

A loving home can be your
legacy with a gift in your will



No child should
grow up alone



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
CANADA



Message from the President and CEO

SOS Children's Villages Canada was founded in 1969 with one clear mission: to protect children without parental care, or at risk of losing it, and ensure their right to a safe, loving home. No child should ever grow up alone. This remains at the heart of our work across the global SOS Children's Villages Federation in more than 130 countries and territories – every day.

SOS Children's Villages Canada continues to proudly support this mission and, thanks to our supporters in Canada and around the world, we reach millions of people each year through vital programs that help protect children, youth, and families so they can flourish.

There is a common expression that, 'change is the only constant in life'. We often experience this with our careers, the places we call home, and our families. Sometimes situations change around us, and our health or financial realities can present new challenges.

In times of change, one of the most powerful steps you can take is to revisit your will. If it was written years ago – or if you haven't created one yet – updating your estate plan ensures it truly reflects the life you're living today and the values you want to carry forward.

Including a gift in your will to SOS Children's Villages Canada is a meaningful way to make your legacy speak for what matters most to you. It sends a clear message that the world's most vulnerable children deserve safety, love, and a chance to thrive. Your gift becomes more than a gesture – it's a lasting testament to your belief that every child has a right to care and protection. It's a decision I made as I believe my duty to children in need doesn't end with my career or my lifetime.

This kind of legacy doesn't just reflect your priorities; it amplifies them. It transforms your compassion into a future where all children feel supported, valued, and loved.

Thank you for considering joining thousands of friends and supporters across Canada and the world in creating a legacy built on love, hope, and family.

With deep gratitude and warm regards,



Thomas Bauer
President and CEO
SOS Children's Villages Canada

What we do

SOS Children's Villages: Keeping children and young people safe, healthy and thriving

Our purpose

We envision a world where each child and young person grows up in a nurturing, loving and safe family, building the bonds they need to become their strongest selves.

75+ YEARS
130+ COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

The challenge we address

Growing social and economic challenges are driving family separation worldwide, leaving hundreds of millions of children without the care, protection and opportunities they need to thrive – perpetuating a harmful cycle.



1 in 10 children globally – approx. 220 million – **live without parental care** or are at risk of losing it.



More than 2 in 10 children live in extreme poverty, surviving on less than \$3 per day.



6 in 10 children under five – around 400 million – **experience abuse** from parents and caregivers.

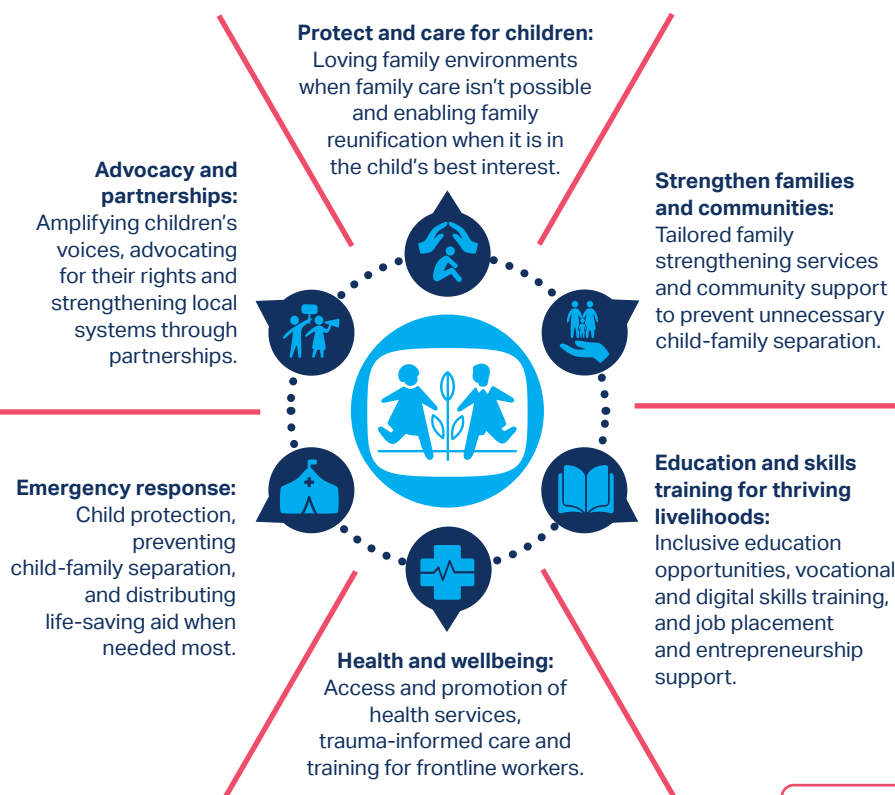
CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO CARE AND PROTECTION

Our holistic approach

We take a holistic, child and youth-centred approach to protect children and young people, strengthen families, and build long-term community resilience to help break the cycle of poverty.

