

Annual Report 2003

*Building families for orphaned
and abandoned children*



SOS Children's Villages
Canada

Transforming the lives of children-at-risk

Transforming children's lives is value-driven work

Our staff and volunteers are guided by four key values.

Courage:

we take action for children-at-risk.

Commitment:

we keep our promises to children, to donors and to the communities in which we work.

Trust:

we believe in, support and respect one another.

Accountability:

we are reliable partners and use funds wisely.

A Message from the President and the National Director

It is gratifying to look back at the year 2003 for SOS Children's Villages. Both internationally and in Canada the organization did itself proud!

Internationally we marked 54 years of service to children-at-risk with bold new initiatives to draw attention to our award winning work. Our excellent relationship with FIFA, the international governing body of soccer, resulted in a commitment to raise SOS Children's Villages' profile prior to and during the World Cup in 2006, and to help raise enough money around the world to build no less than six new SOS Children's Villages! The world's most popular sport will reach out to the world's neediest kids in a major way.

"How do you know that the SOS Children's Village's model works?" Tracking Footprints, a longitudinal study designed to answer this question, did just that in 2003. Hundreds of structured interviews with adults who grew up in our Villages, followed by careful analysis of their responses, confirmed our belief that the stability of a Village home, a mother, an SOS family and all that goes with Village life serves our children well into adult life (details of the study are available on the SOS Children's Villages website).





Photo: A. Gabriel

Here in Canada we've seen lots of evidence of that too. Sam and Jijil, two young men who grew up in SOS Villages in Kenya and India, graduated from Carleton University last year. Both returned to their countries last fall, eager to make a contribution through their work. The first thing they did on their respective arrivals was to go to their SOS Villages for a visit with their proud mothers.

While celebrating the success of Jijil and Sam last fall, SOS Children's Villages Canada also welcomed over 8,000 new 'friends' to our work. These first-time donors chose us in a busy marketplace for charitable gifts. I think they did so for the same reasons that motivate so many of our supporters to give again and again. They understood, almost instinctively, the power of SOS Children's Villages' model of child care to transform the lives of children-at-risk.

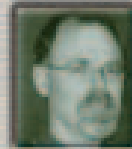
We're grateful for that, and for the tremendous commitment of all our supporters – enthusiastic volunteers, loyal donors, loving sponsors and hard-working staff – a team that together did so much for the children we serve in 2003.



Photo: SOS Archives



Michael von Herff
President



Boyd McBride
National Director



Photo: A. Gabriel

Every child has the right to life and development.

Children living in SOS Children's Villages have shelter, food, health care and education. They are protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation and are kept safe during natural disaster and war. Each child is seen as a unique individual and given the support necessary to develop into a responsible and participating member of society.

What we want for the world's children

SOS Children's Villages is a child-focused organization dedicated to providing long term family-based care for children who have been orphaned, abandoned or are unable to remain in their biological families.

Our Vision

Every child belongs to a family

Family is the heart of society. Within a family each child is protected and enjoys a sense of belonging. Here, children learn values, share responsibilities and form life-long relationships. A family environment gives them a solid foundation on which to build their lives.

Every child grows with love

Through love and acceptance, emotional wounds are healed and confidence is built. Children learn to trust and believe in themselves and in others. With this self-assurance each child can recognize and fulfill his or her potential.

SOS Children's Villages operates in the best interest of the child as defined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Photo: SOS Archives



Photo: A. Wilde



Photo: M. Jaramilo

Every child grows with respect

Each child's voice is heard and taken seriously. Children participate in making decisions that affect their lives and are guided to take a leading role in their own development. The child grows with respect and dignity as a cherished member of his or her family and society.



Photo: Berit Bakkane



Photo: D. Samsoni

Every child grows with security

Children are protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation and are kept safe during natural disaster and war. Children have shelter, food, health care and education. These are the basic requirements for the sound development of all children.



Photo: J.G. Lyberg

Every child has the right to an adequate standard of living.

SOS families live at a standard which reflects community realities, while ensuring that the children's development needs are met.

