

WITH A GIFT IN YOUR WILL
YOU CAN

- Raise abandoned and orphaned children
- Prevent children from growing up alone by supporting fragile families in impoverished communities
- Provide quality education and health care
- Protect children's rights wherever possible
- Care for and shelter children during crises and natural disasters

**A LOVING HOME
CAN BE YOUR LEGACY
WITH A GIFT
IN YOUR WILL**

Together, we can give a loving home and a promising future to vulnerable children.

If you would like to discuss your legacy gift, please contact Dave Greiner, Senior Vice President, Operations at:
613-232-3309 Ext. 514 | d.greiner@soschildrensvillages.ca



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**

A loving home for every child

SOS Children's Villages Canada

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Charitable registration number 13824 7259 RR0001

**NO CHILD SHOULD
GROW UP ALONE**



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**

A loving home for every child



“Nothing in the world is more important than to care for a child.”

- Hermann Gmeiner,
Founder of SOS Children's Villages

IT ALL STARTED WITH A SEEDLING OF LOVE

SOS Children's Villages was the dream of an ordinary man. His vision was ignited by three profound experiences that shaped his life.

Hermann Gmeiner lost his mother as a very young boy, and experienced firsthand the loneliness of that void. In the aftermath of WWII, he became a child welfare worker and daily faced the plight of children who had been orphaned during the many years of conflict in Europe.

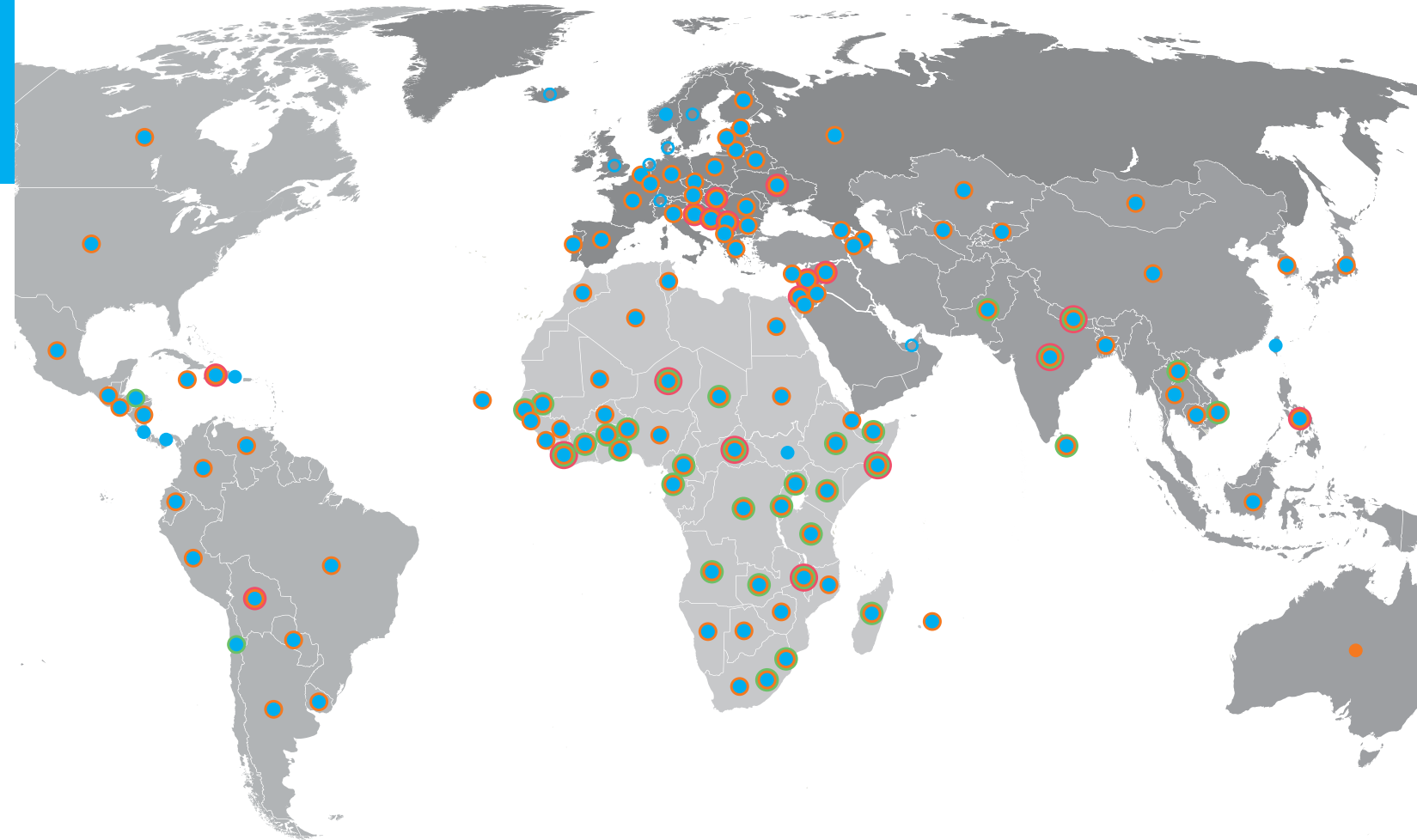
Hermann formed the strong conviction that abandoned or orphaned children can only be truly helped to succeed in life if they have a home and a mother's love. In 1949, he welcomed children to the first SOS Children's Village. The seed had sprouted.