Our commitment

We protect, educate and empower children and young people so they can build brighter futures for themselves and future generations. And we couldn't do it without you.



Help ensure that no child grows up alone. Learn more.



Your legacy can be a loving home for children in need

Many of us wish we could do so much more to help those among us who need it most. But our incomes are limited – and most of us must choose carefully when we're deciding whom to give to and how much to give.

We think daily about our income. We use it to pay bills, buy necessities, and sometimes extravagances, and make our charitable contributions. Money comes in. Money goes out. At the end of the month, we hope we've balanced it all.

We rarely think about our assets, however. Things like our homes and our investment portfolios don't get the kind of regular attention that our incomes do. Yet, our assets can be considerable.

That's why your will can be such a powerful philanthropic tool. A single gift in a will can amount to more than a lifetime of charitable giving.

1 in 10 Canadians with a will have already left a gift to the causes that reflect their deepest values, and another nearly 45% plan to do the same. Together, they are shaping a legacy of compassion that will echo for many years to come.



Your hope for the future.

A close-up portrait of an elderly woman with short, white hair and glasses. She is looking directly at the camera with a gentle smile. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a bookshelf.

Maria's story

I knew a lot of orphans as a child growing up in Austria during World War II. I was lucky to have a loving mother, but so many of my classmates ended up all alone. I think that for any child, it is very important to have that one person in his or her life, who really, really cares.

After the war ended, everyone in Europe set about rebuilding their lives. In Austria, SOS-Kinderdorf (German for SOS Children's Villages) began building SOS Villages in Austria, and soon across many parts of Europe, to provide well-trained SOS mothers and forever family-like homes for children orphaned by the war. I thought, What a good idea! Every culture knows the concept of family, whatever it may look like. They know the difference it makes for children to grow up in a family.

SOS Children's Villages gives children back their childhood, provides them with nutritious food, a quality education, and proper healthcare. In short, they do what is needed for the children in their care to reach their full potential.

When I grew up and began earning a living, I started donating to SOS Children's Villages. It wasn't much, but I sent what I could.

After I came to Canada in the early 60s, I continued to give to SOS Children's Villages in Austria. That lasted until Canada launched its own organization in 1969. I believed so passionately in giving orphaned children a forever home that I leapt right in to help. I've been volunteering ever since.

Of course, I still donate money to this wonderful cause. I've sponsored a number of SOS children over the years. My late husband Minoo and I sponsored a brother and sister in the first SOS Village built in India. We went to visit them one time and the joy that we witnessed, and the laughter, will stay with me for the rest of my days. I have seen with my own eyes many children given chances they would not otherwise have.

Deciding to make a gift in my will to SOS Children's Villages was easy; orphaned and other vulnerable children will continue to need support for years beyond my own lifetime and SOS Children's Villages will still be here giving them back their childhoods with love and guidance – and that's the legacy I want to leave.

“Through SOS Children's Villages, I've been able to give children, who otherwise would be lost, an opportunity to become all that they want to be.

— Maria Virjee, legacy donor and longtime volunteer



How a gift in your will helps children

Providing safe and supportive homes

As the world's largest charitable federation focused on family-based alternative care, we work every day to ensure that children who have lost parental care find safety, stability, and love.

Unlike institutional care, such as orphanages or large group homes – where child-to-caregiver ratios can reach 31:1 and siblings are often separated – SOS Children's Villages provides warm, family-like homes where siblings grow together.

At the heart of each home is a well-trained SOS mother or caregiver, who provides the essentials – nutritious food, healthcare, education – and the emotional connection that is vital for a child's wellbeing and success.