We build families for children in need

We work for children who are orphaned, abandoned or whose families are unable to care for them.

We give these children the opportunity to build lasting relationships within a family.

Our family approach in the SOS Children's Village is based on four principles: Each child needs a **mother**, and grows up most naturally with **brothers and sisters**, in their own **house**, within a supportive **village** environment.

The challenge is enormous. An estimated 1.3 million children under 15 years of age are HIV positive and another 13 million are orphaned to AIDS. Wars, in the past decade alone, have claimed the lives of 2 million boys and girls and have left another 5 million with physical disabilities. 300,000 children are directly involved in armed conflicts (most often boys as soldiers, and girls as servants and sex slaves). Forty percent of children in the least developed countries survive on less than \$1 per day. And an estimated 100 million children worldwide live on the streets. These horrific challenges threaten the security and the rights of millions of children.

SOS Children's Villages addresses these challenges with programmes to reunite and strengthen families at risk. However, for children whose families no longer exist or who are confronted with intolerable situations within their families, we offer an alternative family-based model of care that recreates many of the strengths that ideally constitute a family. Children are raised – alongside new brothers and sisters in a home – by a well trained parent (usually a mother) until they reach a level of



Photo: SOS Archives



Photo: D. Sansoni



Photo: P. Hahn



Photo: SOS Archives

development that makes it appropriate for them to move into SOS Youth Homes. The children work with their care givers to develop personalized programmes that will help them succeed as young, independent adults. However, their SOS home will always be their home: the vital links to their SOS brothers, sisters and mother will always remain an important part of their adult life.

SOS Children's Villages has been perfecting this model since 1949. In 2003 it operated over 440 SOS Villages and 340 SOS Youth Homes around the world, including Canada. The result was that more than 50,000 children-at-risk continued to grow up with hope for a full and meaningful adult life.

2003 Highlights:

- ✓ 13 new SOS Villages
 - ✓ 5 expanded SOS Villages
 - ✓ 7 new SOS Youth Homes
- ... 2,000 more children given hope for the future.*



Photo: D. Sansoni

Every child has the right to receive alternative care when their family environment cannot be maintained.

Children who are in need of a permanent new home in a family environment, and for whom a more suitable placement cannot be found, are provided alternative care in an SOS family.

We help them shape their own futures

Back in 2000, 155 governments committed to provide 'education for all' by no later than 2015 under the Dakar Framework for Action. Yet, the 88 poorest countries will likely miss this deadline unless dramatic efforts are made. For many children school fees are the biggest barrier. Girls account for two-thirds of the 130 million children who are not in school.

Despite a number of meetings, reports and consultations in the last three years, the world still faces a gap of \$12 billion each year in financing for education, while only two cents of every "foreign aid" dollar is going to education.

The result is that in many poorer countries, children simply do not go to school. That starts a vicious cycle, as education and vocational training are crucial to a life without poverty. SOS Children's Villages has established a wide range of facilities to meet this basic right of all children. These include 270 SOS kindergartens, 175 SOS primary and secondary

We enable children to live according to their own culture and religion, and to be active members of the community. We help children to recognize and express their individual abilities, interests and talents.

We ensure that children receive the education and skills training they need to be successful and contributing members of society.



Photo: D. Sansoni



Photo: H. Atkins

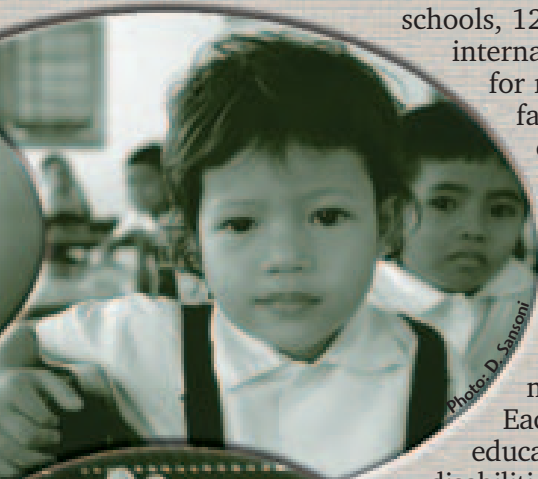


Photo: D. Sangoni



Photo: A. Gabriel

schools, 125 SOS vocational training centres and 2 SOS international colleges, ensuring the right to an education for more than 125,000 boys and girls. These learning facilities are built in areas where none had previously existed and are open to both children living in SOS Villages and children living in the surrounding communities. It is our policy that SOS academic and vocational training programmes are available equally to girls and boys.

