

# Special Report for Donors

A Legacy of Caring

Fall 2020



## Leaving a Legacy of Love

In this special report, we're delighted to share with you the impact you're making for vulnerable children around the world. These true stories are only possible because of your generous gifts to SOS Children's Villages.

In these pages, you'll visit a SOS Children's Village in Jamaica to experience first-hand the loving homes your gifts help create for girls like Ronica\*. You'll rejoice with "the Painter of Alexandria" as he discovers his potential and realizes his dreams. And you'll see what your support does to keep struggling families together and thriving.

We are so excited to celebrate these transformed lives and the people who have made their futures bright – YOU! We hope you see how truly invaluable you are and how a potential gift in your will can impact even more children, giving them homes full of love and a sense of belonging.

## The Painter of Alexandria (Village)

### Your gifts help children live their dreams

Everybody at the SOS Children's Village in Alexandria calls Samer\* the painter of the village.

Samer came to the SOS Village at the young age of seven. His talents could easily have been overlooked or tossed aside. After all, what's

the use of doodling when you're trying to survive?

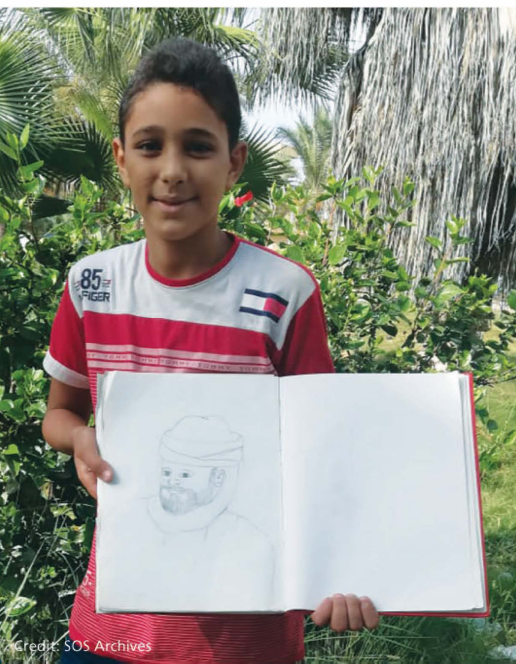
Thankfully, the SOS Village director, Ayman Al-Gamal\*, saw the potential of Samer's talent. Ayman believed that with the right training and encouragement, Samer could have a bright future as an artist. Your gifts ensure wise and compassionate leaders like Ayman can help children reach their full potential.

For Samer, who is now 14, art isn't just a hobby or a pastime; it gives him purpose and direction. "I wake up every day with a new idea for a drawing, in fact this is what makes me excited to start my day," he exclaims. "I dream of becoming a famous painter and studying at the Faculty of Fine Arts. I dream to go around the world and draw monuments in every country."



Through his art, Samer doesn't see himself as a vulnerable or abandoned child. He sees himself as a capable, confident adult traveling the world and shaping countless cultures. A gift in your will can help even more children like Samer chase – and achieve – their dreams.

*\*Names and locations have been changed to protect the privacy of the children*





# With His Own Eyes

## A child sponsor experiences the warmth of an SOS Children's Villages home

There's nothing quite like a first-hand experience. Allen and Rosemary Veasey have faithfully sponsored children with SOS Children's Villages for more than 10 years. But when they had the opportunity to visit their sponsored child, 14-year-old Ronica\*, in an SOS Children's Village in Jamaica, they immediately saw the impact of your generosity.

An SOS mother in one of the Village houses showed them pictures of her sons and daughters. She pointed to one young man who is now a lawyer in America but still regularly returns to visit his SOS mother.

"I was sort of concerned in a little way that it might be sort of institutionalized," Allen admits. "We were both absolutely blown away when we arrived there. It was truly a home atmosphere."

A gift in your will ensures more children like Ronica can experience the warmth, safety and comfort of a forever home.



# Becoming Children Again

## How your gifts restore childhood innocence

Tens of thousands of children live in child-headed households in Kenya. YOU are bringing these children into safe homes, providing them with loving families and giving them a happy childhood.

Mwikali\*, Nduku\* and Kioko\* are three siblings you rescued after their parents suddenly passed away. Mwikali, then 12 years old, remembers how hard it was to keep her siblings alive. "I was their mother. I fetched water and cooked," she says. "Our school uniform was old and tattered. I had sewed and patched it up many times to make it wearable. I skipped school often to work in farms to earn money for food. Sometimes we slept hungry." It was nine months before an adult alerted the authorities.