Providing quality education

Children and young people who have lost parental care, or grew up in unstable environments, often face enormous challenges as they enter adulthood. Many struggle to find decent work, encounter discrimination, or lack the skills and support they need to build an independent life.

Through our education and employability programs, we help change that. Working with families, communities, and partners, we ensure young people have access to learning and training and help them build the confidence, skills, and opportunities they need to thrive and reach their full potential.

Our youth economic empowerment programs connect young people with mentors, support networks, and practical skills, helping them successfully transition from school to work. We also collaborate with partners to enhance employability initiatives and with governments to improve support for youth transitioning from care to independence.

Keeping families together

Our SOS Family and Community Strengthening Programs provide the training, guidance, and resources families need to stay together and give their children a brighter future.

We work directly with families facing severe hardships to address the root causes of child separation before a crisis occurs. Through locally staffed, community-based programs, we help families build stable, nurturing environments where children are safe, supported, and can flourish.

Protecting children during emergencies

We specialize in protecting and caring for children during emergencies by preventing family separation, reuniting separated children with their families, providing mental health support, and ensuring education continues.

We provide urgent humanitarian assistance, including healthcare, nutrition, and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) services, while offering alternative care for children who have lost parental care or are separated temporarily from their families.

Amplifying every child's voice

We work to amplify children's voices and bring them into the heart of policy and decision-making. By collaborating with states and organizations, we help ensure that children and young people are protected, supported, and empowered, and that their rights are fully respected.

We place children at the centre of our efforts to advance the Sustainable Development Goals, recognizing that each child has the right to be included in shaping a world where they can grow, thrive, and belong.



Happy childhood memories with SOS Children's Villages Namibia

Although too young to remember the traumatic events that led to the loss of both her parents, Josefina's first memories at SOS Children's Villages remain vivid. Clinging to her sister, she grappled with questions amid the unfamiliarity of a new home, wondering why they were there and where their parents had gone.

"We were treated well inside and outside the SOS Village. We received the best education and good healthcare."

As she grew older, she participated in school activities, played netball and took art classes. On weekends, the children were kept busy with activities like going to the swimming pool and visiting museums. Grateful for her sponsors' support, Josefina also cherished her time communicating with them.

"I liked belonging to a large family. I loved my SOS family and the moms who shared their precious time with us. I never slept hungry or was on the streets. We had no worries about anything."

Holiday trips, movie nights, talent shows, dances and meals together strengthened their family bonds, and they loved each other. Josefina is now 38 years old and the proud mother of three beautiful children, teaching them the values her SOS family instilled in her.

"I'm grateful to have lived the important stages of my life at SOS Children's Villages because, without all the love and support, I would not be the person I am today. I got the best of everything, and we called our SOS mothers 'mom'. Their love stays forever in our hearts, and our bond will never be broken."



Your legacy gift will create lasting change in young lives.



Frequently asked questions about gifts in wills

Do I need to be wealthy?

Many people assume charitable gifts in wills are only for the wealthy, but Canadians of all income levels choose to support causes they care about. 1 in 10 Canadians have included a charitable gift in their will. Gifts of any size will help transform young lives and will not impact your cash flow, savings, or financial security in your lifetime. Many donors choose a percentage gift to help maintain the value of their gift over time.

What about my loved ones?

It's important to care for those we love. Many people find that they have enough in their estate to care for their loved ones and give 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. Many people choose to update their will when a major life event happens, like the birth of a new grandchild. You can simply add your gift as part of your next update.

Are there tax benefits?

Yes, leaving a charitable gift in your will provides significant tax benefits in Canada. Your estate receives a donation tax credit for the fair market value of the gift, which can offset up to 100% of your net income on your final tax return and the year prior.

Does SOS Children's Villages Canada accept other types of planned gifts?

Yes! You can also make a gift through life insurance, securities, retirement funds, or set up a charitable remainder trust – all of which may offer substantial tax benefits. If you're interested, we encourage you to speak to your financial advisor for more information.

Should I inform SOS Children's Villages Canada of my decision?

We completely understand if you prefer not to let us know. However, if you wish to share this information with us, it will help ensure that your vision is met and we'd welcome the opportunity to thank you personally.

Our promise to you

We will continue to hold ourselves to the highest standards and be guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children.

We will not lose faith in our shared goal that every child has a loving home and opportunities to thrive.

We will always respect your right to privacy.

