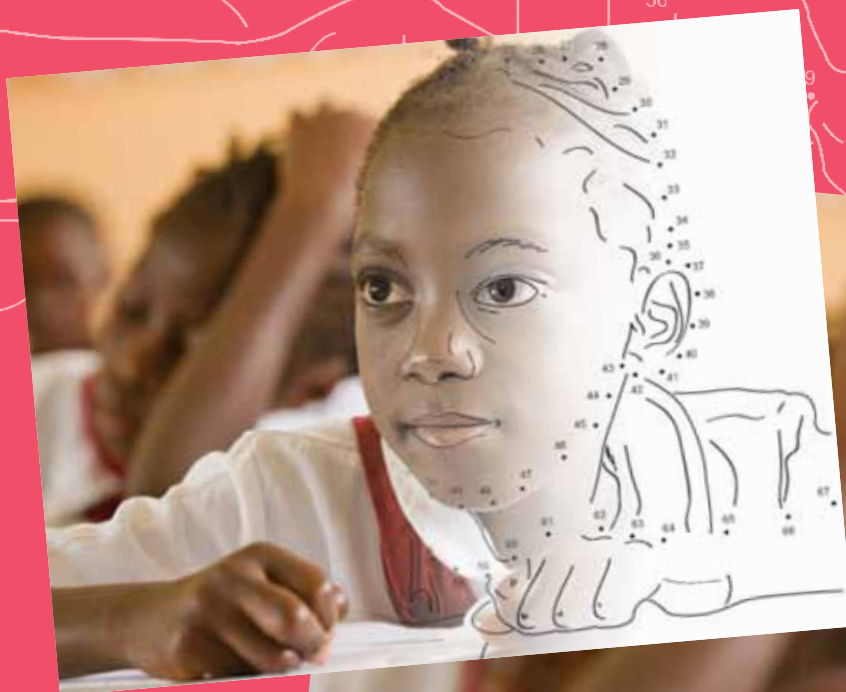




**SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES**  
CANADA

[www.soschildrensvillages.ca](http://www.soschildrensvillages.ca)

**YEAR IN  
REVIEW  
2014**





**It's one of the earliest games most children play: connect the dots.**

Draw a line from one to two to three and so on. Make a ship. Make a horse. Make a barn.

The work that SOS Children's Villages does is all about connecting the dots: not in the way of a simple puzzle, but in a manner that builds a whole child.



# SOS Children's Villages connects the dots with every child.



Building a child isn't just about education, or offering family-based care, or giving medical assistance, or providing social services. It's about all those things. That's why SOS Children's Villages' approach is holistic. We offer assistance with all of these areas: education, social services, food, care, shelter, family.

Child abandonment is a problem that prevents children from growing up into whole people: people who have the resources, tools, capacity and resilience to find success in life. SOS Children's Villages offers a solution that accounts for everything that an orphaned or abandoned child needs to learn, to grow and to succeed.

Ultimately, we build a whole child by offering a wide range of opportunities that enable young people at risk to grow up to become self-sufficient adults.

The result of our work has immediate impacts: children who live in our Children's Villages and work with our Family Strengthening Programs are better equipped for life: they have fewer gaps in personal development that might occur from the absence of a family in their lives.



But there are more lasting impacts. Children who grow up safe, secure, healthy and educated are more likely to become better citizens. They can find work that enables them to break the cycle of poverty. They become better parents to their own children. It's a ripple effect: the lives touched by SOS children affect others, creating lasting social change.

