

You help offer brighter futures

How a gift in your will empowers entire communities of children

Sixteen-year-old Zala* is studying hard to become a doctor. But it wasn't long ago that her dream career was unreachable. At 12, she was forced to drop out of school and move to another community to marry.



Finding her child powerless and in danger, Zala's mother brought her home after four months. But Zala was shamed for being divorced.

With extensive counselling and support from SOS Children's Villages Ethiopia, Zala gained the confidence to return to school.

Today, she is a community role model, raising awareness about the harmful effects of child marriage on girls' health and development.

Your support helps us work to eliminate early child marriage and other harmful practices by raising awareness about children's rights.

"There are a lot of other girls who are affected by child marriage in my community. I want to show them that it's possible to overcome stigmas and pursue education."

– Zala, child marriage survivor

*Names have been changed to protect the children's privacy.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who leaves a gift to charity?

More than 2 million Canadians from all walks of life have decided to include a gift to charity in their will. Any gift can truly make a difference. It also provides benefits that can relieve the burden of estate tax on your loved ones.

How does a gift in my will help vulnerable children?

With your gift, SOS Children's Villages helps children with the greatest need. From infancy to adulthood, your gift helps provide education, food, shelter, and family.

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 family members and allocate a share 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. Or, simply, add your gift next time you update your will.

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

Yes! In fact, gifts of life insurance are an increasingly popular method of support. It's a type of gift that not only multiplies your support to a cause you cherish, but in some cases, it also can provide significant tax benefits. If you're interested, we encourage you to speak to your financial advisor and visit www.soschildrensvillages.ca/planned-giving/life-insurance for more information.

Your Special Donor Report

A Legacy of Caring

SPRING 2024

Looking Forward, Giving Back

How a caring SOS supporter is ensuring that children will be protected for generations to come.

From a young age, Wonja's parents instilled the importance of giving back. "My parents were very welcoming people," she says. "They taught me that if you can help, you should." Wonja has held those values close ever since.

So when she first learned about SOS Children's Villages, Wonja felt an immediate connection. She became a sponsor in 1999, impacting the lives of SOS children every year since. She knows she's honouring her parents' legacy.

When Wonja started considering what her own legacy would be, she wanted to find a way to care for vulnerable children when she's no longer here.

That's why Wonja chose to include a gift to SOS Children's Villages in her will. Because of her trust in SOS Children's Villages and her passion for protecting children around the world, she knows her gesture of love will be carried out in her name.

"It's a relief to know everything will be handled carefully," Wonja explains. "I will be able to offer a better future to children, even after I'm gone."

To learn more about making a gift in your will, you can contact Dave Greiner at 343-633-0837 or via email at d.greiner@soschildrensvillages.ca.

Love and protection, through childhood and beyond

It feels good to show our love for the children in our lives, encouraging them to pursue their brightest futures.

But how do we share our love with a child we've never met? Perhaps a child who hasn't even been born yet?

When you leave a gift in your will to SOS Children's Villages Canada, you're showing love to the world's most vulnerable children. What's more, a gift in your will extends your embrace to the next generation, protecting children even after your own lifetime.

To discover how your planned giving builds brighter futures for children, read on!



Arsha's Journey: How you deliver hope and healing

A gift in your will can support the resilience and coping skills of children who have faced trauma.

When two-year-old Arsha* came to SOS Children's Villages in Bangladesh, she found refuge from the violence in her home. Arsha had witnessed the tragic murder of her mother.

Arsha seemed to have no memory of the horrific event. However, the world of childhood trauma is deeply complex. Buried memories of traumatic experiences can resurface years later.

At age seven, nightmares began interrupting Arsha's

sleep, leaving her exhausted and anxious. She couldn't focus on school or participate in family responsibilities. She even began picking fights with her siblings and schoolmates.

Thankfully, caregivers recognized her behavior as a symptom of a mental health crisis and turned to SOS programs funded in part through gifts made in donors' wills.

A psychologist guided Arsha through her healing, and helped her family understand

how they could support her. "My sister has become an inspiration on how to deal with mental health," says Arsha's SOS sibling Saba. "And she has taught me how to ask for help, too."

A gift in your will changes the course for children like Arsha. You deliver mental health support programs that create safe spaces, provide counselling and promote emotional well-being.

*Names have been changed to protect the children's privacy.

SOS Mothers: Love and Protection Above All

Legacy gifts enable SOS mothers to protect vulnerable children when they need it most.

