



SPONSORSHIP GUIDE



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
CANADA

Welcome to SOS Children's Villages!



Thank you for choosing to become a sponsor

Whether you're sponsoring an SOS child or an SOS Children's Village, your money will help us make a big difference to orphaned or abandoned children. But, your support isn't just about money. It can be a very special feeling, for the child or village that you're helping, to know that someone, even on the other side of the world, is thinking about them and cares for their well-being. You and your family will feel good about it too!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Boyd McBride". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Boyd McBride, National Director and Child Sponsor

Getting the most from your sponsorship

This guide is designed to help you get the most from your sponsorship and to answer any questions you may have. However, if there is anything else you would like to know, please don't hesitate to contact us at:

SOS Children's Villages Canada
240 - 44 ByWard Market Square,
Ottawa, ON K1N 7A2

Telephone: 1-800-767-5111

E-mail: sponsor@soschildrensvillages.ca

Website: www.soschildrensvillages.ca

OUR VISION

- **Every child belongs to a family**
- **Every child grows with love**
- **Every child grows with respect**
- **Every child grows with security**

OUR MISSION

We build families for children in need, we help them shape their own futures and we share in the development of their communities.

What are the ways I can sponsor with SOS Children's Villages?

You can sponsor a child through SOS Children's Villages, which means that you will get information regarding the progress of one individual child living in an SOS Village. You can also sponsor an SOS Village which means that you are part of a community of supporters for that SOS Village and will receive updates twice a year about the people, activities and events throughout the year at the village.

How will my sponsorship help?

By sponsoring a child through SOS Children's Villages, you help give them a home, access to medical facilities, a good education and vocational training, all of which will provide them with the skills and knowledge they'll need when they leave the village to lead independent lives.

If you've chosen to sponsor a village, your money will help all the children living there, as well as families and children from the local community, who are free to make use of the additional facilities, such as schools and medical centres. You can find out more by visiting our website at:

www.soschildrensvillages.ca

What can I expect from my sponsorship?

As a child sponsor, you'll receive two letters a year: one in the summer that includes an update on how your sponsored child is doing and one in the winter which will include an update on the events of the past year in your child's SOS Village along with a recent photo of your sponsored child.

If you've decided to sponsor a village, you'll receive photos of the village, and the children living



there, as well as detailed twice yearly reports on everyday life in the village.

Where does my money go?

Your sponsorship money is used to support the child or village you've chosen to help. Each SOS mother receives a housekeeping allowance, which she uses to manage her own household budget and care for her children.



Photo: Claire Ladavicius

Am I under any obligation?

All we ask is that you make your monthly minimum contribution for as long as you're able. Normally this is done through direct debit or credit card. If for any reason you should decide to discontinue your sponsorship, just write and let us know.

Can I visit the child or village I'm sponsoring?

You're welcome to visit the SOS Children's Village. To do so, we would ask that you contact the National Office in that country (details are on the child/village profile enclosed) about a month before you go, to arrange a mutually convenient date and time.

I'm sponsoring an SOS child, is it okay to write to them?

Absolutely! Why not send them a Christmas or birthday card, for example. You can send any letters

or cards directly to your sponsored child's SOS Children's Village.



Don't worry about any language problems if your sponsored child lives in a non-English speaking country. There's always a member of staff to translate.

Please bear in mind that we don't put pressure on our children to write back to their sponsors. Some children may not be able to write back to you, as a number of children are behind in their education when they join us or because letter writing is not part of the culture in certain countries. Many of the older children, especially if they are learning English as a second language, do write to their sponsors, but it's entirely their decision.

You will find the mailing address for your sponsored child at the bottom of the SOS Village Description included in your sponsorship package.

How do I write my SOS child?

Write a letter to your sponsored child as you would any child. It is best to keep your letters simple, short and to the point.

You might want to describe where you live, for example, or the weather, your hobbies and interests or how you celebrate special occasions.

