

# Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

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## **Paying It Forward**

### ***S&B's Burger Joint to donate a percentage of sales to support ODMHSAS special initiatives***

Oklahoma City – S&B's Burger joint is "paying it forward" by helping to raise money to support special programs by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. On October 28, 2014, the local restaurant is donating a portion of all sales at their **20 NW 9<sup>th</sup> Street** location to assist the agency with non-publicly funded initiatives such as employee education and awareness, support services and development activities.

The local restaurant chain has a history of working with area non-profits and charities as part of their Pay It Forward program. Every Tuesday, each of S&B's restaurant locations recognizes a local group and donates 10 percent of that day's sales to the targeted cause.

State organizations such as ODMHSAS may not be what typically come to mind when people think of non-profits, but according to department spokesperson Jeff Dismukes, there are many agency needs that are not eligible for funding as part of regular operating budgets.

"The department maximizes state appropriations for services that we deliver, which means that we need to look to fund-raising and grants to address issues such as work force development, specialized support needs and many different educational and awareness activities," said Dismukes.

ODMHSAS has the lowest administrative cost rate of any state agency, less than 3 percent, and according to Dismukes does not have the discretion to use state-appropriated funds beyond the intent for which they were provided. The agency therefore looks for other ways to fund important initiatives that further the department's mission.

According to S&B's Christie Smith, that is why the Pay It Forward Program was created.

"We understand the important role played by community non-profits and how they work to make all of our lives better," said Smith. "Organizations such as ODMHSAS are delivering services that enhance the overall quality of life for all Oklahomans. We are excited to be able to help raise support for such an outstanding cause."

For more information about S&B's Burger Joint and the Pay It Forward program, visit their web site at [www.sandbburgers.com](http://www.sandbburgers.com).

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