A loving home for every child
In 133 countries, SOS Children's Villages provides abandoned, orphaned and vulnerable children with a caring, loving and secure family environment.

The SOS mother is essential to the life of children in our SOS Villages. She provides constant care, love and support for five to ten children. These women, locally hired and extensively trained, provide children with more than a place to live; they provide a family.

Every SOS Children's Village is a place that children can call home: children live as part of their own culture and religion, in a place where their needs for food, health, shelter and education are met.

SOS Children's Villages keeps families 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.

Through SOS Children's Villages, kids who were alone and abandoned, or at risk of losing their families, have an opportunity to grow up safe and become self-sufficient, better citizens and better parents. That leads to positive, lasting social change.
Growth. That’s what the past year has been about for SOS Children’s Villages Canada. As the needs of the world’s orphaned and abandoned children grow, so too has SOS Children’s Villages’ response.

Over the past year, SOS Children’s Villages Canada has greatly expanded its international programming. The emergency response in Haiti has moved to long-term development with Village expansion and family strengthening and reunification programs. Our involvement there builds upon the success we’ve had in the first all-Canadian village and family strengthening and child development programs in Namibia. We have also secured CIDA funds to create a new family strengthening program in Mali; and plans are underway for new Canadian programs in Peru and Sri Lanka. SOS Canada is also very pleased to be strengthening its affiliation with the SOS Village in British Columbia to ensure that children in need in Canada are able to benefit from the excellent programs of SOS.

Growth remains our focus as we look to the future. With the global population projected to increase from six to nine billion by 2050, we must consider the coming generations of young people in need. SOS Children’s Villages Canada’s Board of Directors has set bold fundraising targets, expanding to $20 million in income annually by 2016. This is ambitious, but we are confident that Canadians will continue their unbridled generosity for children who are abandoned and orphaned.

As we look back on the past year, it is important to thank a number of people. We have greatly appreciated the active participation of Mike Holmes and Lisa Fromer in lending their integrity and support to our work. It is also important to express my thanks to colleagues on SOS Canada’s Board of Directors, the many SOS volunteers and to Boyd McBride and the tremendous staff at SOS for their dedicated and tireless efforts to improve the lives of orphaned and abandoned children. Without this strong effective, caring and dedicated group of people our work would not be possible.

Most importantly, I want to express my sincere thanks to those thousands of people across Canada who support the efforts of SOS Canada with the generous donations that make a huge difference in the lives of these children and families, and a better world for all.

Peter Dudding
Chair, Board of Directors
SOS Children’s Villages Canada
celebrated my tenth year of service to SOS Children’s Villages in 2011. For ten years I have had the privilege of getting to know and share the incredible work SOS does. I’ve met children who were once alone — orphaned, abandoned — and now, in the care of SOS, have homes, families, a chance to attend school and get the health care they need. I’ve seen the spark of hope in their eyes that you and I can see in the eyes of our own children.

You might think after 10 years I would be complacent about this. Not so. I continue to find new purpose and new insight in my work. I found one such insight on a visit this past winter to the SOS Children’s Village in Barrett Town, Jamaica. While there I met Michael, a young man who grew up in the SOS Barrett Town Village. Michael is now completing his MBA while working in a major bank in Kingston. His achievements, for his young age, are incredible. He was top of his class academically; he played tennis competitively, representing Jamaica; he has become a rising star in his workplace. Michael credits his drive, his determination, his self-discipline, and his evident success to growing up in an SOS Village surrounded by the love of his SOS mother and aunts.

It may seem odd, but meeting Michael was a revelation for me. For years, I have held newly arrived babes in arms and coaxed smiles from the uncertain faces of youngsters still finding their way in their new SOS Village. Michael reminded me that for every new child we admit to a Village, there is a whole young man or woman getting ready to leave our care and embark on their independent life journey. Michael, and thousands like him, embody the success of the SOS model. Because we care, he and thousands like him find themselves in a position to ‘give back’ and help make the world a better place.

After a decade with SOS Children’s Villages Canada, I still delight in the transformation that I see as children come into our care. You will see many more examples of this in the pages that follow. Such transformation would not happen without the continued support of people like you. For that, and so much more, the volunteers and staff I work with at SOS Canada give thanks, and re-dedicate ourselves to the work ahead.

