

Special Report for Donors

A Legacy of Caring

Fall 2017

You Make Sure That Children in Need Have a Loving Home

Your legacy - today, tomorrow and beyond

Your generosity gives generations of children a better life. A home, the opportunity to attend school, and a loving family led by a dedicated SOS mother, can make the world of difference to a child.

No child should ever have to grow up alone.

This belief guides everything we do here at SOS Children's Villages. It was a fundamental principle by which SOS Children's Villages founder, Hermann Gmeiner, lived his life and it remains a basic principle in our work today.

Hermann firmly believed that childhood experiences have a profound effect on the people we become. After losing his mother early in life, he

experienced firsthand the loneliness of a motherless childhood. Later, as a child welfare worker in the aftermath of World War II, he was deeply touched by the orphaned and abandoned children he worked with, and the hardships they endured.

Witnessing the deplorable conditions that plagued many traditional orphanages at the time, Hermann formed the strong conviction that children can only be helped if they have a home and a mother's love. He welcomed children to the first SOS Children's Village in 1949.

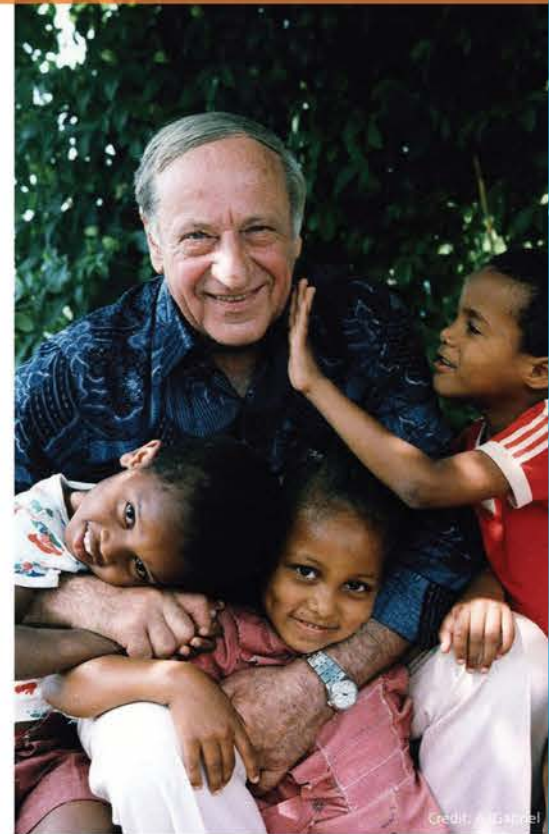
Every child has a right to quality care.

At SOS Children's Villages, we work to ensure that children grow up in a safe and caring family

environment so they can reach their full potential. With your help, we place orphans in the arms of loving SOS mothers, provide opportunities for children to attend school, and strengthen families and communities to prevent child abandonment.

Hermann Gmeiner believed that a home and a mother's love are integral ingredients for a child to achieve his or her potential. This family-centred approach to helping the world's orphaned and abandoned children has saved lives and given thousands of children the power to overcome past trauma and the confidence to become leaders in their communities.

SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest charity working with orphaned and abandoned children worldwide. The compassion of individuals like you has changed the lives of more than a million children in 135 countries.



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

No child should grow up alone

240 - 44 ByWard Market Square, Ottawa, ON K1N 7A2
Toll Free: 1-800-767-5111 • Website: www.soschildrensvillages.ca
Charitable Registration # 13824 7259 RR001



Because of You, I Have Hope for the Future - Meet Akachi

That's how I felt when I first arrived at the SOS Village in Nairobi. My mama died when I was 4 and there was no one to take care of me. I was an orphan. I found food however I could, but it was never enough. I begged from strangers. I stole from the market. I slept where I could. Mostly I went to sleep hungry, dreaming of food. I lived on the streets for two years.

One day I was hiding out after getting chased for stealing some cassava and I saw a man and a lady I'd never seen before. The lady had a big, friendly smile. The man wore a badge and carried a clipboard. When they found me, I thought I was in trouble. Instead, they told me they wanted to give me food, clean water, and a real bed to sleep in. I thought I must be dreaming.

But they were real. And the place they told me about was real. I got a new mama, clothes that didn't have holes, and I started going to school! I had to sit with the younger kids at first because I had never gone to school before, but I studied hard and now I sit with kids my age.

I'm so thankful that man and lady found me that day. Because of them, and because of you, I have hope for the future.

-Akachi, 7, SOS Children's Village Nairobi

A Lifelong Commitment to Helping the World's Children



When Harold Scheer first learned of SOS Children's Villages, he was no stranger to international development work. As a young man, he'd spent time volunteering in Uganda. He'd seen his share of run-down orphanages and abandoned short-term projects created by well-intentioned organizations. He knew the false hope these projects could create.

