



# SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES CANADA

## Welcome

Welcome to the SOS Family! You have just joined a wonderful network of nearly six million people around the world, who, like yourself, want to make a difference in the lives of children in need around the world. Your support will help children to never be alone again.

SOS Children's Villages offers safe and nurturing family homes to nearly 80,000 orphaned and abandoned children in 134 countries around the world. We also work with families at risk of breaking up to ensure that they can stay together and prevent child abandonment.

Your commitment makes it possible for SOS Children's Villages to provide children in need with a caring and secure family environment where basic needs for food, health, shelter, and education are met.

Thanks to your commitment, families have a chance to stay together. And children who were once alone and at risk are safe and have a family, an education and, best of all, the opportunity to be a kid again.

At SOS Children's Villages we believe that no child should be alone. You have helped make that possible.



“SOS Children's Villages gives children a place to play, laugh, learn, make friends, and do all the things a kid should do. Most importantly, SOS gives them a place where they know they're not alone anymore.”

— Mike Holmes





## Who We Are:

SOS Children's Villages provides abandoned and orphaned children with a caring, loving home and also helps strengthen vulnerable families.

SOS Children's Villages has been working with orphaned and abandoned children since 1949. Our work has been guided by a basic principle: a loving home for every child.

Through SOS Children's Villages, kids who were alone and abandoned or at risk of losing their families can grow up safe and loved and have the opportunity to become self-sufficient.

## Where We Are:

SOS Children's Villages provides services to children, youth and families at risk through its Children's Villages, youth homes, Family Strengthening Programs, kindergartens, schools, vocational training centres, medical centres, and emergency relief programs. These 2,500 programs worldwide reach over a million children and families in need.

**"As a long-time supporter of SOS, I have visited many of these unique Villages personally. I can vouch for their commitment and care for the children."**

*— Angelina Jolie*



## What We Do:

SOS Children's Villages is a place that orphaned and abandoned children can call home. Our Villages offer children in need a caring, loving and secure family environment. Children live in a family home as part of their own culture and religion, in a place where their basic needs for food, health, shelter and education are met.

In every SOS Village, the SOS mother is essential to the life of the children. These women provide children who were once alone with more than a place to live; they offer love and help to create a family.

SOS Children's Villages also keeps families at risk together through our Family Strengthening Programs, which help parents and their communities to protect and care for their children. Skills training and community development work help parents to become self-sufficient and prevent child abandonment.

During times of global emergencies, SOS Children's Villages supports those most affected through our SOS Emergency Relief Programs.



## History:

SOS Children's Villages was founded in 1949 by Austrian medical student, Hermann Gmeiner, who felt that something had to be done to help orphaned and abandoned children following the Second World War. Since that time, SOS Children's Villages has expanded around the world, offering children without a family a loving home and expanding its work to helping families at risk to prevent child abandonment.

SOS Children's Villages is regarded as an expert in the field of alternative care of children and we helped draft the United Nations' *Guidelines for Children in Alternative Care*.



**“It is my hope that within this community a culture of understanding, acceptance and love can be nurtured. Let this [SOS] Children’s Village be an example of tolerance and reconciliation so that we, as adults, can learn from these children.”**

**– Nelson Mandela**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How is SOS Children's Villages different?

Our primary focus is raising children who have no one to care for them. Our model is based on a simple principle: every child deserves a home and a family. We provide both.

### 2. Who are SOS mothers?

In each of our SOS Children's Villages, orphaned and abandoned children are cared for in family homes by extensively trained SOS mothers. These are from the community who raise a generation of children as her own, and meet their physical and emotional needs from infancy right up to adulthood.

### 3. Where does the donated money go?

Over 80.5% of contributions directed overseas will support our work in the field. The rest of the money is used in Canada to administer the program and help match other children in need with new sponsors.

Donations can be designated to a particular country or particular SOS Village. Donations without designation go where the need is greatest.

### 4. How do I know that my donation will be managed responsibly?

SOS Children's Villages is fully committed to investing and spending the donor's money wisely and efficiently. We are a registered charity that has officially adopted the Imagine Canada's *Ethical Fundraising and Financial Accountability Code*. Staff are members of the Association of Professional Fundraisers which obliges its members to strictly adhere to *The Donor Bill of Rights*.







## The Impact of Your Donation

Your donation to SOS Children's Villages Canada truly makes a difference in the lives of the children and families in need. You are helping to create a brighter future for vulnerable children around the world.

For over 65 years, children who have been without parents have found the gift of a normal life through SOS Children's Villages. Our long-standing presence in 134 countries benefits local communities through family strengthening work, schools and community centres.

Lives are changed by the work SOS Children's Villages does. Children in our care have gone onto higher education or vocational training and are now self-sufficient as adults, where they have the opportunity to become better citizens and better parents. And, from that, they can positively impact others. And that can change the world.

Your support has brought hope to those who had none before, and for that we thank you!



**SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES**  
CANADA

240-44 Byward Market Square  
Ottawa, ON, Canada K1N 7A2

Tel: 613-232-3309

Toll-Free: 1-800-767-5111

[info@soschildrensvillages.ca](mailto:info@soschildrensvillages.ca)

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

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