It is only because of people like you that SOS Children's Villages is able to provide homes, education, health care, brothers and sisters – and loving mothers – to more than a million orphaned and abandoned children in 134 countries worldwide.

No child should ever have to grow up alone. That's why everything we do at SOS Children's Villages is guided by the basic principle: a loving home for every child. With your help, we rescue orphaned and abandoned children, and prevent them from becoming abandoned in the first place. Together, we can do more than simply help children, we raise them.

HELPING THE CHILDREN TODAY

Since 1949, SOS Children's Villages has been the world's largest charity working with orphaned and abandoned children. We work to ensure that every child grows up in a secure loving family home, with quality medical care and education. Every day, this impact is felt in the lives of vulnerable children and families in 134 countries around the world.



THE AMERICAS

- 139 VILLAGES
- 108 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMS
- 22 SCHOOLS, TRAINING AND SOCIAL CENTRES
- 1 MEDICAL CENTRE
- 2 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMS

AFRICA

- 147 VILLAGES
- 191 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMS
- 289 SCHOOLS, TRAINING AND SOCIAL CENTRES
- 68 MEDICAL CENTRES
- 7 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMS

EUROPE

- 118 VILLAGES
- 135 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMS
- 139 SCHOOLS, TRAINING AND SOCIAL CENTRES
- 8 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMS

ASIA & OCEANIA

- 167 VILLAGES
- 108 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMS
- 180 SCHOOLS, TRAINING AND SOCIAL CENTRES
- 7 MEDICAL CENTRES
- 7 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMS



LEARN MORE ABOUT SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

If you'd like to know more about SOS Children's Villages, please give us a call at **1-800-767-5111** or email us at info@soschildrensvillages.ca. You can also learn more at soschildrensvillages.ca.

YOUR LEGACY CAN BE A LOVING HOME FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

Many of us wish we could do so much more to help the less fortunate among us. But our incomes are limited – and most of us must choose carefully when we’re deciding whom to give to and how much to give.

Most of us think day-to-day about our monthly income. We use it to pay bills, take trips, buy necessities – and sometimes extravagances – and make our charitable contributions. Money comes in. Money goes out. At the end of the month, we hope we’ve balanced it all.

We rarely think about our assets however. Things like our homes, our summer cottages – even our investment portfolios – don’t get the kind of regular attention that our incomes do. Yet, our assets can be considerable.

That’s why your will can be such a powerful philanthropic tool. For many of us, a single gift in a will can amount to more than a lifetime of charitable giving.

This way of giving isn’t for everyone. But, there are 1.5 million Canadians alive today who have added meaning and purpose to their lives by planning to share their estates with the charities they care about most deeply.