When he took over the organization of an annual charity ball from his aging mother, he felt compelled to learn more about the long-time recipient charity, SOS Children's Villages. Arriving unannounced with his family to an SOS Children's Village in Panama, Harold was very impressed by the state of the grounds, the incredible community atmosphere, and the loving SOS mothers at the heart of it all.

It was a place where kids were, quite simply, being kids. Laughing, goofing around, playing soccer with the new balls Harold and his family had brought with them. It was the way it should be for all children. Harold was struck by how SOS Children's Villages had created a true village environment, giving hope to all the kids who called it home.

Like SOS Children's Villages founder,

Hermann Gmeiner, Harold and his wife believe that the love of a family and an education are powerful building blocks for society. That first trip to Panama sparked a lifelong commitment to SOS Children's Villages for Harold and his family. They continued to support the organization through the annual Viennese charity ball, made several trips to other SOS Villages, became monthly sponsors supporting three children and two villages, and today Harold is proud to sit on the Board of Directors.

"What I like about SOS Children's Villages, what has really impressed me, is their long-term commitment. I'd become quite disenchanted with how many other development initiatives were so short-term. With SOS Children's Villages, it's not a 1-2 year project. They start a village and make sure these kids get what they need. They're actually accomplishing what they've set out to do."



It was a place where kids were, quite simply, being kids.

For Harold and his wife, the decision to leave a gift to SOS Children's Villages in their will was an easy one. *"It's something that, for many people, is tough to budget monthly. The legacy gift is so much easier and something I'd like to encourage others to think about."*

Harold and his wife are proud to be members of the SOS Children's Villages family. They know their legacy gifts will give children a mother's love, a supportive community, and hope for the future.

Ama's Story

Arna lay on a stump near her aunt's house where she'd lived for the past two years. Tired, hungry, and in excruciating pain from a growing infection in her jaw, she had given up hope and was ready to die.

Ama's mother died during childbirth. When she was just four years old, her father was killed in an accident. Arna went to live with her two aunts and uncles, and 12 cousins.

In the crowded shack Arna was starved, abused, and neglected. She was forced to walk 10 km a day in the scorching Ghanaian sun gathering firewood and food to "earn her keep." If her aunt wasn't happy with what she found that day, she wouldn't be fed.

For two years, Arna endured a tortured life under her relatives' care. She had a roof over her head but certainly not a home.

One day, hungry and desperate for any type of nourishment, Arna tried to open a coconut - using her teeth! She heard a loud crack, followed by an intense pain in her jaw. Her face swelled up.

With no medical attention, her jaw only got worse. All she wanted was for her mother to come and take her. She had no hope and felt completely alone.

An SOS Children's Villages worker and a government official found Arna lying on the stump that day and offered her something she could have never imagined - a second chance at life.

Through SOS Children's Villages, Arna was given medical attention, a new home, brothers and sisters who understood what she'd been through, and most importantly, the unconditional love of an SOS mother.

Today, Arna is 11 years old and thriving. She wants to become a social worker, to help children like her escape abuse and neglect and have a chance at a real future. Arna is alive and well today because of you. Your compassion and generosity saved her life.



Your Legacy Can Give a Child a Second Chance at Life

It is hard not to be compelled to act when you read stories like Ama's. Abused and neglected for so long, she was lucky enough to be placed in an SOS Children's Village and given a second chance for a bright future. But there are so many more children just like her, who are still in need of a helping hand.

The monthly and annual gifts you and other donors contribute each year give hope to children living in SOS Villages around the globe. We are so grateful for your support and know many of you wish you could do more to help children in need.

Luckily, there are many ways you can ensure orphaned and neglected children get what they need most - a new home and a mother's love.

Many of us don't think about our assets as vehicles for giving. But our homes and investment portfolios hold tremendous potential to make a difference after we've passed. In fact, a single gift in a will can amount to more than a lifetime of charitable giving and can be life-changing for children around the world.



Saved by Your Giving – Meet Mutoni

"My mother and father were taken by a scary disease. I was left to take care of my two younger brothers, but I was only 6. Luckily, two nice ladies found us when we were hunting through garbage for food and said we could have a new home, a new mama, and even go to school! Best of all, my brothers and I could all stay together. I'm so thankful to those ladies, and to you, for changing my life!"

- Mutoni, 8, a child saved through your gifts to SOS Children's Villages

The Gift You Can Make

The decision to remember a beloved charity in your will is a highly personal one. While we do appreciate knowing your intentions so that we can thank you for your future gift, we do know that many people prefer not to share this information.

The correct wording, to make sure your wishes are carried out is:

I give _____ (state share or percentage of estate or specific amount) to SOS Children's Villages Canada, 240 - 44 Byward Market Square, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7A2, registered charity number 13824 7259 RROOOL.

It is best you see a lawyer when it comes to writing or changing your will, but if you're thinking about leaving a gift to SOS Children's Villages Canada and would like to talk to us, we are here to help. Please call Dave Greiner at 613-232-3309 ext 514.