



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**
PAKISTAN

January, 2017

a loving home for every child



Dear Friends,

Another year has gone by bringing with it some highs, some lows and some really horrific events. Even though it sometimes appears that there is no way out of this circle of despondency and disillusionment, we must remain optimistic and be thankful for all that is good. So let me wish you all a very happy New Year, with the sincere hope that 2017 will be a year of good cheer and better times; when the voice of reason is heard over the cacophony of discord and disruption; when we all join hands and decide that we will not settle for anything other than peace and harmony. And may this be realized not only for us but for troubled regions all over the globe, especially Kashmir and Syria.

When I refer to that which is good, there is no better example than the support SOS receives from all of you. It enables us to establish centres of excellence for the most vulnerable in any society – children without parental care. Your wholehearted response to the needs of the orphans in our midst is something to be immensely proud of and, as I can repeat ad nauseam, excluding European countries, SOS Pakistan ranks at the very top of the self-sustaining members of our federation. Thanking you for this concern is not nearly adequate, but I know that you are well rewarded in the satisfaction that you are making a difference where it really matters. We have so many success stories we could share with you if space allowed – doctors, engineers, architects, army officers, bankers, teachers and the list goes on and on. There are, naturally, also those who are not high achievers but, every child is given the chance to reach his potential, and we ensure that they are equipped to support themselves before they leave. The girls do not leave until they get married, and we also arrange their marriages. If you would like more information please visit our website or Facebook page.

In the context of enabling the children to reach their full potential, the most obvious requirement is a good education. SOS establishes community schools in conjunction with the SOS Children's Villages and, to make these as effective as possible, we requested the management of the Educators (a project of Beaconhouse) to assist us by providing their professional expertise in management, teacher training and curriculum development. We are happy to announce that they have agreed to collaborate with us and, as part of their CSR activities, initially manage four of our schools, under their Educators curriculum. Since we will continue to serve the less privileged and keep the fee structure low, they will also subsidize the additional expense incurred. This support is typical of the concern of our people for the disadvantaged, and we are grateful to the Chairperson Beaconhouse Group for this generous gesture. I must also acknowledge with thanks the offer of scholarships for higher education by leading institutions, notably the Punjab Group of Colleges, Superior Science Colleges, the University of Management and Technology and University of Lahore. Many of you also offer to finance higher education and no children are ever refused tertiary education, if they have the requisite merit.

Samsung has been working closely with SOS in a joint effort to help provide an advanced learning system for students. Samsung Smart Schools provide a dynamic learning experience for real-time interaction between the teacher and pupils, using Samsung GALAXY tablets and Interactive Teaching features. Few children, anywhere in the world, have access to this latest advance in teaching and our schools will offer this facility.

How very fortunate the children are! This is not the first time Samsung has supported our efforts and have previously donated the Girls School in Faisalabad and a community school in Rohewal, which is included in the SOS Rural Support Programme in Kasur district. Thank you Samsung and thank you to all other corporate donors who include us in their CSR activities.

Construction activity continues in many parts of the country. In Islamabad, the high school for girls and primary school, are in the final stages of completion. The former was donated by the SOS Children's Villages UK Pakistan Supporters Group and the latter by the SOS Support Group in Washington USA. Work on the primary school in Sialkot will shortly begin and this will complete the school complex, as the girls and boys high schools are ready. The remaining 10 homes are being constructed in the Khairpur project and will be ready by the end of 2017. Thereafter the construction of the school will be taken in hand.

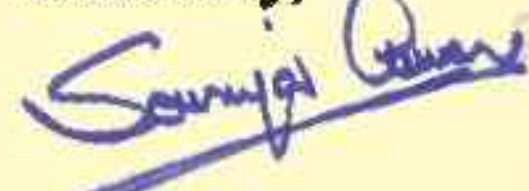
I mentioned earlier that good things are also happening and giving hope for the future. One of the best initiatives in the context of welfare has to be that of a family which has conceived, and is executing, a remarkable project in their hometown Kharian. This is being done under the auspices of the Brigadier Sahib Dad Khan Welfare Trust and is aptly called 'Karam Bagh'. They have allocated a large tract of land for this purpose and are inviting leading NGOs, in different fields, to provide service in their sphere of expertise. Buildings are provided by the trust and constructed according to the requirements of the respective organizations. Three TCF schools are already functioning, as is the Hunar Technical School and LRBT Eye Clinic. An SOS Children's Village, and later a youth facility, are also to be included in this complex and construction will commence in February. How magnanimous of the family and what a wonderful contribution to the uplift of the area. Hats off to them!