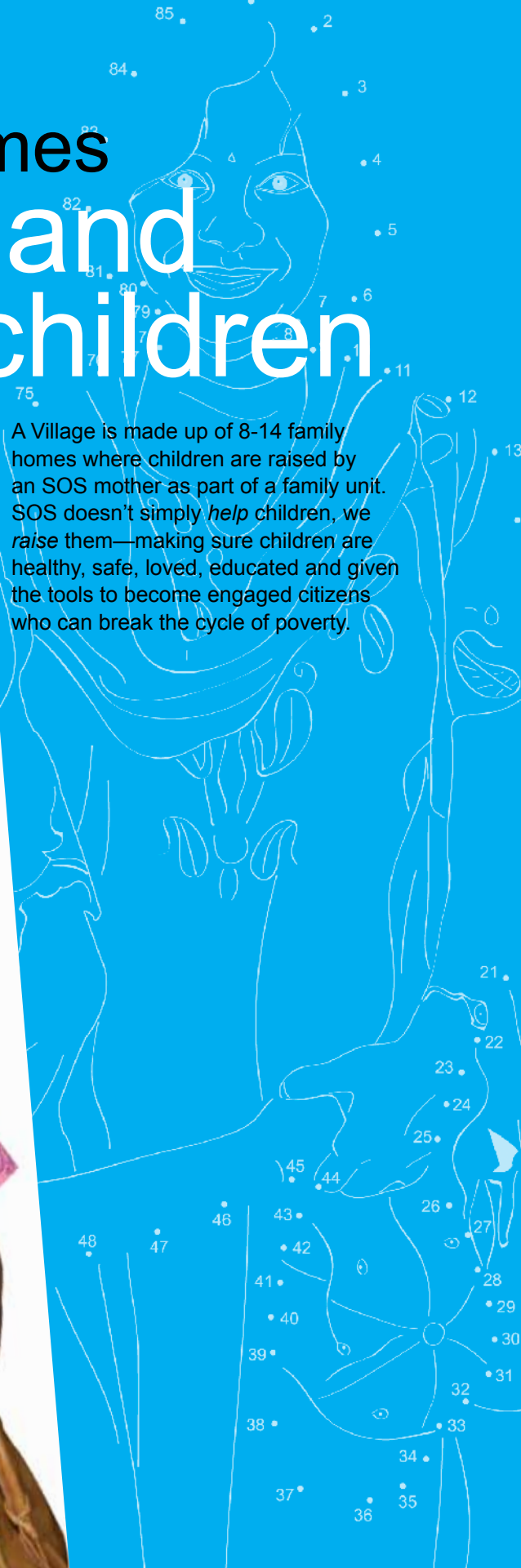
**Connect the dots. Build the whole child. It's that simple. And it's that incredible.**



# Providing loving homes to orphaned and abandoned children

**S**OS Children's Villages is the world's largest family. We offer a safe haven where children can realize their potential and be whole. SOS doesn't run orphanages — we provide homes where children grow up from infancy to adulthood in a family unit. Through our Children's Villages, we provide 82,000 orphaned and abandoned children and young people with loving homes...and hope.

A Village is made up of 8-14 family homes where children are raised by an SOS mother as part of a family unit. SOS doesn't simply *help* children, we *raise* them—making sure children are healthy, safe, loved, educated and given the tools to become engaged citizens who can break the cycle of poverty.



## Hope in Ondangwa

When Jolida first arrived at The Green Family SOS Children's Village Ondangwa, Namibia, she was a frail 10-year-old who was extremely shy. "She looked scared and hopeless," says her SOS mother, Elizabeth.



Today, Jolida is an outgoing Grade 10 student who leads her family, is the top of her class and aspires to become a doctor.

"SOS has helped me a lot with my studies and with everything," says Jolida, "I learned how to interact with other people and I have met so many new friends."

Jolida excels at school and her favourite subjects are math and science. "I want to become a doctor because I don't like it when people are suffering," Jolida explains. "I also want to help my family and my SOS mom. I want to take the responsibility and look after her because she did the same for me."

"She'll make it," says Elizabeth. "I have no doubt about it. She's responsible and she's serious: when she does something, she does it seriously, with patience. I think she'll make a good doctor."

The Green Family SOS Children's Village Ondangwa was constructed in 2009 through a generous gift from Don and Shirley Green. Since then many other Canadians have followed their example to contribute financially to this Village. The Village provides a supportive family environment to 109 children. It includes 12 family homes and a community outreach program for struggling families nearby.



## Providing possibilities to children with disabilities in Mexico

In a country like Mexico where access to health care and education for children with disabilities is limited, the SOS Children's Village Tuxtla Gutiérrez offers something groundbreaking: it fully integrates children with disabilities into the daily life of an SOS Village.

