

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Boyd McBride
President & CEO,
SOS Children's Villages Canada

Dear SOS Supporters and Friends,

This will be my last letter of this sort, so I am choosing my words for you with special care. I will be retiring in 2017, after more than 15 wonderful years in the service of SOS Children's Villages.

I look back and find myself in awe of the powerful force for good that SOS represents. Driven by the sensible notion that 'no child should grow up alone', SOS has drawn people like you to its work, people who share that belief, and need some way of making a meaningful difference for vulnerable children. People who care deeply for others.

Recently, I was in Africa again. Each time I go, I find myself both discouraged and inspired, discouraged by the numbers of children without parental care, yet inspired by the effort SOS, in partnership with local communities, is putting into reducing this number and ensuring that children get what they need – love, support, a roof over their heads, nutritious food, a quality education, access to preventive health care and medical treatment... Your support has allowed SOS to do so much more on these fronts for children who, without us (yourself included) would have nothing and no one.

What will I miss most as I take my leave? Two things stand out for me. The first is the children we serve. Most of the children I have worked to help are half a world away from our modest office in Ottawa, so when I get a chance to spend time with them it is very special. I have dozens of their photos rotating through my computer screen, reminding me every day of why I do what I do. The second is people like you. It is such a privilege to work with passionate, concerned Canadians like you, who know that the need is great, that SOS is a vehicle through which that need can be served, and who understand that we are in a position to help. Every day I am in touch with generous, kind Canadians who see giving back as both a privilege and a responsibility. I can think of no better company to keep.

I leave you knowing that SOS Canada and SOS International will carry on even as I step away. That is the power of the mission I have been so privileged to serve as SOS Canada's

President & CEO: "We build families for children in need, we help them shape their own futures, and we share in the development of their communities."

I really believe that SOS is doing a better job than ever protecting our children, responding to humanitarian crises and helping poor and desperate families to stay together. Our Villages, where orphaned children find a home and the support they need, continue to model the best of family-based care in every corner of the world.

I will continue to be part of the 'we' in that statement above — helping with the leadership transition, donating time as a volunteer, contributing monthly, sponsoring a wonderful young child, and helping to share the organization's story. It is a story worth telling!

"..every face has a story. And every story adds colour to the statistics that you read."

Through my years with SOS, I have come to know and appreciate that every face has a story. And every story adds colour to the statistics that you read. These statistics are important; they help us quantify and measure progress. But what is truly important are the families and children behind the numbers. In the pages that follow, you'll see some of those faces, and read the stories of people whose lives have been directly affected by you.

Read on and take pride in what you support – the work of a great humanitarian movement serving the most at risk children in the world.

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P.S. I have also made provision for SOS in my will – something I urge you to consider too.

3

In 2016....



17,000 +

Generous Canadians, like Maria, helped us to deliver on our vision to ensure that every child belongs to a family and grows with love, respect and security.



556,000 +

Family members, like Mary, were strengthened.



85+

Partners, like Emmanuel from Cirque du Soleil, helped us provide innovative programming to transform lives.



892,000 +

Emergency and medical services were provided to those in need, like Dania.



79,000 +



Children and youth, like Wangeci, were provided a loving home.

139,000 +

Children and youth, like Aaron, were provided an education.

A SECOND CHANCE FOR A HAPPY CHILDHOOD

-Wangeci*

Living in the SOS Children's Village Nairobi since 2009

Wangeci and her three siblings lived with their grandmother in Burnt Forest in the Rift Valley region, following the sudden death of their mother two years earlier. When their house was set on fire by assailants during Kenya's post-election violence in 2007, they found solace in a camp for displaced people.

"We lived in a tent that had holes in it and there were no beds; we slept on the floor. Nights were very cold and we would cuddle to keep warm. When it rained our floor would soak up but we just slept on it. We survived on hand-outs from well-wishers.

When the government moved my siblings and I to an orphanage until it was safer to go back, I thought life would be better, but it turned out to be the worst of all. They separated me from my siblings – the only family I had left. I cried and called out but nobody listened to me. They asked me to be quiet. Many nights I cried myself to sleep. I was alone; my brothers who offered me comfort were gone. I missed a warm hug. I had forgotten what it was like to be happy, to have everything I needed. Life can be mean to a child.

