



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
CANADA



[soschildrensvillages.ca](https://soschildrensvillages.ca)

WELCOME TO  
SPONSORSHIP

# WELCOME TO THE SOS FAMILY



**Thank you! You've just started something wonderful.**

All around the world, there are children who are alone. They're alone for a lot of different reasons: they've been abandoned by their parents, they've tragically lost their parents, they're forced to fend for themselves.

SOS Children's Villages believes that no child should be alone. And so do you. That's why you've sponsored a child.

Thanks to your sponsorship, kids who were alone, without parental care have the gift of a normal life. And the children who grow up in SOS Villages have the opportunity to become better citizens and better parents and can positively impact others. That can change the world.

You've just started something wonderful.

Your sponsorship is bringing hope to a child in one of our SOS Villages around the world.

And your support not only helps us to make a big difference to that child, it's about something even bigger. Your sponsored child will know that someone, even on the other side of the world, is thinking about them and caring for their wellbeing.

Welcome to the SOS family and your journey with your sponsored child. We thank you for making the decision to do something that will transform the life of a child.

*"What resonated with me about SOS Children's Villages was their unwavering commitment to providing stable and nurturing environments for vulnerable children, irrespective of their circumstances. I firmly believe that a loving home is the cornerstone upon which a child's future is built. By supporting SOS Children's Villages, I aspire to contribute to the realization of every child's right to life, choice, and prosperity."*

Waleed Essa, current SOS Children's Villages child sponsor



# LASTING IMPACTS OF YOUR SPONSORSHIP



Your decision to sponsor a child not only changes the child's life and protects their rights, but also enhances the community around them, creating lasting impacts for generations.



## Nutrition and clean water

Having clean water to drink and healthy food to eat is more than a fundamental child right, this is the foundation to growing up healthy and strong. Thanks to you, children are not going hungry and have safe, reliable water every day.



## Healthcare

Every child has the right to survive and thrive. Your sponsorship helps ensure children receive a wide range of critical health services, including mental health care, that are essential to their wellbeing.



## Education

Education is a basic human right that no child should be denied. Thanks to your support, we provide quality education to children and youth and ensure schools are places where all students are safe and happy.



## Safe and loving homes

All children have the right to grow up in a safe environment even when their own families cannot care for them. Your sponsorship helps ensure that your sponsored child grows up in a loving family environment with every opportunity to reach their full potential.



## Security and protection

Protecting children and their rights is our top priority. Because of child sponsors like you, we help parents and communities protect and care for their children as well as provide life-saving aid during disasters and emergencies.



## Brighter futures

When a child receives the love, security and opportunities they deserve, they will uplift themselves, their families and their communities. This is the gift that you continue to give through your generosity and sponsorship.

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SPONSOR?

Around the world, SOS Children's Villages provides loving homes for children who have lost parental care or are at risk of losing it, where basic needs for food, health, shelter, and education are met.

By sponsoring a child through SOS Children's Villages, kids who were alone and abandoned, or whose families were not able to care for them, can grow up safe and loved and have the opportunity to not only become self-sufficient, but also to thrive.

Through your monthly sponsorship contribution, money is earmarked to support a child in a specific SOS Village and gives you the opportunity to follow the progress of that child.



SOS Children's Villages offers two types of sponsorship:

## Child Sponsorship:

When you choose to sponsor a child, you are giving a vulnerable child the opportunity to grow up with the love and security of a family. Child sponsors receive information regarding the progress of one individual child living in an SOS Village.

## Village Sponsorship:

When you choose to sponsor an SOS Village, you contribute towards the support of all the children living at an SOS Village by supporting its ongoing operation. Village sponsors receive updates about the people, activities and events at the SOS Village.



## KEEPING IN TOUCH

**A**s a child sponsor, you will receive two letters a year: one in the summer that includes an update on how your sponsored child is doing and one in the winter which will include an update on the events of the past year in your child's SOS Village along with a recent photo of your sponsored child.

You're more than welcome to write your sponsored child! Feel free to send them letters or a Christmas or birthday card. Don't worry about any language problems if your sponsored child lives in a non-English speaking country: there's always a member of staff to translate.

Please bear in mind that we don't oblige your SOS child to write back to their sponsors, so don't be disappointed. Also, some children may not be able to write back to you due to their literacy, comfort level writing in English or because letter writing is not part of the culture in certain countries. Many of the older children, especially if they are learning English as a second language, do write to their sponsors, but it's entirely their decision.