The Tuxtla Gutiérrez SOS Village began its work in 2003. Alongside its family homes, the Village offers specialized care to support each child's unique need. The Village includes the services of a doctor, a physical therapist, an occupational and speech therapist, a teaching specialist and a counsellor.





# Offering a mother and a family



In each of our 555 SOS Children's Villages, groups of orphaned or abandoned children are cared for in family homes by women who have dedicated their lives to be SOS mothers.



These women are recruited locally to meet the specific needs of children living with us in each country, and are trained extensively to ensure they are capable of raising an SOS family long-term.

The SOS model isn't *institutional* care, it's *family-based* care. Our model is based on the capacity and resilience of the family. Critical to that is growing up in a nurturing environment with siblings, a supportive community and the love of a mother.

## Offering love in Peru

In Peru, around 550,000 children grow up without parental care. Through the support of generous Canadians, SOS Children's Villages Pachacamac has recently expanded to provide loving homes to 50 more children. Mercedes Ramos Segura is a newly trained SOS mother at the Pachacamac SOS Village. In December 2014, she finished her apprenticeship as an SOS aunt where she learned how to care for a family in the Village.

"I'm so excited to finally be an SOS mother," she says. "I gained so much experience with the little ones as an SOS aunt. They come from all different cultures and we have to adapt ourselves," she says.

Being an "aunt" gave Mercedes many ideas about how she wants to care for her own household. She explains that she believes reading is vital for children and she likes a bedtime routine that involves stories or quiet time. "I would like to adapt a room for studying and playing in the same way that some other mothers here have done," she says. "There's a little boy here who is a avid reader, he just can't get enough. He's eight years old but he reads *El Comercio* (Peru's major daily newspaper), storybooks, encyclopaedias – he eats them up!" she says.



Mercedes and her children have moved into their new home in the Pachacamac SOS Village. The four bedroom red-brick home is modeled on the existing houses in the Village, with storybook windows looking onto the central playing fields and gardens. The walls are freshly painted and the kitchen and bathroom fittings are in place.

Built with the support of **ATRIUM**  
INNOVATIONS



# Providing quality education

**E**ducation isn't only about ABCs. Education is what makes informed citizens; it's what makes better leaders; it's what makes better parents.

That's why education has been a part of SOS Children's Villages since its creation and continues to be at the forefront of our model of care today. Around the world, SOS runs 227 kindergartens, 185 schools and 50 vocational training centres. But more than that, education at SOS Children's Villages is about providing opportunities so that young people can have a bright future.



## Rebuilding Haiti, one child at a time



Every morning in Port-au-Prince, 30 SOS Community Centres around the city open their doors to 100-200 children under the age of five. The

buildings are humble, open, brick structures with a few blackboards and some tiny tables and chairs; but these places teach young children how to read and write.

This outreach is part of SOS' family strengthening work and it is vital. In a country where half the populace is illiterate, these centres provide not just an education – but a way out of poverty.

In Haiti, 80 per cent of schools are private. There is a huge gap in the quality of education, as only a minority has access to the more sophisticated and well-equipped private system. School fees are required at both private and public institutions. This means education can be out of reach, especially for the 5.5 million Haitians who live on less than a dollar per day.

The SOS Community Centres provide basic literacy training to 3,000 pre-school children who would otherwise have little or no access to education. In addition, the centres provide parents with skills training and food subsidies. As the children become older, SOS ensures the children have subsidies to attend SOS schools or other community schools. This builds infrastructure for the reconstruction of Haiti by focusing on its best asset: its children.



# Keeping families together

The best way to help prevent children being abandoned is to support families at risk so they don't break up. That's why SOS Children's Villages created its Family Strengthening Programs: to help ensure that children are never abandoned.







SOS Children's Villages' Family Strengthening Programs provide skills training for disadvantaged caregivers, helping them to become literate or learn a trade in order to secure a sustainable future. SOS also offers financial and other support to help start small enterprises.