WHAT IS A WILL?

A will is a legal document that lets you decide what happens to your money, property and possessions after your death. Making a will can speed up administration processes and reduce costs for your loved ones. It lets you decide things like how your belongings should be distributed, or to set out your funeral wishes. It’s also an opportunity to make a final and lasting gift to causes you care deeply about.

TYPES OF GIFTS YOU CAN LEAVE IN YOUR WILL

After you have provided for your loved ones, there are several ways you can leave a gift to charity in your will. Here are two examples:

RESIDUAL GIFT

After all your loved ones have been looked after and your debts have been paid, you leave a share or percentage of your remaining estate.

SPECIFIC GIFT

You decide to leave a fixed sum of money.



“Through SOS Children’s Villages, I’ve been able to give children, who otherwise would be lost, an opportunity to become all that they want to be.”

– Maria Virjee, Legacy Donor and Volunteer



MARIA’S STORY

Maria Virjee was born in Austria and was a young girl when WWII took place. She still lived in Europe when SOS Children’s Villages was founded.

The idea of giving orphaned children a mother and a home seemed natural for Maria. Her own father had died in the war, and she survived along with her mother and much older siblings.

After the war, at around the age of 11, Maria travelled several times to Holland for 3-4 month stays. At the time, many Dutch realized that countless children continued to suffer from hunger, so they opened their homes to Austrian children. Her foster father was a milkman who went out with horse and buggy at five o’clock in the morning to deliver milk. She also gained five more siblings – two brothers and three sisters.

In her new family, Maria received more than enough to eat. She also had the experience of another language, another country, and she even learned how to ride a bike. The one thing she’s never forgotten is the love with which her second family treated her.

It should come as no surprise that Maria’s connection to the family-based care offered by SOS Children’s Villages is rooted in some of her earliest experiences.

Maria has supported SOS Children’s Villages for most of her life, and when she immigrated to Canada in 1962, she found out there was no organization here.

That changed in 1969 when she became one of a handful of volunteers who helped launch the first SOS Children’s Villages office in Canada. From kitchen tables, she was part of a dedicated group that began to raise funds and make people aware of the wonderful work of making sure that no child would ever grow up alone.

Maria believes that there’s nothing more basic and more necessary than to have children grow up in a family. That’s why she’s chosen to continue to care for children through a gift in her will to SOS Children’s Villages Canada.



HOW A GIFT IN YOUR WILL HELPS CHILDREN

PHOTO: C. MARTINELLI

Raising children isn't just about sending them to school, or providing them a loving home, or making sure that they grow up healthy and happy, or keeping them safe from harm – it's about all of those things. That's why the approach of SOS Children's Villages is a holistic one. From infancy to young adulthood and beyond, we are there providing them support in all of these areas: education, social services, food, care, shelter and family.

PROVIDING LOVING HOMES TO OVER 80,000 ORPHANED AND ABANDONED CHILDREN

An SOS Village is made up of 8-14 family homes where children are raised by a well-trained caring SOS mother with brothers and sisters. We offer a safe haven where children can simply be children, grow to realize their full potential and be whole with hope for a promising future.

OFFERING A MOTHER AND A FAMILY

In each of our more than 550 SOS Children's Villages, children are cared for by very special women who have dedicated their lives to be SOS mothers.

These women are recruited locally to meet the specific needs of children living with us in each country, and are trained extensively to ensure that they are capable of raising an SOS family long-term. The SOS model isn't institutional care, it is family-based care.

PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION

Education isn't only about ABCs. Education is what makes informed citizens. It makes better leaders. It provides the training and knowledge to succeed. And it makes better parents. Today, around the world, we run 227 kindergartens, 185 schools and 50 vocational training centres.

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

The best way to prevent children from being abandoned is to support families at risk so that parents don't feel the pressure to give them up.

SOS Children's Villages' Family Strengthening Programs provide skills training for disadvantaged caregivers, helping them to become literate or learn a trade in order to secure a sustainable future. We also offer financial and other entrepreneurial support to help start small businesses.