"I was most happy to be able to experience a mother's touch again and to know that I would go to school."

In 2009 I got to be with my siblings again when we all went to live in a home and family in the SOS Children's Villages. For once, I was so happy. I was most happy to be able to experience a mother's touch again and to know that I would go to school. I was also calm because I knew that I would grow up seeing the faces of my brothers and sister.

My family is made up of an SOS mother and ten children. Everyone in my family likes to laugh, joke and have fun, so my house is often full of laughter.

My SOS family means a lot to me. I have many siblings and we have fun together. I also have a full-time mother who takes care of me. She guides me about life in general. Her support is very important to me.

Without a family like this, I would have been terribly frustrated. I would have no parental care and guidance and I would not have gone to school. I would be unhealthy due to lack of proper nutrition. I would not have nice clothes to wear. Maybe I would be living on the streets.

I am very thankful to my SOS family. I have received great love and encouragement and I know that they will continue to cheer me on until I achieve my goals."

^{*}Name has been changed to protect the privacy of the child.

MATCHING SKILLS WITH DEMAND



Aaron Kumwenda Former student, Vocational Training Centre, SOS Children's Villages Lusaka

Aaron completed a two-week course in entrepreneurship at the SOS Vocational Training Centre, a program offered through the SOS Children's Village in Lusaka, Zambia, to enhance youth employability skills in the region.

"I was first introduced to SOS in 2006. SOS Community Mobilizers came and spoke about the organization. They told us about their educational and training programs to help young people like me to develop skills for the workforce. I had no hope at the time. I had left school, and I didn't have the resources to go back to school.

That's when I came to the SOS Children's Village Lusaka, and I was trained as an electrician for 1½ years. From there, I did my apprenticeship with one of the renowned restoration companies in Lusaka. I decided to register my own firm, and the

knowledge that I acquired through the training from SOS included entrepreneurship skills, which really helped me a lot. My company has been running for the past 5-6 years now. Currently I have six (6) other staff and we're making a lot of progress.

We have a lot of youth without hope in the Lusaka community. There are a number of youths who have approached us, but we have limited capacity to employ them. In the future, I want to share the skills that I've acquired through SOS, so that I can help out others.

My life in the first place was a life without hope. And I just want to thank whoever was involved to sponsor the SOS training program I took. SOS is doing a commendable job, and I hope that you keep helping out young men like me throughout the programs that you do in various countries."

"My life in the first place was a life without hope. And I just want to thank whoever was involved to sponsor the SOS training program I took."



STRONGER FAMILIES MEANS STRONGER COMMUNITIES

SOS Family Strengthening Program beneficiary, Central African Republic "Now, we eat twice a day. My grandsons are doing very well in school and are progressing well."

When Mary lost her daughter, she was left to care for her six grandchildren. Barely able to support herself, she was admitted into the SOS Family Strengthening Program (FSP) in 2009.

"My living conditions were very difficult. Sometimes, we ate only once a day, but the quality was poor. The children slept on a mat on the floor and attended school irregularly for lack of resources to buy them school supplies or pay school fees. I received support from the FSP in access to power, a lamp, bedding, clothing, toys for the children, seeds, a machete, a hoe, a bucket for water and for my income-generating activities. I also benefited from a micro-credit loan, which amounts to fifty thousand Francs (\$107) for my income-generating activity, as well as a cassava mill. My granddaughter, Ula*, was taught sewing. She now works in a sewing workshop.

With the cassava mill purchased, I can make up to 1,700 Francs (\$3.68) per day. From this amount, I make a saving of

750 Francs (\$1.61) a day, which is 2, 500 Francs (\$48.58) that I earn. In addition, I do tontines [savings plan], which allows me to buy commodities like soap, oil, sugar, milk, etc.

The mill means that we have cassava every day - it's our staple - with vegetables or a piece of meat for the children.

The condition of my family's life has improved. Now, we eat twice a day. My grandsons are doing very well in school and are progressing well. I also do field work allowing me to have vegetables, groundnuts, beans, squash, sesame seed, etc. and I even have wood. I sell a part and the other is for household use.