A strong educational foundation is built early in an SOS child's life. Formal child development plans are made, with short and long-term educational goals. Each child's abilities, strengths and interests guide their education. Special programmes for children with learning disabilities are designed when the need arises. For academically or trade-skills gifted children, university or specialized vocational training programmes are strongly supported. This may mean attending a programme in another part of their country or even further afield.

2003 Highlights:

- ✓ 20 new SOS Schools, Kindergartens and Vocational Training Centres
- ... 4,500 more boys and girls gain vital skills and knowledge



Photo: Evelyn Winkler

Every child has the right to education.

SOS Children's Villages builds and operates educational facilities for the children in our Villages AND for children nearby. All SOS children have individual development plans to ensure that they receive the education and training necessary to lead independent adult lives.

We share in the development of their communities

We share in community life and respond to the social development needs of society's most vulnerable children and young people.

We establish facilities and programmes that strengthen families and prevent the abandonment of children.

We join hands with community members to provide education, health care, and respond to emergencies.

Communities throughout the developing world are under enormous pressure from growing poverty, eroding social safety nets, natural disasters, war, and devastating diseases such as HIV/AIDS. The family unit, even more important for children in the face of all this, all too often breaks down under the strain.

In response, SOS Children's Villages has increased support for children and their families outside our Villages. Family counselling and life skills training programmes (designed to keep children rooted in their families), mother and child medical clinics, and emergency crisis intervention programmes (followed by long-term support) are examples of this work. SOS Children's Villages partners with local groups to ensure the success of these vital programmes. We also work with other large multinational charities to coordinate emergency food and medical supplies distribution.

A brief profile of three SOS community outreach programmes follows.

The Casa Hogar SOS is an SOS Social Centre in Colón, Panama that offers a temporary home and family support for children caught up in dangerous family situations. The children and their families receive psychological counselling and guidance in an attempt to keep the children rooted in their families and



Photo: Jozsef Szalontai



Photo: Gabriel

communities. If that is not possible, SOS Children's Villages works with local child protection agencies to find new, safe homes for them.

The Family Carer Programme for HIV/AIDS-affected families is run jointly by SOS Swaziland and the local Salvation Army in two districts surrounding Mbabane, Swaziland. It supports and strengthens child and/or grandparent-led families. Community volunteers make regular visits to these families in crisis and offer material support (e.g. food, cooking fuel, clothing and school fees); medical and psychological support; and income generating training programmes.

SOS Children's Village Monrovia became a safe refuge for over 8,000 frightened Liberians when civil war broke out in that West African country in June, 2003. SOS Children's Villages staff cared for these refugees for many months despite heavy fighting around the Village and severe food, water, and medical supply shortages.

2003 Highlights:

- ✓ 7 new SOS Medical and Social Centres (in Angola, Kenya, Nepal, Colombia, and Peru)
- ✓ 6 new Emergency Relief Programmes (in Malawi, Jordan, Algeria, Sudan, Morocco, and Liberia)

... tens of thousands of children and their families gained access to basic health, counselling, and life-skill services.



Photo: B. Dumbleby



Photo: SOS Archives



Photo: W. Huber

Every child has the right to special protection in emergency situations.

SOS Children's Villages provides humanitarian relief to children and their families whenever an emergency arises, and continues to raise children whose families are killed or never found.



SOS Children's Villages
Canada

Learning from experience

The Hermann Gmeiner Academy

The main duties of the Academy include:

Research:

conducts research in child psychology, pedagogy, education, human resources, and implements longitudinal studies of SOS child care; coordinates information flow between local and international experts working for SOS Children's Villages; and documents and publishes results and discussion.