Thanks to you, these children now live in an SOS Children's Village home where they are loved and cared for as children should be. "I celebrated my birthday for the first time when I was 13 years old," says Mwikali. "I ate cake surrounded by family and friends – people who genuinely care about me."

Mwikali's younger sister Nduku is now a thriving seven-year-old closely bonded to her SOS mother

Waithera. "I love my family," she says. "I have a nice mother who is always there for me."

You can ensure even more vulnerable children experience a joyful, carefree childhood with a gift in your will.



*\*Names and locations have been changed to protect the privacy of the children*

# It's All About Family

## You can create a lasting legacy for vulnerable children

To me, family is more than just genetics or blood relations. It's a group of people in your life who would do anything for you, and vice versa. It can be the family that you're born into, or a community of close-knit friends and neighbours. As a fellow supporter of SOS Children's Villages, perhaps you feel the same way.

I was taught the importance of family from a very early age. These values of community and togetherness are engrained in my soul – and it's a big reason why



*Josephine and her grandson Mitchell*

I made the decision to leave a gift in my will to SOS Children's Villages. Because as you and I both know, this organization is all about family – whether it's strengthening existing families so they can stay together or creating new families in an SOS Village.

I had already updated my will to include SOS Children's Villages when I visited an SOS Village in the

Dominican Republic back in 2014. Walking through the beautiful community and seeing the happy smiles of the children only served to cement my choice. It's hard to describe how incredible it was to see it all first-hand. It was such an up-lifting experience and a memory I cherish to this day.

Nothing makes me feel better than knowing my gift will continue to bring families together. If this is something that's also important to you, then I encourage you to consider making a gift in your will to SOS Children's Villages Canada.

*- Josephine van Herpt*



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why leave a gift to charity?**

People from all walks of life choose to leave a gift to a cause they care about. Right now, more than 1.5 million Canadians have decided to include a gift to charity in their wills. Any gift, big or small, can truly make a difference. It also provides tax benefits that can relieve the burden of estate tax on your loved ones.

### **How does a gift in my will help children?**

With your gifts, SOS Children's Villages helps children with the greatest need. From infancy to adulthood, we are there providing support in education, social services, food, shelter and family.

### **What about my loved ones?**

It's important to care for those we love. Many people come to realize that they have enough in their estate to care for family members and also allocate a share to causes that are most important to them.

### **Do I need to change my entire will?**

Even if you already have a will, you can include SOS Children's Villages using a special legal clause called a codicil. Or, simply add your gift next time you update your will.

### **Do I have to tell anyone about my decision?**

Not at all. But if you wish to share this information with us, we'd welcome the opportunity to thank you personally.



# Keeping Families Together

The Family Strengthening program helps widows start over

When Assanatou's\* husband died, she didn't know what to do. "Coming back to square one after losing a husband, with no one to support you with the children is tough," she shares. But she didn't give up. "I had to be there for my children."

Assanatou moved her family – a teenage son and two nine-year-old twin daughters – to her brother's crumbling house on the outskirts of a large city. "When

I had a bit of money, I would prepare the meals and when I didn't, my brother's wife was there," says Assanatou. "When it came to food, we would first feed the children even if that meant that at times some adults would not eat. We worked things out with the little we had."

Assanatou's future began to brighten when she joined the SOS Children's Villages Family



Strengthening Program. She opened a small store selling household items, firewood, bread and coffee in the morning. Assanatou is now the president of a village loans and savings association and recently convinced three members to invest in a chicken farm.

Your support of the SOS Family Strengthening Program helped Assanatou feed, clothe, and care for the children she loves so dearly. With a gift in your will, you can deepen your legacy and keep vulnerable children right where they should be – safe by their mother's side.

*\*Names and locations have been changed to protect the privacy of the children*

## Have you seen Maria's video?

Learn more about Maria's passionate commitment to SOS Children's Villages at

[www.soschildrensvillages.ca/legacy-giving](http://www.soschildrensvillages.ca/legacy-giving)



Leaving a gift in your will means forever changing the lives of children in need of loving care.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to **Dave Greiner** at:

**(613) 232-3309 ext. 514**

We'd love to hear from you.



**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](http://www.soschildrensvillages.ca)  
Charitable Registration # 13824 7259 RR001