

# Special Report for Donors

A Legacy of Caring



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES

No child should grow up alone

## Leaving a legacy of love

In this special report to you, we're excited to share heart-warming stories about the life-changing impact of your gifts — and the potential impact a gift in your will could have on children around the world.

We're able to celebrate these wonderful stories because of you. Your thoughtful giving to SOS Children's Villages makes it possible for orphaned and abandoned children to know the love of a mother and siblings once again. ■

*“They loved each other, they grew together, they donated together.”*

— Erik Esselaar,  
nephew of legacy  
donor Elsje Mandl

## A lifetime of love, a legacy of giving

### A couple's commitment to SOS Children's Villages lives on through planned gifts

Erik Esselaar fondly remembers family trips to visit his beloved aunt in Ottawa. But he couldn't help but feel a sense of culture shock each time he walked into their home.

His Aunt Elsje and Uncle Paul (Tante Elsje and Oom Paul to Erik) were careful not to waste anything. Dishes were hand-washed; plastic bags were reused. Walking and biking were the usual modes of transportation.

Then there were the chores. As soon as they arrived, Erik and his brothers were often put to work mowing the lawn. But their reward would be Elsje's delicious homemade food.

Over the years, Erik's culture shock developed into an appreciation of the core



values of his Tante Elsje and Oom Paul.

Elsje and Paul Mandl loved traveling, seeing the world together. From their roots in Holland and Austria, they came to Canada where Paul worked as a professor of mathematics and Elsje became a dedicated volunteer at The National Gallery.

Elsje and Paul donated to SOS Children's Villages throughout their marriage. It had always been an important part of the fabric of their shared lives. After Paul passed away in 2010, Elsje continued their generosity. She always ensured the safe arrival of her donations in a unique way: she rode her bicycle to deliver her gift.

So it came as no surprise to Erik to learn that Elsje had included a gift in her will to SOS Children's Villages. After all, her wedding present to Erik had been a donation to SOS Children's Villages. Erik was proud to honour her last request: that he hand-deliver her gift himself. For him, it was a way of continuing the important legacy of caring his aunt had shown all her life. ■



A gift in your will helps raise a child like Janani from infancy to adulthood.

## Janani's Journey

**Your gifts allow a child to follow her dreams, surrounded by family**

When orphaned two-day-old Janani arrived at the SOS Children's Village in Piliyandala, Sri Lanka, she was a tiny wonder to her new older siblings. They cuddled her, watched over her, and loved her from the moment she joined their family.

That love remains the same, even though the baby has grown into a confident young girl with dreams of becoming an engineer. Her brothers and sisters still watch over her, helping Janani with her schoolwork and playing cricket and chess with her.

Janani studies mathematics and feeds her curiosity for inventions. She helps her SOS mother Sumithra with the household chores.

"The love and warmth of my mother comforts me," Janani says. Such a

happy childhood is possible through gifts from donors like you.

To date, over 900 Sri Lankan children have been provided loving homes through your generous donations to SOS Children's Villages. Like Janani, they are surrounded by family as they dream of a bright future.

*"The love and warmth of my mother comforts me..."*

— Janani

A family's love is the warmth all children should know. We rely on the generosity of Canadians like you who leave a gift in their will to continue to help orphaned and abandoned children find loving homes. ■



# A world of potential begins in a Village

## Your support makes big dreams possible

Abderrahim Laabid remembers the moment his life of possibility began. It started with a hug.

Six-year-old Abderrahim and his younger brother Zakaria had been abandoned after the death of their father. They were welcomed into the SOS Children's Village Ait Ourir in Morocco by their SOS mother Aziza.

"She gave us a really big hug," Abderrahim explains. "I can remember that hug — it was so unbelievable."

That simple gesture was Abderrahim's first insight into what living in an SOS Children's Village meant.

Abderrahim made the most of the opportunities the Village provided. His passion for engineering was sparked with extra classes and workshops offered in the Village. These opportunities made a lasting impact on his young mind.

*"I got a priceless legacy from SOS Children's Villages."*

— Abderrahim

With the love and schooling provided through the support of SOS Children's Villages donors, Abderrahim followed

his dream. He earned university scholarships and has worked as a successful field engineer in over 20 countries.

Recently, Abderrahim fulfilled another big dream: he formed his own company. He provides electrical service and repair to large companies in Morocco and across much of Africa.

Abderrahim is grateful to donors like you who made his success possible. "I got a priceless legacy from SOS Children's Villages," he says. "It gave me shelter, education, health care, and the most amazing family ever." ■



Then (above): Abderrahim, age 8, when he arrived at SOS Children's Villages.

Now (left): Today Abderrahim is a successful engineer and entrepreneur. This achievement, is in part, because he was raised in a loving family with rich opportunities made possible through a gift left in a will.

# Frequently asked questions about leaving a gift in your will

## 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.

## 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 they have enough in their estate to care for family members and also allocate a share to causes that are most important to them.

## WHAT IF I NEED TO CHANGE MY WILL?

We understand that your situation could change. A gift in your will is 'revocable,' which means that you can modify it at any time.

## 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. ■



*“These children are like family. We are a global village and if I can leave a legacy, even the smallest gift in a will like mine, just to make sure that even one child is cared for then I know I've made all the difference in the world.”*

*— Maré Olito, donor and child sponsor*

## More Information

To speak with one of our staff, please contact: **Dave Greiner**, Senior Vice President, Operations  
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