**You will find the mailing address for your sponsored child at the bottom of the SOS Village Description included in your sponsorship package.**

Protecting the privacy of sponsors and SOS children is our priority. We ensure that your information is never shared with a third party and we ask that you do not post photos and details of your sponsored child on social media to protect their privacy. We do encourage you to talk with friends and family about your child sponsorship and share your experience.

*"My husband and I sponsored two children from India for many years. Now I have arranged a legacy gift so that the children in other SOS Villages will get the care they need 25 and 50 years from now."*

Maria Virjee, SOS sponsor for more than 25 years

### Questions?

You can get in touch with us by calling SOS Children's Villages Canada at 1-800-767-5111 or emailing us at [info@soschildrensvillages.ca](mailto:info@soschildrensvillages.ca)



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## **How can I update my personal information or cancel my sponsorship?**

You can change your payment information by calling us at 1-800-767-5111 or emailing us at [info@soschildrensvillages.ca](mailto:info@soschildrensvillages.ca). You can contact us there if you need to cancel your sponsorship for whatever reason, whenever you want, without giving notice.

## **Can I visit the child I'm sponsoring?**

You're welcome to visit SOS Children's Villages. To do so, for the protection of the children in our care, you will be required to fill out our Sponsor Visit Guide and have a police background check completed for all visitors in your group over the age of 18. This process requires a minimum of two months advance notice to complete.

Contact us at 1-800-767-5111 or by email at [info@soschildrensvillages.ca](mailto:info@soschildrensvillages.ca) to get this process started.

## **How do I write my SOS sponsored child?**

Write a letter to your sponsored child as you would any child. It is best to keep your letters simple, short and to the point. You might want to describe where you live, for example, or the weather, your hobbies and interests or how you celebrate special occasions.

Postcards or photos of where you live or where you go on holiday are always interesting and can be used as part of a geography lesson in school.

Remember your sponsored child may come from a different religious, cultural and economic context, so when sending them letters and pictures, be sensitive to their culture and society.

## Can I send gifts to my SOS sponsored child?

SOS Children's Villages advises against sending gifts as, sadly, they don't always arrive at the intended destination. Similarly, your sponsored child shares a home with their SOS siblings and not all of them receive extra gifts from their sponsors on special occasions like a birthday.

What we suggest, instead, is that you send a money gift. Each sponsored child has their own savings account to be given to them once they are independent. You can contribute to this by contacting the SOS Children's Villages Canada office. This can be done by cheque or credit card and 100% of the funds go into the child's account.

If you'd still like to send your sponsored child something, may we suggest slipping a packet of stickers or some other small gift inside a card or letter? Our children love to personalize their things and it's something that they can share.

For further information on sending gifts to your sponsored child, please check our website or call/email our offices.

## Where does my money go?

Your sponsorship money goes to support the child or SOS Village you've chosen to help.

Each SOS mother receives a housekeeping allowance, which she uses to manage her own household budget and care for her children.

Over 80% of your monthly sponsorship contribution is sent overseas in support of your sponsored child and his or her SOS family. The rest of the money is used in Canada to administer the program and help match other children in need with new sponsors.

100% of any additional gifts you make are sent to the child's savings account which provides your sponsored child with assistance when they leave the care of SOS Children's Villages.

Every year our operations are audited and programs are evaluated to ensure children are receiving the best possible care. Visit our website to see our annual report for more details on our impact and audited financial statements.

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"I have seen SOS Children's Villages' work many times first hand and around the world. I have seen that funds raised go to children in need. SOS Children's Villages, in my experience, is a very good steward of the money and resources entrusted to them."

Jeremy Hooper, CA, past volunteer Board Treasurer,  
SOS Children's Villages Canada



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# CONTINUE TO LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN

You can continue to help SOS Children's Villages by leaving a gift in your will. This is a wonderful, practical way to carry on supporting the children in our care. For more information, please give us a call at 1-800-767-5111.

"Every big thing in our world only comes true, when somebody does more than he has to do."

Hermann Gmeiner, founder SOS Children's Villages



## About SOS Children's Villages

Since 1949, SOS Children's Villages has been guided by a basic principle: a loving home for every child. We are the world's largest charity focused on supporting children and young people without parental care, or at risk of losing it.

Through our SOS Children's Villages, we offer children a family and a loving home with a mother to care and support them in a safe environment where their needs for food, health and shelter are met.

In 2024, we celebrated the 55th anniversary of SOS Children's Villages Canada and 75 years of SOS Children's Villages International providing loving homes and quality care to children in need.



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