We will handle every gift in a will responsibly, carefully, and respectfully.

We will make it our priority to honour your last wishes.





A champion for children without parental care

Alicia Quesnel grew up in a loving and close-knit family on the Canadian prairies. Some of her happiest memories are of gathering with her extended family to share food, music and stories, moments filled with warmth, connection and belonging.

So, when a family friend introduced her to the work of SOS Children's Villages Canada, Alicia was deeply moved by the thought of a child growing up without those same bonds and support.

"I decided I needed to do more," Alicia says.

She immediately began donating, and before long, she also started volunteering to help raise funds for SOS Children's Villages Canada, supporting its work to care for children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it.



Over the years, Alicia became even more involved in the organization's mission, serving on the Board of Directors and eventually becoming Chair.

"From my insider's view, I've been able to appreciate how carefully each donated dollar is spent to help vulnerable children around the world," she says.

Through her experience, Alicia also discovered the lasting impact a legacy gift can make.

She has chosen to leave a gift in her will to SOS Children's Villages Canada, ensuring that children and young people can continue to grow up with the care, relationships, and support they need long into the future.

"I feel a great peace of mind knowing that through my legacy gift to SOS Children's Villages Canada, I will be able to help vulnerable children even after I am gone," Alicia says.

***Your shared values with other caring Canadians
will help children grow and thrive for years to come.***



Your next steps*

After taking care of your loved ones, you have decided to leave a gift in your will for children who have lost, or are at risk of losing, parental care. What should you do next? We strongly encourage you to seek professional legal, estate planning and financial advice before deciding on a course of action.

You can leave a share of your estate (a percentage or the residue) or a set sum (a fixed dollar amount or asset, such as securities).

Suggested wording for a residual gift:

"My Executor / Trustee shall transfer to SOS Children's Villages Canada all [or ____%] of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate after paying all debts, taxes, expenses and specific bequests. I ask that this gift be used for the general purposes of the organization."

Suggested wording for a specific gift (a fixed sum or asset):

"My Executor / Trustee shall transfer to SOS Children's Villages Canada, the sum of \$____ or [____ shares of ____] to be used for the general purposes of the organization."

If you already have a will, including a gift to charity needn't be overly complicated. A simple amendment to your will, or 'codicil', may be all that you require.

Our legal name:

SOS Children's Villages Canada

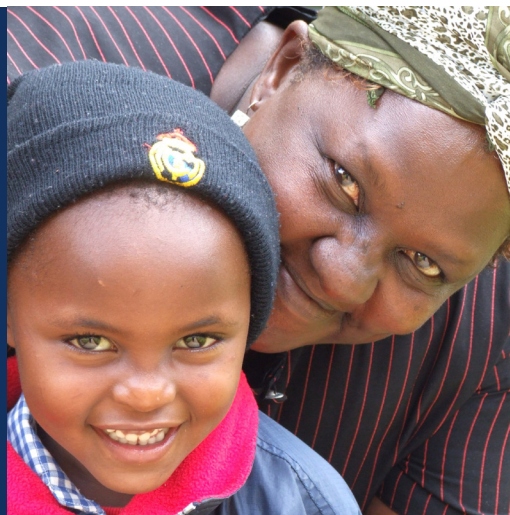
Our Charitable Registration Number:

13824 7259 RR0001

Our mailing address:

100-560 Rochester Street
Ottawa, ON, Canada K1S 5K2

We've partnered with Epilogue to offer you a fast and affordable way to create your will online. Start now and save 20%.



**It is always recommended that you obtain legal advice from a licensed lawyer in your province to ensure that your testamentary wishes are properly expressed and will be respected.*



With a gift in your will, you can help us:

- Raise children who have lost parental care
- Prevent children from growing up alone by supporting families facing severe hardships
- Provide quality education and healthcare
- Care for and shelter children during crises and natural disasters
- Protect children and their rights



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**
CANADA

SOS Children's Villages Canada

100-560 Rochester Street
Ottawa, ON, Canada K1S 5K2
Toll Free: 1-800-767-5111
info@soschildrensvillages.ca
soschildrensvillages.ca

Charitable Registration Number: 13824 7259 RR0001

To discuss your legacy gift and the lasting impact it will have on children, please contact:

Dave Greiner
Senior Vice President
343-633-0837
d.greiner@soschildrensvillages.ca