Quality Assurance:

produces training manuals for SOS mothers and other child care staff; establishes and implements standards to guarantee and improve quality of SOS work; and coordinates training workshops for SOS caregivers, educators and other SOS staff.

A fundamental principle that has guided the work of SOS Children's Villages for over 50 years is quality assurance; to provide the highest quality of care possible for children in SOS Villages; and to provide the highest quality of education for children in SOS schools and vocational training centres.

SOS Children's Villages realizes these ideals through its many years of programming experience, constant reflection, extensive research, and knowledge-sharing within and without the organization. In 1981, SOS Children's Villages established the Hermann Gmeiner Academy – an international educational centre named in honour of the organization's founder – to centralize and coordinate knowledge gained in the field and through academic research (see column on left).

The success of SOS Children's Villages' work is tied, to a large extent, to the skills and ongoing commitment of SOS educators and care givers (including SOS mothers, aunts, Village Directors, and Youth Workers). SOS Children's Villages operates training facilities for SOS mothers and staff around the world, where knowledge and experiences are exchanged between SOS care givers and other SOS staff. "Lessons Learned" and "Best Practices" are documented to further share this knowledge with all SOS workers.



Photo: F. Espinoza.



Photo: H. Atkins

The SOS Children's Villages' model of child care

SOS Children's Villages provides alternative family-based care for children who have lost, or cannot live with, their families. It is based on four principles:

The Mother: Each child has a caring parent

The SOS mother builds a close relationship with every child entrusted to her, and provides security, love and stability. As a child-care professional, she lives together with her children, guides their development, and runs her household independently.

Brothers and Sisters: Family ties grow naturally

Girls and boys of different ages live together as brothers and sisters, with natural brothers and sisters always staying within the same SOS family.

The House: Each family creates its own home

The house is the family's home, with its own unique feeling, rhythm and routine. Children grow and learn together, sharing responsibilities and all the joys and sorrows of daily life.

The Village: The SOS family is a part of the community

SOS families form a supportive community environment which is well integrated into the local community.

2003 Highlights:

- ✓ on the basis of 54 years of experience, quality standards were defined in the new SOS Children's Village Manual
- ✓ examination of the lives of children who grew up in SOS Villages continued in the longitudinal study, "Tracking Footprints"
- ✓ Women's Lives: SOS Mothers Around the World Tell their Stories was published



Photo: K. Snozzi

Every child has the right to leisure and play.

Play and recreational activities are prominent in SOS Villages where each has at least one playground and many have soccer fields. Play is also used as therapy for children traumatized by war.

A special thank you

SOS Children's Villages Canada

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SOS Children's Villages Canada thanks our donors, child and village sponsors, corporate and community partners and volunteers who helped make possible our work on behalf of children-at-risk here in Canada and around the world. In 2003, these included:

Corporate Partners

Bank of Montreal

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Human Resources Development Canada

The Government of Alberta - Wild Rose Foundation

We would like to acknowledge the thoughtful supporters who chose to leave a legacy of love to SOS Children's Villages Canada: Peter Haridge • Mary Armauer-Hansen • Harry Montgomery • Renaude Lapointe

Summarized Statement of Revenue and Expenses and Changes in Net Assets - For the year ending December 31, 2003

Revenue	2003	2002
CIDA* & HRDC**	\$48,900	\$44,200
Other Institutions	\$768,823	\$721,726
Individual Donations	\$827,615	\$700,980
Child & Village Sponsorships	\$107,230	\$111,638
Special Events	\$13,584	\$10,686
Misc.	\$17,530	\$66,929
Interest	\$7,355	\$5,282
	\$1,791,037	\$1,661,441
Expenditure		
Canadian Projects	\$17,419	\$30,507
International Projects	\$627,900	\$562,452
Public Awareness & Education	\$290,499	\$263,329
Outreach Work	\$184,158	\$190,779
Fundraising	\$352,378	\$315,735
Administration	\$103,378	\$92,378
	\$1,575,732	\$1,455,180
Excess Revenue for the Year	\$215,305	\$206,261
Net Assets-End of Year	\$260,189	\$44,884

* Canadian International Development Agency.

