

Special Report for Donors

A Legacy of Caring

Fall 2021



A Legacy for their Lifetime

We hope this report will provide an inspirational look into the difference you're making for vulnerable children around the world. Your generosity ensures every young person has a loving mother and all the support they need to thrive in childhood—and beyond.

In these pages, you'll hear from an SOS mother in India, who will share how you're helping children through the hardships of COVID-19. You'll celebrate the leadership of former SOS child Marco. And you'll see how donors like you have allowed a widowed mother of nine to support her family.

We're delighted to share these moving stories so you can understand the importance of your donations for children worldwide. With a gift in your will, you could transform the future for even more children, and provide them with the loving foundation they need to thrive into adulthood.

Photo: SOS Archives

Helping Children Move Forward: You Can Educate and Uplift the Next Generation



Helping vulnerable children has always been a priority for Hans and Irene Jørgensen. Married for 60 years, the couple were drawn to SOS Children's Villages and felt assured that their gifts would provide loving homes for children for generations to come.

"We've seen that SOS Children's Villages really helps children," Hans explains. "We know with certainty our money is going where it's needed most."

Education and health care are particularly critical causes for the Jørgensens. "For many of the children in the African countries we have visited, going to school is not an option," says Hans. "We know how important it is to learn to read and write and do math."

With their passion for helping children and their family's needs

met, Hans and Irene have chosen to leave a gift in their will to SOS Children's Villages, and encourage others to do the same.

"We have thought of this long-term and feel really comfortable with our decision. We have seen first-hand that the money is being used wisely."

With a gift in your will, you'll not only provide vulnerable children with the comfort of a forever home, but you'll also help ensure they receive quality health care and an excellent education.

Returning to the Village:

You Help Children Grow Into Successful Adults

As a father of three, Marco Paulo knows raising a child is a lifetime commitment – and as a former SOS child, he knows a loving family is crucial to their well-being.

Since the age of four, Marco was raised in SOS Children's Village Assomada in Cape Verde.



Photo: S. Taylor

“My SOS mother Martinha was dedicated to giving us a warm upbringing full of love and support,” he says.

Today, Marco works as a national youth leader at SOS Children's Villages Cape Verde. He also still regularly calls and visits with Martinha.

“Working as a national youth leader is a way to thank SOS for all the things they have done for me,” Marco explains.

In his role, Marco leads a youth centre that helps SOS youth as they transition from school to living on their own. The centre offers mentoring programs along with help with job applications, conflict resolution, and self-confidence.

Your generosity makes it possible for children like Marco to grow up and become role models. With a gift in your will, you can help plant the seeds of success for vulnerable youth for years to come.

Remembering Maré: One Person's Legacy Touches Countless Lives

Maré Olito was a dedicated SOS Children's Villages donor. Over the course of 50 years, she always sponsored a minimum of two children at a time, changing countless young people's lives for the better.

Living on a teacher's pension after retirement, Maré described herself as a woman of modest means. Nonetheless, she said it was an easy choice to include a gift in her will to SOS Children's Villages Canada.

“My mind rests easy knowing that through a small legacy more orphaned children will be rescued,” Maré told us. “They'll find the security and love they need in the arms of an SOS mother.”

Today, Maré's compassionate legacy carries forward the values she embraced throughout her lifetime. Orphaned and abandoned children will continue to benefit from the kindness and generosity of a woman who believed in the potential of every child.



Photo: SOS Archives

SOS Children's Villages honours Maré's memory with gratitude. We hope that you might consider making a gift in your will, too, and create a legacy that will last far beyond your time on earth.



Q & A with an SOS Mother: Your Impact in India

From Trauma to a New Beginning:

You Help Children Like Raj Recover and Thrive

Photo: D. Woli

Seven-year-old Raj* seems like a typical child in many ways: confident, outgoing and engaged as he runs or plays games with friends.

But the scars on his hands and face tell a different story. Raj suffered burns to more than 80% of his body in a tragic house fire – one that also took his mother's life and left his father severely injured, unable to care for him.


After spending more than two years in hospitals in Nepal and India undergoing surgery, Raj was welcomed into SOS Children's Village Jorpati. Anxious about his appearance, he would often withdraw or seek attention by acting out.

Through your caring support, Raj was able to access counselling and therapies to talk about and process his trauma. He also learned to channel his feelings into art and games. "He was assured that he was actively listened to, was being understood and accepted for the way he is," says counsellor Pooza Shrestha.

In time, Raj began to bond with his SOS family. He became particularly close to his SOS mother, holding her hand wherever they went.

Today, he tells others, "It doesn't matter how you look. Your mother, brothers, and sisters will always love you. For this, you need to help and be kind to others."

You gave Raj another chance at a forever home and a bright future. And through a gift in your will, you can make sure all children who experience tragedy can have a safe, loving family to support them on their path to recovery.



The devastating impacts of COVID-19 have resulted in an estimated 10,000+ children in India losing their parents. We interviewed SOS mother Kavya about her experience.

Q. *How has the pandemic affected your SOS Village?*

A. More children are coming to us because their parents have died or abandoned them as a result of extreme poverty. We welcome them with open arms, but they are very distressed. It takes a while to adjust, understandably.

Q. *What has changed about new children arriving during COVID-19?*

A. Everyone has to be tested for the virus before they can join us. Until then, children are quarantined. If their tests are positive, then they have to stay isolated for longer. The waiting can be very hard for them, but when it's over everyone is so excited to meet them and show them around.

Q. *How do you support children who have experienced the loss of their parents?*

A. Love and routine are the two most important things. These young people need stability and safety. It's my goal as an SOS mother to ensure that my home is warm and welcoming. I make sure to listen as much as I talk to build that trust with them.

A gift in your will ensures SOS Children's Villages is always ready to be there for orphaned and abandoned children in their greatest times of need.



Photo: SOS Archives

A Family's Fresh Start:

You Empower and Strengthen Families

When Christiana's husband died, her household was plunged into financial instability. The Ghanaian mother drained her business savings to care for her nine children, eventually causing the business to collapse.

Skipping breakfast and lunch, the family lived off cassava and plantain they grew in their backyard.

"Those were painful days as I worried about how to get enough food on the table for everyone, and meet their school and health needs," explains Christiana. "I could see poor nutrition was hurting my children's well-being, especially the little ones, yet I was powerless to do anything."

Because of your compassionate support, Christiana was able to receive a support package through the SOS Children's Village Family Strengthening Program. Your donations allowed her to receive training in everything including animal and crop production, parenting, and childcare.

She was able to revive her soap business and start a poultry and pig farm.

When COVID-19 caused setbacks, donor support ensured Christina could access the SOS Family Strengthening Program's solidarity fund which allowed her to receive rice, garri (a type of flour made from a root vegetable), tomato puree and other food items to sustain her family.

Today, the mom is confident her family's future is bright. "I have the knowledge I need to rear animals and care for my children. I will work for myself and succeed."

With a gift in your will to SOS Children's Villages Canada, you can support and unify entire families – helping parents care for their children and move beyond poverty to excel in life.

**Names and some circumstances have been changed to protect the privacy of the children*



SOS CHILDREN'S
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