For SOS, it's not enough to merely meet the more immediate needs of families and vulnerable children. The goal of our Family Strengthening Programs is to enable the local community to support vulnerable families independently. Our Family Strengthening Programs are not there to offer a Band-Aid solution, but a sustainable, long-term solution that ultimately creates self-sufficiency.

## Reaching out to families in Kouloun


Since 2011, SOS Children's Villages Canada has been working with vulnerable families in Kouloun, Mali. This community is afflicted with high rates of poverty, malnutrition and child abandonment. Before our work in Kouloun, 65 per cent of the population had less than one meal a day.

The Family Strengthening Program operates in four villages near Kouloun and serves over 700 children and parents. Through the program, community gardens have allowed families to grow their own produce. These gardens, along with our educational programs on child nutrition, have led 99 per cent of the people we serve to now have at least two meals a day.



Four years ago, the dropout rate in Kouloun schools had been dramatically high at 68 per cent. The Family Strengthening Program built awareness that education is every child's right. Now, the dropout rate has dramatically decreased to just nine per cent of children in the community. The program has also provided 146 parents and caregivers literacy training that enables them to succeed in the workforce.

With the help of the SOS Children's Villages Canada, families in Kouloun are receiving the support they need to provide and care for their children.

**Canada**  This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)





# Assisting in times of emergency

As the world saw the worst outbreak of Ebola, thousands of children in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia were orphaned and abandoned. SOS Children's Villages immediately set out to respond to the needs of affected children and families.

With a presence of over three decades in West Africa, SOS Children's Villages has been providing on-the-ground relief. Children orphaned by Ebola are now able to receive quality care and counselling from Ebola survivors.

In many communities, Ebola survivors and children from Ebola-affected families faced exclusion and discrimination. In response, SOS set up radio broadcasts to engage Ebola survivors. These awareness programs focused on preventing Ebola as well as the stigmatization of child victims of the virus.

SOS is currently assisting health centres by providing medical supplies, building Intensive Care Units and training staff for infection prevention and control. This assistance is absolutely essential: the SOS Medical



Centre in Monrovia, Liberia is one of the few urgent care facilities open in the Liberian capital.

To ensure the safety of our children, all SOS Villages in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia were under lock-down in 2014, where each child underwent prevention training and daily temperature checkups. Since access to school was limited, SOS provided alternative education opportunities to ensure learning still continued. These measures ensured that no child in an SOS Village was affected by the outbreak.





# Offering unique opportunities for youth

In 2014, SOS Children's Villages and Cirque du Soleil launched a unique pilot project for vulnerable youth at the SOS Villages in Mexico City and Huehuetoca. The "Social Circus" uses circus activities to build confidence, self-esteem and trust among youth participants.

Working with local community partners, Social Circus uses the highly regarded Cirque du Monde program for youth designed by Cirque du Soleil. The 40 youth who have participated in the project learned various circus techniques such as juggling, acrobatics, Chinese yoyo, as well as theatrical and clown acting. An instructor and a social worker guide the youth along a process of personal development, with an emphasis on creativity.

The Social Circus encourages personal growth. Through this six month program, the youth have improved their communication skills, respect for each other and learned to acknowledge their achievements.

With the outstanding success of SOS Children's Villages Social Circus Mexico, SOS Children's Villages and Cirque du Soleil are planning to extend this program to other Latin American countries and into South Africa.

Generously supported by

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL



# Supported by generous Canadians

## Celebrating Harvest Hullaboo and Dedicated Volunteers

It was a full house at Marigold's Harvest Hullabaloo as over 200 people gathered to raise funds for SOS Children's Villages Gaza on September 27, 2014.

The night was an outstanding success, with over \$11,000 raised for orphaned and abandoned Children living in the war-torn Gaza strip cared for by SOS Children's Villages.

This event was organized by Friends of SOS Children's Villages Canada, who have been kindly supporting SOS Children's Villages Canada for 15 years. Their support helped build SOS Children's Village Muzaffarabad in Pakistan, and support the SOS Haiti Earthquake and India Flooding Relief.