We now have 52 projects around the country of which 15 are SOS Children's Villages, with their associated youth facilities, community schools and, in three cities, technical training centres. We realized from the very beginning that, there exists in the country, a very serious problem of those families which are headed by women with no means of support. Our criteria for admission excludes children with mothers because we consider that no institution can replace a mother. Nevertheless, countless women are unable to provide for their offspring, particularly when they are small and cannot be left alone. We have opened a project specifically for such children, in Johar Town Lahore, and encourage the mothers take them home every weekend and on holidays. We intend to open more such projects, in conjunction with the existing Villages. The next one is planned for Multan and the SOS Children's Village Kharian will follow the same concept.

I will end by thanking you all, our donors both in and out of Pakistan, most sincerely for your on-going support which enables us to move ahead steadily. All that we are doing is on your behalf and we greatly appreciate your confidence in our ability to provide the orphans with that which is the right of every child – a loving home and hope for the future. And last but not least, very special thanks to all the volunteers who serve on our committees and bring so much quality to our work. You not only establish the projects but also work indefatigably to ensure that they operate at the highest standards. We could not have achieved all that we have without your support and, without any doubt, you are the secret of our success. Keep up the good work and may you be blessed for your concern!

With warm regards and immense gratitude to all of you for joining us in our efforts and becoming a part of this noble mission.

Sincerely,



Souriya Anwar
President



Lahore

- Someone has aptly said “The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers”. SOS Lahore greatly appreciates the enthusiasm of all those dedicated volunteers who come from various professional and educational disciplines who, not only put a smile on our children's faces, but also spread awareness about our work in the community.
- “Lighting up lives”, a beautiful initiative by the Corporate Social Responsibility Division of Pepsi, lit up our campus with solar lights. They also conducted an art recycling competition for which unique designs were prepared.
- Creativity through innovative technologies, such as the ARFA Tower 'Makeistan' platform, has also been a huge success. Our talented students relish in working on group projects every Saturday by combining computer technology and electronics, and have produced some amazing inventions.
- Several groups share their expertise with the children and enrich their lives while enhancing their skills. LUMS students organize a weekly interactive programme, Parbat Foundation hold art classes and Makhdoom Kitchens conduct culinary classes. The lattermost even set up a popular stall at the carnival.
- Several character building initiatives were taken to strengthen fundamental values in our children. One such example was through regular visits by our children to the Children's Hospital wards where they read stories and shared snacks, smiles and happiness with the sick children, many of whom were cancer patients. This instilled a core value of 'Share and Care' in our children.
- The annual SOS Children's Carnival was organized in December at the Royal Palm Golf and Country Club. There were different fun filled activities including stalls by different corporate groups, food courts, Lucky Irani Circus, puppet show, games etc. Celebrities including Hadiqa Kiani, Umair Jaswal and Aima Baig showed their support by participating.

Dhodial

- In March a re-union of the SOS children was organized and they were warmly welcomed back. Ex SOS youths with their



spouses and children attended the event and happily reminisced of the time they had spent in the Village and Youth Home.

- An enjoyable trip to Taxila was arranged by a donor. The children also visit other Villages and reciprocate by playing host which strengthens bonds across the country and results in many friendships being formed.
- First Aid training is vital for everyone and our children got a chance to enrich their skills by taking full advantage of the first aid training session that was organized by the Red Crescent Society, Manshera. This was followed by an awareness raising walk.
- An annual 'Donors Gathering' and a Fun Gala Evening was arranged at the home of a committee member in Abbottabad. A number of notable people attended the function and the documentary of SOS Children's Villages Pakistan was shown and appreciated by the audience.
- Al-Khair Foundation celebrated Independence Day on August 14th with our children. They decorated the Village with National flags, girls painting their hands with henna and all united to hoist the National flag.
- An NGO, Human Appeal Pakistan, distributed gifts to the children and mothers on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr and on Eid-ul-Azha a delicious barbeque was arranged.