I graduated from the program in December 2016. I am well respected in the community, and I participate in the activities of community groups. I thank the program and all those who make it happen for supporting me through the years."

RELIEF WHEN NEEDED MOST



Dania SOS Interim Care Centre beneficiary, Syria

"I now remember nice moments I spent with my mother and smile for that instead of remembering the bad memory of her death all the time." Dania's family used to live in rural
Damascus. They fled to safer ground
when the violence increased in the area.
The family is one of hundreds currently
receiving aid at the SOS Children's Villages
Interim Care Centre in Aleppo.

"Rockets would fall all the time around my house and school, which is why I had to stop going to school. My mother and father were worried that something would happen to us, and so we left our house and went to live in a shelter that was close by. The building was still under construction and didn't have any chairs or tables or beds to sleep on. There was no privacy. We were there with other families all together. All around the shelter were fields, it was the only building in the middle with rockets falling close to it all the time as well. I was scared being there, but I knew that I had to be brave.

We were among the lucky ones to not have lost a beloved person until it happened to us. My mother was killed by a rocket that fell in the surrounding fields. My father was very sick, and couldn't work, so after my mother was killed, we had no money to get food, and all of the other families in the shelter kept on talking about my mother. I didn't like that.

After my mother died, I was very sad, but I knew

that I had to be strong, and act like a mother for my brother and sister. A local organization who worked with the shelter came to my father one day and told him about SOS and said that me and my siblings would be safe there [at the SOS Children's Villages Interim Care Centre].

Thanks to my SOS mother, mama Nisreen, I now remember nice moments I spent with my mother and smile for that instead of remembering the bad memory of her death all the time. She tells me that my mom would be happy to see my smile."

Dania today is a child who loves to play a lot. She was enrolled in special classes with SOS to cover the educational gap she has. She was an excellent student before the war and is exceling in English language today at school. She wants to become a sports trainer to stay healthy and help children like her to take care of their health.



THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

Emmanuel Bochud

Team Leader - Programs & Partnerships-Community Relations, Cirque du Soleil

Emmanuel Bochud helped to pioneer the SOS Social Circus program for SOS Children's Villages, through collaboration with Cirque du Soleil. This innovative program helps children and youth develop soft skills that are vital for healthy relationships, academic success, future employability and successful integration into the community.

"...we realized that SOS was bringing all of the winning conditions to make the project a success but also that the entire village was benefiting, learning from the experience."

"I truly believe in the use of arts and creativity as a tool for social change. As I kid I didn't fit so much in the school system even if I loved to learn. I personally found into the circus a space of liberty to express myself, to be myself, to learn in a different way and to take risks. I think offering an innovative way for

kids and youth to express themselves, to explore, to learn, to take risks, is essential. The culture of circus is all about humans who work together, supporting each other - just think about a human pyramid.

SOS offers so many services to kids and youth, and adding circus arts and creativity into the equation brings something more to the community, something different, not only for the participant, but for the entire community.

After a pilot project in Mexico we realized that SOS was bringing all of the winning conditions to make the project a success but also that the entire community was benefiting, learning from the experience."

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING



Maria has supported SOS Children's Villages for most of her life. She was amongst the small group of passionate volunteers who helped to launch the first SOS Children's Villages office in Canada.

"Having been born and brought up in Austria, SOS Children's Villages, which was founded in 1949, was a part of my growing up.

Maria Virjee
Long-time SOS volunteer &
past Chair, Board of Directors,
SOS Children's Villages Canada

I immigrated to Canada in 1962 and was delighted when SOS Children's Villages Canada was founded in 1969. My late husband, who came from India, and I decided to sponsor two children in Greenfields, the first SOS Village in India, and we visited SOS Greenfields and "our" children in 1980. We also supported SOS Canada financially, and I volunteered occasionally helping with office work.

In the early 1990s, when SOS Canada had started growing, I was encouraged to join the Board of Directors, and in the years since then I have done practically everything with the SOS Canada organization, from taking on the role of President of the Board to selling Christmas cards and sending out receipts. For the last ten years or so I have been what I would call a committed volunteer – helping out on a continuous basis in a number of ways.

A few years ago I also named SOS Canada in my will and am very content that I will continue to support this wonderful organization.