Our Family Strengthening Program is not a band-aid. It's a sustainable, long-term solution that ultimately fosters self-sufficiency.



PHOTO: C. BRACK

"I am happy to live in an SOS family, to play football and run races with my friends. When I grow up, I dream of becoming a teacher."

- Stephen, now 9 years old.



PHOTO: J. LUTIGHEID

STEPHEN'S STORY

Stephen's SOS mother took him from the arms of his biological great-grandmother as both their eyes welled with tears. The grandmother whispered into the baby's ear, "I'm not rejecting you. It is because I do not have the means. I will always come to visit you."

Stephen's mother had died when he was only a year old. He had been left in the care of his 70-year-old great-grandmother, along with three other siblings. One day she was chased out of her village of origin with the children by her brother, following a struggle for inheritance. She sought refuge in a Roman Catholic mission in a nearby village.

When the burden to care for the children became too much on the old woman, the missionaries referred her to the SOS Village in Mbalmayo, Cameroon.

The day Stephen arrived at the SOS Village in Mbalmayo, he was in a state of severe hunger. He looked sickly with red hair and loose dehydrated skin. He wore a white dress that was completely brown with caked dirt, and he hadn't been bathed in many days.

Stephen was rushed to the SOS Medical Centre.

At 14-months-old, Stephen weighed a mere 13 pounds. The doctor discovered that he was suffering from severe malnutrition, had other food deficiency complications, and was infected with worms. Treatment began immediately.

Stephen and his siblings moved into a home in the SOS Village, and became part of a new SOS family. Within two months, he had learned to walk. Three months later, he could call every member of his SOS family by their names.

Shortly after Stephen turned 3, he was registered in the SOS Kindergarten by the school's director who was impressed by the young child's ability to express himself.

Stephen has turned out to be quite an intelligent child. At the end of primary three, Stephen received two prizes: the first for being the best student of the SOS Hermann Gmeiner Primary School, and a second prize for his outstanding performance in the classroom.

Although Stephen's great-grandmother is very old now, she still fulfills the promise she made to the little boy, by visiting him whenever she can. One can only begin to imagine Stephen's life without the support of donors like you and SOS Children's Villages.

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT GIFTS IN WILLS

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO LEAVE A GIFT TO CHARITY?

Many of us assume that leaving money to a charity is something only the wealthy or famous do because these are the gifts we most often hear about in the news. In reality, people from all walks of life decide to leave a gift to a cause they care about. There are more than 1.5 million Canadians alive today who have decided to include a gift to charity in their wills.

Any gift, small or big, can really make a difference. Many people choose to leave their gifts as a small percentage rather than a fixed amount, which ensures that the value of your gift is not reduced by inflation over time. Last year, nearly 8% of our donations came from supporters who kindly made a provision in their will. Just imagine the difference that a few more gifts would make in our ability to help children.

WHAT ABOUT MY LOVED ONES?

Making a gift in your will is a highly personal choice – and it's not for everyone. Many people do come to realize that they have enough in their estate to care for family members and allocate a share to causes that are most important to them.

WHAT IF I NEED TO CHANGE MY WILL?

We understand that your situation could change. A gift in your will is 'revocable,' which means that you can modify it at any time. Your will always stays in your control. It is important, however, to keep your will up-to-date so that it best reflects your wishes. This may provide you with peace of mind that everyone and everything you care about will be looked after.

WHAT IF I WANT TO HELP MORE THAN ONE CHARITY?

There may be several causes that you hold close to your heart and you might want to remember more than one of them in your will. This is entirely possible. We recommend that you talk with your lawyer about the best way to make sure that your will reflects your wishes.



"How do donors feel about making a gift in their will to SOS Children's Villages? Usually, they talk about a profound sense of peace and contentment. A feeling of fulfilled purpose. A strong sense of satisfaction in having done the right thing. There's a purity to it all that I can't fully describe."