Rawalpindi

- Our children are always thrilled to see their favorite TV stars and the Inner Wheel Club fulfilled their wish by bringing over various celebrities including Ahsan Khan, Resham, Feroz Khan and Sajal Ali, who were equally pleased to meet the children. The President of the International Inner Wheel Club, Ms. Oluyemisi Alatise, visited the Rawalpindi Village and was very impressed by the facility.
- One of the most exciting and unforgettable events of this year was a trip to Murree. Our children were thrilled to have this opportunity and relished the delicious lunch provided courtesy of the Frontier Works Organization.

- Raising awareness about the environment we live in is an important cause and we appreciate the gesture of Standard Chartered Bank of inaugurating the Tree Plantation campaign in the Village. The staff brought a large number of trees to plant with the children and later had lunch with them and played a cricket match.
- City School arranged a function which included a musical show, games and refreshments. Citibank hosted an iftari with dinner, gave gifts to the children and also arranged a jumping castle and slides which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Peshawar

- We were happy to host the SOS Village Islamabad children as they came to visit us for ten days. Our children and the visitors enjoyed the different recreational activities which were arranged for them. The children were delighted to be able to play together in various parks and were fascinated by the trip to the Peshawar Museum, arranged by the Tourism Corporation.
- Independence Day this year was celebrated with liveliness as Team Korba (University students private organization) took the children out to a sports complex and arranged a lunch for them. The children had a great time particularly enjoying the swimming pool, which was a new experience for them.
- The blessed occasion of Eid-ul-Azha was celebrated together with the team of an NGO "Charpichal" which slaughtered a goat in the Village and then prepared a scrumptious BBQ for lunch with our children.
- A remarkable group of volunteers decorated the Village on the occasion of Eid and arranged various games and activities in the evening. They distributed gifts, brought dinner and spent a memorable time with our children and staff.

Muzaffarabad

- The success of SOS is largely due to our passionate volunteers. This year, we would especially like to thank Dr. Waseema from USA who operated a dispensary and provided medical services free of cost for the children. She also distributed Eid clothes to



them and gave an animal for sacrifice. Moreover, we are ever grateful to volunteers from the UK who taught English to our children, five days a week.

- The love of books should be rooted in the hearts of children, so we decided to enhance their exposure by establishing a library with the support of Beaconhouse School System. The bond between our children and the students of Beaconhouse was strengthened when they invited them over for a pleasant cricket match.
- Two medical camps were generously arranged by Pain Welfare Foundation & Family Planning, and the Pakistan Red Crescent Society organized first aid training for the staff and older children.
- A summer festival was arranged by AJK University students and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The main purpose of this festival was to raise awareness in the community about SOS and its aims.

Quetta

- The opening of McDonalds was not only a happy event for the city but, especially so, for our children as they were invited to the opening ceremony, where several games and fun-filled activities awaited them.
- An enthralling visit to the lush green landscape of the Ziarat Valley was undertaken this year by the children; they visited the famous landmark, the Quaid-e-Azam Residency, where they were briefed about the Quaid's life and his last days in Ziarat. Later they enjoyed a delicious lunch at the FC mess.
- In August, the Azadi train arrived in the city of Quetta to the warm welcome of the SOS children. The Rotary Club arranged this fantastic experience, through which the children got a chance to visualize the traditional folk culture and important events which transpired in the history of Pakistan.
- Various trips are organized to widen the horizons of our children and the Youth home boys were sent to Abbottabad and Naran in Kaghan valley, while the girls enjoyed a trip to Islamabad, Nathia Gali and Khanpur Dam.
- The Vice Chancellor of Sardar Bahadur Khan University for Women, along with staff and students, visited the Village and distributed Eid gifts.