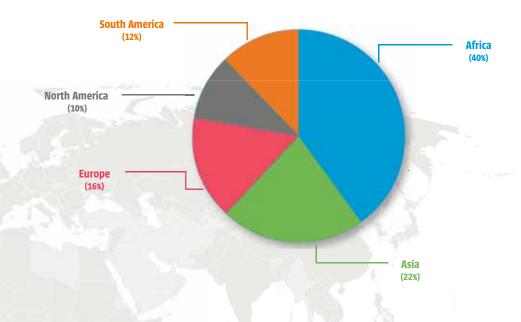
"I have seen SOS Canada grow from a very small size – three employees – to a flourishing organization that has contacts worldwide"

I have seen SOS Canada grow from a very small size – three employees – to a flourishing organization that has contacts worldwide, is fully committed to helping children in other countries, mainly through sponsorships, has one "Canadian" Village in Africa that has been financed through the magnanimous support of the Green family in Canada, and is lending help in crisis situations in other countries.

If this is not a success story, I do not know what is! I am proud and thankful that I have been able to contribute to this success in my own small way."

FINANCIALS - EXTENDING YOUR REACH

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Revenue | | 9 |
| Donations | \$4,987,847 | \$5,019,089 |
| Unrestricted Legacy Gifts | \$363,643 | \$508,996 |
| Restricted Grants and Gifts | \$105,786 | \$270,649 |
| Investments | \$11,503 | \$40,562 |
| | \$5,468,779 | \$5,839,296 |
| | | 15 Au- |
| Expenditure | m Acc | 1 10 |
| Distributions to Programs | \$3,312,245 | \$3,653,146 |
| Fundraising | \$1,410,870 | \$1,563,940 |
| Communication and Public Education | \$273,561 | \$107,756 |
| Administration | \$544, 243 | \$620,513 |
| | \$5,540,919 | \$5,945,355 |
| Net Revenue for the Year | \$(72,140) | \$(106,059) |



NOTEWORTHY

- We are grateful for the tremendous commitment that Canadian volunteers
 made in 2016. Across the country people devoted their time and their talent
 to activities which raised funds and awareness for the work we do on behalf
 of children at risk.
- A record number of our donors made provisions for SOS in their wills in 2016. Their commitment made in 2016 will, one day, allow us to help shape their legacy and extend their reach as we continue to do more for children at risk.
- An increasing number of companies provided in-kind support in the form
 of donated air-time, creative talent, and discounted or free goods in 2016,
 furthering our ability to achieve our programming objectives.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



Jennie Moushos Chair, Board of Directors, SOS Children's Villages Canada

Dear Friends and Supporters,

With the retirement of Boyd McBride, President and CEO of SOS Children's Villages Canada, and one of the longest serving members of the SOS Canada team, this past year, to some extent, seems to represent the end of a chapter.

The faces and stories of people that have been impacted by the work of SOS Canada, in one way or another, show just how great our reach has become. This achievement is not only thanks to Boyd's leadership, but more importantly, it is because of you and your commitment in helping us ensure that as many children as possible belong to a family, and grow up with love, respect, and security.

This is the vision that drives us, and which will continue to drive our work over the many years to come. At SOS Canada, we know that child development is essential to social and economic prosperity in any country. Over 60 years' experience has shown that resilient relationships, especially those forged in a caring family environment, are key to this end.

"..if we have come to the end of one chapter, I am even more excited about the one that will follow, and trust in your continued support to help us enjoy even greater success."

I am proud of the community partnerships that we have developed in more than 130 countries to strengthen families that are at risk, and better assist them in successfully supporting their children. And, if we have come to the end of one chapter, I am even more excited about the one that will follow, and trust in your continued support to help us enjoy even greater success.

I would like to personally thank our donors and volunteers for their generous contributions to SOS Canada, with special mention to Mike Holmes, and our valued partners, Cirque du Soleil and Transat, whose continued commitment to our cause has significantly broadened the scope and reach of our work around the world.