** Human Resources Development Canada

The accompanying summarized consolidated statement of revenue and expenditures are derived from the complete financial statements of SOS Children's Villages Canada as at December 31, 2003 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated February 18, 2004. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarizes, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guidelines referred to above. For more information on the entity's financial position, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.



SOS Children's Villages Canada is a proud member of SOS-Kinderdorf International, working for children-at-risk in 131 countries worldwide. It was a Nobel Peace Prize finalist in 1999 and was awarded the 2002 Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize.

SOS-Kinderdorf International works together with all SOS National Associations (e.g. SOS Children's Villages Canada) to operate a strict financial management and control system. All accounts are regularly subject to exacting internal and external audits to ensure full transparency.



Photo: S. Pleger

Every child has the right to health.

SOS children are provided with a healthy and balanced diet, annual medical check-ups, immunizations and other preventative measures. Good nutrition, personal care and physical activities are actively promoted.



SOS Children's Villages facilities and programmes



439 SOS Villages
43,500 Beneficiaries



262 Kindergartens
21,300 Beneficiaries



121 Vocational Training Schools
18,000 Beneficiaries



56 Medical Centres
370,000 Beneficiaries



342 Youth Homes
9,750 Beneficiaries



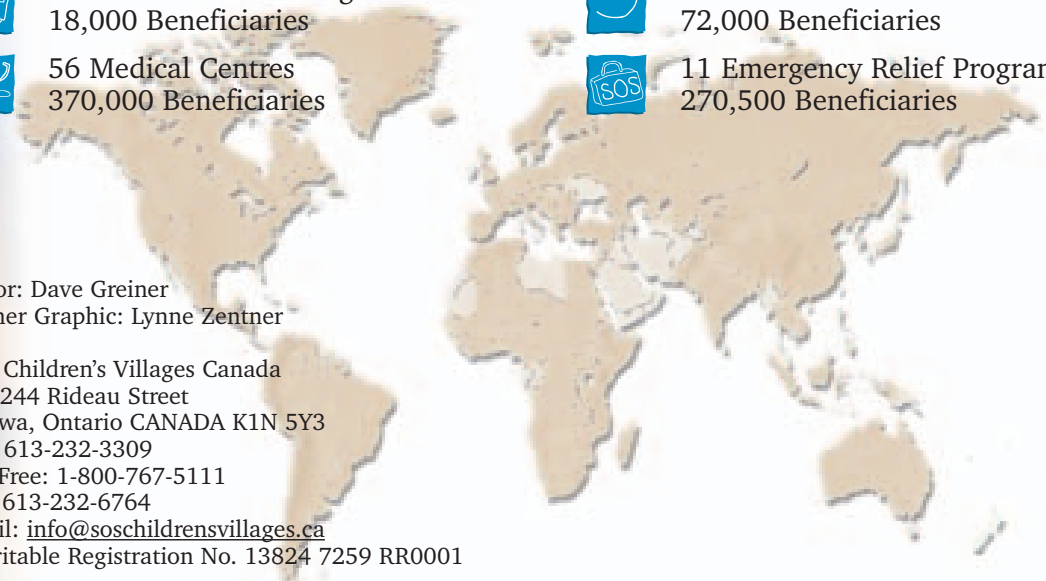
173 Schools
81,000 Beneficiaries



210 Social Centres
72,000 Beneficiaries



11 Emergency Relief Programmes
270,500 Beneficiaries



Editor: Dave Greiner
Banner Graphic: Lynne Zentner

SOS Children's Villages Canada
200-244 Rideau Street
Ottawa, Ontario CANADA K1N 5Y3
Tel.: 613-232-3309
Toll Free: 1-800-767-5111
Fax: 613-232-6764
Email: info@soschildrensvillages.ca
Charitable Registration No. 13824 7259 RR0001

For more information about SOS Children's Villages, please visit our website at www.soschildrensvillages.ca

“In my opinion, nothing in the world is more important than to care for a child.”

**Hermann Gmeiner
(1919-1986)
Founder,
SOS Children's Villages**