The money raised at Harvest Hullabaloo will support SOS Children's Villages Rafah Fund, which provides assistance to vulnerable families living in the Gaza strip. SOS Children's Villages has been active in the Palestinian Territories since 1968. The SOS Children's Village in Rafah, was established in 2001, in addition to two SOS Kindergartens, an SOS School and an SOS Social Centre.



Over the years, Friends of SOS Children's Villages Canada has raised over \$100,000 for these and other projects. SOS is grateful for the support of these dedicated volunteers.



## Transat A.T.'s Sun Auction brightens children's lives

On Cyber Monday, our corporate partner Transat A.T. Inc. launched the Sun Auction, a one-day event where 20 vacation packages departing from Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver were up for grabs. The proceeds raised went to help develop arts and sports programs in SOS Children's Villages in several tourist destinations.

The Sun Auction took place on Twitter, and attracted nearly 47,300 bids during the 12-hour event. The 20 Sun vacation packages raised a total of \$35,097 for SOS Children's Villages.

For children around the world, the sight of a new ball or paintbrush means countless hours of fun and excitement. But for children who have been orphaned or abandoned, a game of soccer can be more than just a temporary escape; it can help build new relationships, increase feelings of self-confidence, and be a healthy outlet for built up energy and unexpressed feelings. The winning bids in this auction will go a long way to help brighten the lives of orphaned and abandoned children.

Generously supported by  transat



# Legacy giving: Reaching out to change lives

## Making a bequest is about reaching out.

It's about the people reaching out – people with lives led with enthusiasm for seeing that good things happen for children in need around the world.

It's about the children being reached – orphaned and abandoned children whose lives and futures are changed by such a thoughtful gift.

Making a bequest to SOS Children's Villages is a way to make an incredible difference for people who need it the most. It's a way for one person, one family, to reach out beyond themselves and support children and families far into the future. It changes lives – for the better.

### **SOS Children's Villages wishes to thank and acknowledge the following kind donors who have made a gift in their wills ensuring we can continue transforming young lives.**

Charles Andison  
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### **The following estates have made a financial contribution to SOS Children's Villages in 2014.**

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# Message

## from the Chair of the Board of Directors and the President and CEO

Gratitude and excitement are the two words which underscore SOS Children's Villages Canada's work over the past year.

Gratitude, especially for the new volunteers and staff joining us in our work – raising funds, raising awareness, opening doors and telling the great story of SOS' work in transforming young lives. It has been wonderful to see the impact these folks are making. We want to especially thank recognize the dedication of our Board of Directors, and our Honorary Board and Advisory Council.

We are grateful to the remarkable generosity of Canadians, whether they be individual donors, child sponsors or legacy donors. We're amazed at the remarkable creativity that sparks some gifts, like Transat A.T.'s Cyber Monday "Sun Auction". Then there are the gifts that come through the dedication of volunteers, such as Calgary's Leadership Luncheon, which raised \$275,000 for SOS' work last autumn.

Excitement is also a theme of our work this past year. We are very excited about the work SOS Children's Villages Canada is doing in places as diverse as Namibia, Haiti, Mexico, Mali and Malawi. And we're excited for our new partnerships, such as the one with Cirque du Soleil, who are helping young people progress toward the independence they want.

SOS Children's Villages' work is only possible because you and others rally around our long-standing vision: that every child should belong to a family and grow with love, respect and security. Both of us are proud to do what we can in support of that vision and we are grateful that you and thousands of Canadians are inspired by it too.

**Richard Evans**  
Chair, Board of Directors

**Boyd McBride**  
President and CEO

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\*Member of the Board of Directors,  
SOS Children's Villages Canada



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Michael von Herff

There are **2,353** SOS Children's Villages programs worldwide, including:



**562** SOS Children's Villages and **635** SOS Youth Facilities for over **79,200** children and youth people

**612** SOS Social Centres and Family Strengthening Programs for some **433,991** children and adults

**215** SOS Kindergartens, **184** SOS Schools, and **50** Vocational Training Centres for more than **135,300** children, teenagers and young people

**76** SOS Medical Centres providing **848,300** treatments per year

**19** Emergency Relief Programs



**SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
CANADA**

**A loving home  
for every child**

**SOS Children's Villages Canada**

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