Postcards or photos of where you live or where you go on holiday are always interesting and can be used as part of a geography lesson in school.

Keep in mind a few things:

- Introductions

With some cultures, it's polite for adults to be called mother or father (even if they are not

directly related; for example in some places, a mother's sister will be called mother). Sometimes sponsors preferred to use formal titles (Mr., Mrs. or Ms.). Others prefer to call themselves auntie, uncle, godparent or their first name. Introduce yourself however you feel most comfortable.

- Consider cultural sensitivity: Remember your sponsored child may come from a different religious, cultural and economic context, so when sending them letters and pictures, be sensitive to their culture and society. Images of things we find innocuous, like a day at the beach, or a holiday celebration may be confusing to



the sponsored child because of different values or the affluence perceived in them.



Can I send gifts to my child/village?

SOS Children's Villages advises against sending gifts as, sadly, they don't always arrive at the intended destination. Similarly, your sponsored child shares a home with their SOS siblings and not all of them receive extra gifts from their sponsors on special occasions like a birthday. As in any family home, all of our children celebrate their birthday as well as other festivities and the SOS mother ensures there's a gift to unwrap.

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(Can I send gifts....continued)

What we suggest, instead, is that you send a money gift to us here at the Ottawa office stating that it's a gift for your sponsored child. We'll then place all of it in your

sponsored child's unique savings account to be given to them once they are independent. This can be done by cheque or credit card and 100% of the funds go into her/his account.

Any money gift for a sponsored village will also be forwarded in its entirety to be used for whatever is needed most at that time.

If you'd still like to send your sponsored child or village something, may we suggest slipping a packet of stickers or some other small gift inside a card or letter? Our children love to personalize their things and it's something that they can share.

For further information on sending gifts to your sponsored child, or for a village, please check our website or call/email our offices.

Ensuring the privacy of our SOS children and sponsors

Protecting the rights, dignity and privacy of the children in our care, and that of our sponsors, is an essential part of how we operate. We carefully observe and strongly support all relevant data protection regulations.

Please understand that there are details about many of our children which we cannot pass on to sponsors, and in some cases to the children themselves until they are older. We also ask for similar discretion on your part. By becoming an SOS sponsor, you agree to treat as confidential, personal details and information about your SOS child. Pictures of SOS children and their personal details must never be published in print or online. If you receive sensitive information about your sponsored child, please keep it within the circle of your family and close friends.

Privacy works both ways and hence your information is also kept confidential from your sponsored child unless you choose to send correspondence. In this case, the child will be informed of your name and country.



How can I leave a lasting legacy to orphaned and abandoned children?

You can continue to help SOS Children's Villages by leaving a gift in your will. This is a wonderful, practical way to carry on supporting the children and villages you care about. For more information, please give us a call, 1-800-767-5111.

"Every big thing in our world only comes true, when somebody does more than he has to do."

Hermann Gmeiner,
founder SOS Children's Villages



Photo: Johann Denk

Any questions?

Please don't hesitate to get in touch. If you need to tell us that you're moving, have updates to your banking or credit card information, or have any questions whatsoever about your sponsorship, please contact us and we'll be more than happy to help:

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Words of inspiration from some fellow sponsors....



“Help us build a foundation to last a lifetime. It’s the most important building project there is.”

Mike Holmes

Spokesperson for SOS Children’s Villages

“My husband and I sponsored two children from India for many years. Now I have arranged a legacy gift so that the children in other SOS Villages will get the care they need 25 and 50 years from now.”

Maria Virjee,

SOS sponsor for more than 20 years

“It was a joy and a privilege to be able to visit my sponsored child in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. To see the love and care of the SOS mothers and Village staff towards their children reinforced the value and importance of sponsorship and donations.”

Ann Bourke

SOS sponsor and volunteer



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Toll Free: 1-800-767-5111
Fax: 613-232-6764

E-mail: info@soschildrensvillages.ca
Website: www.soschildrensvillages.ca
Charitable Registration No. 13824 7259 RR0001