Sargodha

- A two day training course for handling and responding to emergencies was organized in collaboration with the National Commission for Human Development and Rescue Services (1122). The mothers, staff and older boys and girls participated in this important exercise. Another workshop, organized by internees of Sargodha University also discussed medical emergencies and the immediate response required.
- A well-equipped computer laboratory is now a part of the SOS Village and benefits the boys in the Youth Home as well as the Village children.
- Our children had an enjoyable time in the PAF Mushaf Base where they attended a beautiful flower exhibition. The officers generously provided refreshments and presented gifts to the children and they particularly loved the little zoo and were excited to see the peacocks.
- Independence Day this year was celebrated with our honorable guests GM (Literacy) NCHD and District Community Officer who participated in numerous activities with our staff and children.
- In November a long awaited trip to Kallar Kahar resort materialized. This was the first combined tour of the children from the Village, Youth Home, mothers and staff, and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Other trips were organized to Islamabad, Nathia Gali, Khanpur Dam and Kaghan valley.
- The marriages of two girls were arranged and all the children participated enthusiastically in the festivities.

Khairpur

- The first phase of the Village with five family houses, Director's residence and an administrative block was completed in February 2016. It was inaugurated by the Chief Minister Sindh in the presence of local dignitaries and SOS committee members.



- All the houses are functional with 46 children in residence under the care of six housemothers.
- The children are making satisfactory progress in their studies. They have been admitted to a local school and are given extra coaching in the evening.
- A volunteer doctor is available at the Village clinic on a daily basis, which has helped improve the children's health and hygiene. First Aid training has also been given to all the staff.
- Many activities including Pakistan Day, Universal Children's Day, and an Eid mela were held in the Village.
- The children are happy and well settled in the beautiful environment of the Village.
- The second phase, construction of the remaining ten homes, is proceeding well and the project will soon be completed.

Karachi

- We commend the spirit of our former SOS children. This year they decided to play host at their annual event, collecting funds and organizing the lunch for the reunion. They have promised to continue their efforts and plan to contribute to the well-being of the children in SOS.
- It was an incredible moment for our Grade IV to XII students who participated in the Global Hand Washing Day 2016 with Dettol. They set a new Guinness World Record during this event which also got a lot of media coverage.
- The Technical Training Institute is now approved by the City and Guilds Institute, London and seven of our students acquired this internationally recognized qualification, including two with 'Distinction and Merit'. Free vocational training is offered to all our students with the generous support of private and corporate donors. In the past year 1203 students, including 90 girls, graduated.
- The Shell Tameer program for entrepreneurial opportunities has been very successful. Thirty students have been funded to set up their own businesses and provided tools and equipment for this purpose.
- Our young cadet at PMA Kakul is doing well and is in the final session. A boy scout from our Youth Home was selected for Haj duty and thus performed Haj himself.
- Three children, two girls and one boy were married during the year.

Jamshoro

- The Village children warmly welcomed the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Mr. Anwar Zaheer Jamali, who came to visit our premises in January. He made a generous donation for the children and, to mark the occasion, a tree was planted by him in the Village ground.
- SOS Jamshoro endeavours to deliver quality education to our children and they are all admitted to different English Medium Schools, with plentiful support from Vice Chancellor MUET, Mr. Muhammad Aslam Uqaili, in Mehran University Public School, Mrs. Tehmina Soomro in Rockford Cambridge School and Mrs. Fauzia Suri Baloch in the Leadership School.
- We are pleased to have new swings installed with the help of the SOS Washington Chapter and box libraries in four homes donated by the Zahid Suleman Library System.
- "Jashan e Baharan", the annual fundraising festival, was an action-packed event for all. Special children of Hayat-e-Nau Institute were specially invited for a day of fun-filled activities. We are thankful to Zainabia Welfare Organisation, Hyderabad Gymkhana, Helping Hands, Rotary Club Hyderabad, the Leadership School and several concerned donors and supporters who made the event as amazing as it was. About 500 families attended.
- Universal Children's Day was celebrated with the collaboration and sponsorship of the Pakistan Pediatric Association.

Sialkot

- We are proud to announce that one of our boys has achieved his dream of becoming an accountant and is now working for a well reputed firm.
- We are grateful to the Students of University of Gujrat, University of Management Technology and Grace College who took the time out of their academic schedules and visited the Village to spend time with our children.



