne of the Saratoga County Youth Commission, attorney Michael Ginley, who also serves the town of Greenfield as its town justice, SOS neighbors and D’Andrea.

A number of people who were involved in the formation and evolution of SOS, including original SOS board members attorney Emily Muller and Anthony Mangona, former city mayors A.C. Riley and Ken Klotz, and Director of the Saratoga County Community Services Board Director Hans Lehr were also there.