Boyd McBride
President and CEO
SOS Children’s Villages Canada
The Green Family – SOS Children’s Village in Ondangwa continues to be funded by generous donations from Canadian individuals and corporations.
SOS CHILDREN’S VILLAGES
PACHACAMAC, PERU

Offering Hope to Children at Risk

While economic conditions are improving in Peru, nearly half of its population live below the poverty line. Many families still struggle to get access to clean water and sanitation, food, medical care and education for their children.

Such conditions have left children at risk: an estimated 600,000 children in Peru have been orphaned or abandoned.

SOS Children’s Village Canada is committed to the expansion of the SOS Children’s Village in the community of Pachacamac. The total construction cost is $650,000 and many generous Canadians have begun to support this project, which will break ground in August 2012. The expansion of the Pachacamac SOS Village will offer 108 children a family, a mother, education and hope.

SOS CHILDREN’S VILLAGES
JAFFNA, SRI LANKA

Responding to Urgent Need

The civil strife and conflict in Sri Lanka has left a number of children alone without families. In the Jaffna area, the situation is perilous; 5,000 children without parental care face the risk of malnutrition, disease, abuse and worse.

SOS Children’s Villages is working on an ambitious plan for Jaffna, which will include family-based care for 120 children through a new SOS Children’s Village, vocational training opportunities for 150 children, facilities for youth and an SOS Kindergarten. In addition, an SOS Family Strengthening Program will be established to support 500 children at risk.

SOS Children’s Villages Canada is committed to building one of the homes in the Jaffna Village as well as contributing to the building of youth facilities. Together, Canadians can help make a difference in that troubled region.

www.soschildrensvillages.ca
KOULOUN, MALI

Providing Support to Families

The best way to care for abandoned or orphaned children is to help them and their families before they become abandoned or orphaned. That’s why SOS Children’s Villages created its Family Strengthening Programs which provide support to disadvantaged families around the world.

SOS Children’s Villages Canada is funding a Family Strengthening Program in Kouloun, Mali. With 10,000 people living in this community, mostly women, Kouloun suffers from high rates of poverty, malnutrition, infant mortality and child abandonment. The community has some of the lowest levels of school enrolment and attendance, especially among girls.

The Program in Kouloun began in Fall, 2011 and will help 300 families to meet the basic needs of their 900 children, including education and health care. The program works with parents to provide skills training and opportunities to become self-sufficient and empowers families so they can support their children and prevent child abandonment.

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).
HAITI, TWO YEARS ON

Still a Children’s Emergency

Two years after the unthinkable 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti, significant progress has been made in reconstructing the country. However, with half the population under the age of 18, Haiti is still very much in a state of emergency—an emergency that affects children the most.

Over the past year, SOS has begun the transition to constructing new schools and expanding long-term social programs. These projects include supporting families and children in the districts of Port-au-Prince, Cap Haitien and Les Cayes and expanding the construction of a community school and four public schools in Santo and the area of Les Cayes as well providing teacher training.

SOS Children’s Villages has been asked by the Haitian government to work with other agencies in a massive project to provide temporary care for abandoned children and to work towards reuniting them with their families. As part of this effort, SOS will be specially training up to 200 social workers for this process.

The reconstruction of Haiti continues to be a complex undertaking. However, SOS Children’s Villages have been in the region for 34 years and will be in Haiti for the long haul.

EAST AFRICA

Responding to Famine

Last summer, the Horn of Africa was gripped by a famine which left 12.4 million people facing starvation. Entire families and communities abandoned their homes in desperate search of food and water. Hardest hit were Ethiopia and Somalia, where people were in danger not only from hunger and drought, but also from the endless war conditions.

SOS Children’s Villages launched a relief program in the region, particularly in the areas of Mogadishu and Baidoa in Somalia, Gode in Ethiopia and Marsabit in Kenya. These are all areas where SOS has had a long-standing presence. SOS Children’s Villages’ mobile clinics aided thousands of people, half of them children under the age of five, treating malnutrition and providing vaccinations against immunisable diseases.