- Our children enjoyed several trips throughout the year; during the summer they had a great time bonding with the SOS Dhodial children and also visited Nathiagali, Dadar, Ballakot, Shogran and Siri Payea. Moreover, as a treat for their good academic results they were awarded with a day trip to the Rana Resort where they enjoyed exciting rides and visiting the zoo.
- The children managed to score exceptionally well in the matriculation examination. Six children secured a first division and the remaining, second division.

Islamabad

- Animal Care Association of Pakistan (ACAP) arranged a stunning Pet Show in our Village. The response of the local residents from Islamabad and Rawalpindi was praise worthy as they brought their pets to participate. The children enjoyed seeing the animals, gathered useful information about them and took photographs with their favorites. Hats off to ACAP for arranging this wonderful programme.
- Team Telenor installed two swings in the Village and also spent a fun-filled evening with the kids.
- Our SOS Girls team won the Girls Cricket Tournament in which four schools participated. The tournament was organized by PCB in sponsorship with Hotel Serena and the Australian High Commission.
- On completion of the youth facility, 29 boys have moved into the new premises and are busy decorating their homes and developing the garden.
- As in past years, the US marines again arranged a fun-filled event for the children as part of their 'Toys and Tots' programme in which the Ambassador also participated and distributed gifts. They also visited the Village and played a football match with the Youth Home boys.
- The department of Architecture and Design at COMSATS arranged a week-long art workshop for the Youth Home boys. Their artwork was displayed in the art gallery, sold to generous benefactors, and the proceeds donated to SOS. A very thoughtful undertaking indeed.

- Construction of the SOS Hermann Gmeiner School complex is complete and it will be operational shortly. Our sincere thanks to all those who made this possible, especially the SOS Pakistan Support Groups in the UK and USA, who are the major donors.

Multan

- Ten boys from the SOS Village and Youth Home participated in a volunteer activity in the Children's Complex, with a mission to contribute their time and pocket money and bring joy and gift packs to the sick children in the wards of the hospital.
- Punjab Governor Malik Rafiq Rajwana graciously inaugurated the SOS Multan Institute of Technology and shared his valuable insights.
- The year has been filled with loads of fun activities around the city, from lunches to parties to visitors, the children have been enthralled with a variety of activities thanks to our amazing volunteers and donors who form an external link to the society for our children.
- The children were very pleased to see the beautiful art work at the Art Gallery of Multan, which they had the opportunity to visit courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce.
- Sports contribute to the all-round development of the children and the most popular is, without question, cricket. Every December an SOS Inter Villages Cricket Tournament is organized in different locations and last year was hosted by SOS Multan. Teams are invited from all the SOS projects to participate and the event is thoroughly enjoyed by all. Trophies and certificate of participation were given to the players, along with souvenirs and gifts. SOS Multan proudly took the winner's trophy of 2016! On the final day of the tournament a special event was hosted by SOS Executive Committee members and many friends of SOS.



A special concert and bonfire were arranged and Z-Axis band provided entertainment. The children sang and danced around the bonfire and brought a grand finale to the fabulous cricket tournament. All the visiting Village Directors were presented with tokens of gratitude by SOS Multan, along with framed group photos of the teams.

Faisalabad

- It is always a proud moment to see our children shine in the outside world. It makes us immensely happy that our sons and daughters are reaching for their ambitions. Twenty of our girls participated in the Girl Guides programme and received appreciation for different performances. Five of our children were admitted to college this year, three of our girls got admission in a public sector university, one of our boys completed his BBA (Hons.) in Finance while two other boys completed DAE.
- An important goal this year was to create more awareness about the prevention of child abuse and focus on character building. This was achieved through presentations and lectures that were delivered throughout the year.
- National and international days were celebrated with great fervour and recreational visits to many interesting places including Bagh-e-Jinnah, Sindbad and the Museum, were arranged. Sports Day, organized in March witnessed enthusiastic participation.
- Groups of students and staff from over thirty schools and colleges visited us during the year and many of them also volunteered their services in the summer camp organized in the Village.
- Spoken English classes with the help of Rosetta Stone software are ongoing.
- The reunion was celebrated in the month of September and enjoyed by all who attended.



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