PARTNERS & FRIENDS

VILLAGE CHAMPIONS

\$100,000 + in lifetime gifts

INDIVIDUALS

The Crich Family
Ann B. Denis in memory of Joan Denis
Josine Eikelenboom
Agnes Faraci
George A. Fierheller
P. & J. Gillespie
Don & Shirley Green
Helmut Liehr

INSTITUTIONS

Atrium Innovations Inc.
Austrian Society of Montreal
The John Brouwer Foundation
Christadelphian Meal-A-Day Fund
Cirque du Soleil
Cunningham Investment Group Inc.
Global Affairs Canada

VILLAGE BUILDERS

\$25,000 - \$60,000 gifted this year

Sherry & Peter Cooper Ann B. Denis in memory of Joan Denis George A. Fierheller P. & J. Gillespie

VILLAGE FRIENDS

\$10,000 - \$24,999 gifted this year

Betty & Norman Campbell Barry Cooper Agnes Faraci David Harquail* Sally & Mike Jackson* Anne Mackay Anne Mackay
Elizabeth J. McBride
Fatima & Anwar (Andy) Merchant
Gerry & Judy Strongman
Scott Tannas
Alfred G. Wirth*
J. & S. Wright
Anonymous (1)

HSBC Bank Canada
Intact Insurance Company
Site Preparation Ltd
TKC-CNC Foundation
Transat A.T. Inc.
Western Financial Group Inc.

Henry P. Heiligers Fatima & Anwar (Andy) Merchant Anonymous (1)

Ben Mitchell-Banks Rose Pirri Gerry & Judy Strongman Alfred G. Wirth* Anonymous (1)

VILLAGE SUPPORTERS

\$5,000 - \$9,999 gifted this year

Jacqueline Alexander Jean-Yves Boitière A. Ruth Buckley Christie MacDonald Cecile E. Mactaggart Jennie Moushos* Alfred Page* Leanne Porter Alicia Quesnel* Harold Scheer*
Tom & Joanne Singer
Dr. Vicente - In memory of Julio E. Vicente & Robert G. Vicente
Carol Walker
Maurice Walsh

DONORS

\$1,500 - \$4,999 gifted this year

Sirai Ali Maria Alway Mohamed Alv Filippo, Anita & Luc Angelini Mr. Gary & Mrs. Shenta Arnold Louis Marie Beaulieu John Benjamin Denis Bonin Don & Sherry Campbell Savita & Devinder Chaudhary Ismail Daya & Sabah Choudhry Blythe Christiansen Irene Hayes Christodoulou & Dimitris Christodoulou Christopher & Edythe Anna Clapp Andy Corbett Jo Cox

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Barbara Warren

J. & S. Wright

Anonymous (6)

Boyd McBride
Damiris Moro
Marie-Jeanne Musiol & Louis
Ranger
Fatima Najem
Huban Nath
Toan Nguyen
William Nicoll
Maré Olito
Randal Oliver
Ron Pante

Real Paquette
Sachin Patkar
Wilhelm Pietschmann
Frank Pitsikalis
Peter Poreba
Anita Puronto
Hubert Risch
Paul Robillard
Anita Roopnundh
Gordon Ross
Ashirvad Roy
Leyan Saleh
Marie Antonios Sassine
Gerald Schmidt

Marie Antonios Sassin Gerald Schmidt Margrit Schuster Mary Scott Cheryl Siebert Dr. Sacha Singh and F

Dr. Sacha Singh and Dr. Andie Wiseman

John Sotos Philippe Sureau Ann Thompson Vera Tobis

Greg & Magda Tsagogeorgas John & Cathy Vandervelde Constantine Voidonicolas Rudolph Wiebe

Kenneth Wright
The Zeisig Family
Joe Zink

Anonymous (18)

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Textbooks for Change The BLG Foundation

The Edith Lando Charitable Foundation

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The Hellenic Initiative

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United Way of Ottawa (Donors of)

William E. Rowbotham Fund at the Calgary Foundation

Xteams Corporation Anonymous (2)

ESTATES & LEGACY

Estate of George R. Butler Estate of Freda M. Fennell Estate of Ruth Leach Estate of Patricia A Martin Estate of Francesca Mastrella Estate of Louise V. White Estate of Dennis Mountenay

Estate of Elizabeth Nemeth Estate of Govind J. Patel Estate of George L. Popow Estate of Mogens Soelberg Estate of Dr. Murray Wilson

* Denotes Board Members