SOS Children’s Villages also set up an emergency relief program in Southern Ethiopia through the SOS Village in Gode, which is in one of the driest areas of Ethiopia. SOS will continue to work with these communities to enable sustainable development measures to secure families’ survival in the long term.
Building Partnerships That Change Lives

The current economic climate means businesses have to work even harder. In spite of this, the best of them continue to find ways to contribute to the well-being of children around the globe. SOS Children’s Villages is proud to have partners whose commitment to corporate social responsibility is changing young lives for the better.

TRANSAT A.T. INC.

From Small Change, Big Change

If you’ve recently flown with Air Transat, chances are you donated some of your spare change as part of a program called “Small Change, Big Hearts.” Over the past three years, this initiative has brought in more than $500,000 to support the work of SOS Children’s Villages.

This Air Transat program is part of a wider partnership between Transat A.T. Inc.—the airline’s parent company—and SOS Children’s Villages. The moral and financial support from Transat, one of the world’s leading tour operators, and the generous gifts of its staff as well as customers have helped SOS Children’s Villages implement projects in Mexico, Haiti, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Nicaragua, Vietnam, Tunisia, and Zambia.

Our partnership with Transat has changed the lives of 25,000 at-risk children in some of the world’s best-known travel destinations. Together, Transat and SOS are creating safe homes and bright futures for vulnerable children.

“Members of our staff who have had the opportunity to visit an SOS village have been so impressed that they have become true ambassadors for SOS Children’s Villages at Transat.”

— Jean-Marc Eustache, President and Chief Executive Officer, Transat A.T. Inc.
ATRIUM INNOVATIONS INC.

Growing Together

Atrium Innovations Inc., a leader in the dietary supplements industry, raises funds for SOS Children’s Villages through its Growing Together employee giving program and through corporate gifts and proceeds from sales of their VitaKids vitamin supplement. Atrium has already raised the funds to build and run a new family home at the SOS Children’s Village in Pachacamac, Peru and to sponsor twelve children in the village.

SOS Children’s Villages Canada is honoured to be a partner with Atrium Innovations Inc. Their leadership in corporate social responsibility ensures that children have safe, loving homes.

WESTERN FINANCIAL GROUP, INTACT INSURANCE, RSA, AND WAWANESA

Challenge Accepted

Western Financial Group provides property, liability and life insurance and banking and investment services for more than 550,000 customers in Western Canada. Founder and C.E.O. Scott Tannas wanted to fund a home in the SOS Children’s Village in Ondangwa. To do this, Scott issued a challenge to three companies who worked with Western Financial Group: Western Financial Group would put up $10,000 if the others contributed $5,000 each. Intact Insurance, RSA and Wawanesa Insurance all accepted the challenge and consequently $25,000 was raised to run a home in the SOS Ondangwa Village.

This is a testament to the amazing things that can happen when companies work together to improve the lives of those less fortunate. Everyone at SOS Children’s Villages salutes Western Financial Group, Intact Insurance, RSA and Wawanesa Insurance for their efforts.
SOS Children’s Villages is literal proof of the adage “it takes a village to raise a child”. And yet, to raise an SOS Village requires the efforts of a global village of volunteers who dedicate their time, talents, connections and life experience to help raise awareness and funds for SOS Children’s Villages Canada.

GEORGE FIERHELLER, CM

Leading in Word and Deed

George Fierheller has been a member of the SOS Children’s Villages Canada board for four years. In that role, he has provided sage counsel and support to SOS’s work and, in our board nominations process, he has acted as a catalyst for engaging great leadership. He was also responsible for significantly building our Honorary Board.

But George’s leadership for SOS goes beyond that. George is a generous donor, leading the Board and his friends and colleagues by example with his own personal giving. George even hosted our first “fam trip” which took a dozen or so donors and friends of SOS Canada to visit the SOS Village in Barrett Town, Jamaica last winter. And George has been a champion of SOS among his friends and colleagues, hosting several events in Toronto which enabled SOS to share our story more widely.
TANA SILVERLAND

Riding Across Canada for SOS Children’s Villages

Tana Silverland started her journey for SOS Children’s Villages on the day she landed in Canada in Whitehorse! Since that day she has cycled over 14,000 km across Canada, on her recumbent trike, making presentations to over 100 audiences on behalf of SOS Children’s Villages in addition to doing more than 300 radio and newspaper interviews.