- Legacy Donor and President & CEO of SOS Children's Villages Canada (2001-2017)

ISN'T IT BETTER TO HELP NOW, AND NOT LATER?

We most certainly need help today and are eternally grateful to those who give to immediately help raise children in a family-based environment.

Since WWII, the needs of orphaned and abandoned children have continued to evolve. The majority of the children we help are no longer in Europe, they're in Africa. Poverty has become the most significant risk factor leading to child abandonment, so we've developed the SOS Family Strengthening Program to keep families together. We now must raise children for a longer period of time and invest in vocational training or post-secondary education to help them launch into adulthood. Gifts left in people's wills ensure that no child will grow up alone and that we can always respond to a child's most pressing need.





“These children are like family. We are a global village and if I can leave a legacy, even the smallest gift in a will like mine, just to make sure that even one child is cared for then I know I’ve made all the difference in the world.”

– Maré Olito, Legacy Donor and Child Sponsor

MARÉ’S STORY

More than 50 years ago while living in Australia, Maré Olito took a trip to Singapore and was invited to visit an orphanage. Of course as a teacher, she was interested in the plight of children everywhere, so she went.

What struck Maré – frightened her, actually – was the vacant look in the eyes of babies and young children as they lay there, alone in their cots.

She went around and hugged every child. It was clear to her that these damaged little souls had never known love. Maré felt so helpless. She thought, then and there, that if she ever had the chance to help abandoned children, she would.

Years later when Maré moved to Canada, she was introduced to SOS Children’s Villages. The fact that orphaned children could

have a loving SOS mother, other children to play with, and an education once again, cemented her decision to sponsor a child.

For more than five decades, Maré has sponsored at least two children at a time. Through letters and photos, she’s watched them grow up from afar. They’ve become like family to her.

Now, at the age of 90, Maré wants to make sure that they, and other orphaned children like them, will continue to be cared for even after she’s no longer around to make her monthly contributions.

Maré is not a wealthy person. She lives on a teacher’s pension and isn’t a big one for savings. After she retired, she even quit smoking – and she was a heavy smoker! She thought, why spend \$40 a month on cigarettes when

she could use that money to help a child. She used that money to sponsor another child.

Today Maré’s mind rests easy knowing that she’s provided for orphaned children by leaving a gift in her will to SOS Children’s Villages Canada.

She knows that her gift will allow children to continue to lead a normal life, and ultimately, have a secure future.



NEXT STEPS

You’ve decided that a gift in your will is the right choice for you

I’ve decided to leave a gift in my will to SOS Children’s Villages Canada. What do I do?

If you do decide to leave a gift for orphaned and abandoned children in your will, you can choose whether you’d like to leave a share of your estate (residual gift) or a set sum (specific gift).

To make it simple, we’re providing you with the information you may need to add into your will. Bring this along with you to an appointment with your lawyer.

- Legal name:
SOS Children’s Villages Canada
- Charitable registration number:
13824 7259 RR0001
- Mailing address:
240 - 44 ByWard Market Square
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1N 7A2

Suggested wording for a residual gift:

“My Executor / Trustee shall transfer to SOS Children’s Villages Canada all [or ___%] of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate after paying all debts, taxes, expenses and specific bequests. I ask that this gift be used for the general purposes of the organization.”

Suggested wording for a specific gift (fixed sum): “My Executor / Trustee shall transfer to SOS Children’s Villages Canada the sum of \$___ to be used for the general purposes of the organization.”

If you already have a will, including a gift to charity needn’t be overly complicated. A simple amendment to your will, or ‘codicil’, may be all that you need.



DO I HAVE TO LET ANYONE KNOW ABOUT MY DECISION?

We completely understand that if you have chosen to include SOS Children’s Villages in your will, you may not want to let us know. If you do wish to share this information with us, we’d welcome the opportunity to thank you personally. You may also choose to talk to your family about your wishes and intentions and why you’re making this gift in your will.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Greiner at 1-800-767-5111, Ext. 514 or d.greiner@soschildrensvillages.ca.