Nikuze Adrolata has lived her life with an unwavering commitment: protecting children who have lost parents.

After learning about a shortage of caregivers in Rwanda, Nikuze completed training to become an SOS mother. She joined SOS Children's Village Gikongoro in 1992.

Thanks to your ongoing support, SOS mothers like Nikuze throughout our villages live with children in family homes where they raise the children as their own, providing the love, comfort and security these children so desperately need.

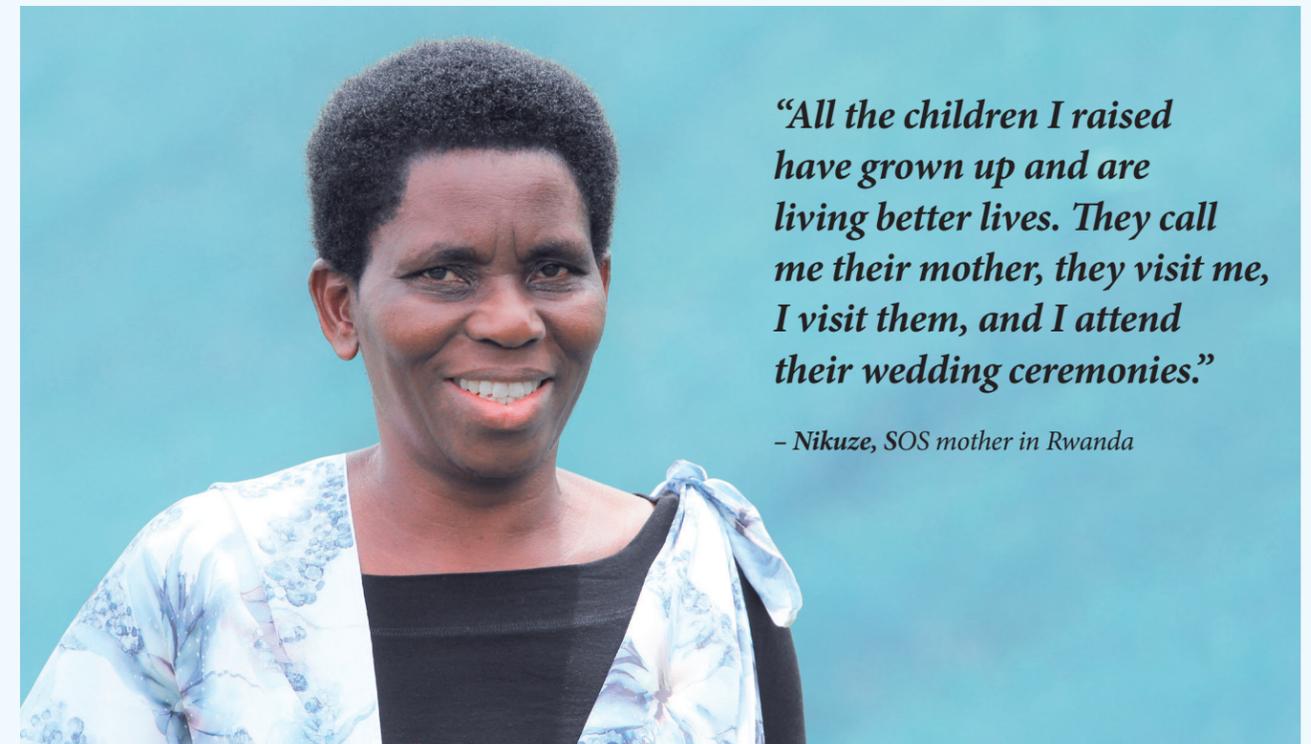
There's no force strong enough to deter Nikuze's fierce protective instincts when it

comes to her SOS children. During the 1994 Rwandan genocide, Nikuze fled with ten SOS children to a refugee camp. While there, she took in ten more abandoned children, returning home with all of them.

Nikuze has been recognized globally with the Helmut Kutin Award, given to extraordinary SOS Children's Villages workers who care for vulnerable children and lay the foundation for them to thrive into the future.

Nikuza credits the program that started it all, saying "I was lucky to join SOS Children's Villages and dedicate my life to child care."

Your steadfast giving protects children. Thank you.



"All the children I raised have grown up and are living better lives. They call me their mother, they visit me, I visit them, and I attend their wedding ceremonies."

- Nikuze, SOS mother in Rwanda