As Tana travels from community to community, she has been very successfully creating a groundswell of support for SOS Children’s Villages’ work. She is responsible for more than $31,000 in donations since she began her journey. Visit Tana’s blog of her journey at tanasilverland.wordpress.com.

DREAM MOUNTAINS FOUNDATION

Climbing the Highest Peaks

When Canadian businessman Shawn Dawson set out to climb the highest peak on each of the seven continents, he felt it would be more meaningful if his quest was part of a larger goal. Dawson and his team of climbers formed the Dream Mountains Foundation and have used their climb as an opportunity to raise money for charity. So far, they have climbed Kilimanjaro and they are now working toward the Everest Base Camp. The Dream Mountains Foundation has raised over $18,000 for SOS Children’s Villages with more to come!
SOS Children’s Villages Canada
Financial Review (for the year ended March 31, 2012)

Partners and Friends

VILLAGE CHAMPIONS
(+$100,000 lifetime gifts)

INDIVIDUALS
Anonymous
Estate of Kathe Bolvary
Estate of Elizabeth A Boyce
Ms. Dana C. Chittick
Ms. Ann B. Denis in memory of Joan Denis
P. and J. Gillespie
Don and Shirley Green
Estate of Susanna Guertler
Mr. and Mrs. Helmut Liehr
Ms. Elizabeth J. McBride
Estate of George L. Popow
Estate of Irmgard R. Ruschin
Gerry and Judy Strongman
Estate of Ronald Tarta
Estate of Glenn and Ruth Wilms
Estate of Dr. Murray Wilson
Dr. Alfred G. Wirth
Estate of Rodney C. Wooldridge
J. and S. Wright

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Transat A.T. Inc. (Major Partner)
Austrian Society of Montreal
Canada for Haiti
Community Foundation of Ottawa
Cunningham Investment Group Inc.
HSBC Bank Canada
The Calgary Foundation
TKC-CNC Foundation

VILLAGE BENEFACTORS
(+$50,000 gifts this year)
Estate of Dr. Murray Wilson

VILLAGE BUILDERS
($25,000-$49,999 gifts this year)
Anonymous
The Crich Family
P. and J. Gillespie
Estate of John C. Papenfus
Mr. Horst Prelog
Estate of Franziska T. M. Ratz
Gerry and Judy Strongman
Mr. Scott Tannas

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($10,000-$24,999 gifts this year)
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Miss Agnes Faraci
Mr. George A. Fierheller
Ms. Anne Mackay
Mr. and Mrs. Ricardo and Karen Pascoe
Ms. Rose Pirri
Estate of Lawrence Plowman
Dr. Alfred G. Wirth

Note to Financial Review: SOS Children’s Villages Canada closed fiscal year 2010-2011 with a significant surplus, due to a large bequest received prior to year-end. These funds were fully disbursed in fiscal year 2011-2012 and help explain the 2011-2012 deficit noted here. The deficit was planned for, and approved by, the Board of Directors.

Peter McSheffrey, Treasurer

OVERSEAS GIVING

SOS Children’s Villages Canada’s complete audited financial statements are available on our website.
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Ms. Maryan J. Tisdale
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CAW Social Justice Fund
Christadelphian Meal-A-Day Fund
Dream Mountains Foundation
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Husky Injection Molding Systems
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Children’s Villages
United Way of Ottawa
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www.soschildrensvillages.ca
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David Johnston, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M,
C.D., Governor General of Canada

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Harold Scheer, Director
Catherine Swift, Director
Scott Tannas, Director
Alfred Wirth, Director
Boyd McBride, President and CEO

There are 2,187 SOS Children’s Village facilities worldwide, including:

559 SOS Children’s Villages and some 400 youth homes for over 80,000
children and young people

614 SOS Social Centres and Family Strengthening Programs for some
430,000 children and adults

242 SOS Kindergartens, 194 SOS Schools and 105 SOS Vocational
Training Centres for more than 158,000 children, teenagers and young adults

80 SOS Medical Centres providing over 455,000 treatments per year

In 2011-12 we ran Emergency Relief Programs in Somalia, Ethiopia,
Kenya, Haiti, Pakistan and India, among others, benefitting 1,137,733
individuals.