



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES PAKISTAN

January, 2018

Dear Friends,

It is time to, once again, send you greetings for the New Year from all of us associated with SOS Children's Villages Pakistan, and update you on developments over the past year. May 2018 be happy and healthy for you and your dear ones, prosperous for Pakistan and bring peace and stability to troubled regions all over the world. Our hearts go out to countless people displaced from their homes, existing in dangerous and difficult circumstances, and under conditions we cannot even begin to imagine. We can only be grateful for our own good fortune and pray for an end to the suffering of all those in distress.

Thanks to your support, SOS continues to prosper and maintain steady progress. There has actually been a spurt in our growth, subsequent to our decision to establish projects for children of women-headed families. In my last newsletter I mentioned that we have taken a decision to address this major social problem and establish separate projects for these children. Our regular criteria excludes children with mothers because of the detrimental effect of separation on a child. The new projects will relieve the women of their children's responsibility and enable them to earn a living, while providing full access to them and home visits on weekends. The pilot project was opened in Lahore two years ago, and we plan to establish these 'satellites' in every city in which we are operating. Homes have been opened in rented accommodation in Abbottabad and Karachi and the first phase of a purpose-built facility, in Kharian, will be ready for occupancy in the spring. This has been donated by the Brigadier Sahib Dad Khan Welfare Trust which is constructing a complex of



projects on land made available by the family. Such generosity is typical of the amazing spirit of altruism in our nation which enables the provision of desperately needed services to the less advantaged. Not only are people generous with their monetary assistance, there is also a remarkable culture of volunteerism. We, and others like us, benefit greatly from this spirit of giving and the difference it makes in the field of social service is remarkable. This is an immense credit to our nation, and heart-warming, when one is surrounded by so much negativity. I would like to express sincere gratitude to all our supporters, both the donors and the volunteers who serve on our committees and enable us to maintain standards of excellence. Special thanks are due to our overseas support groups in the UK, USA, Canada and Kuwait who publicize our work and collect funds for child sponsorship and construction of new projects.

High on our list of positive developments in the past year, is the appointment of Mrs. Saba Faisal as National Director, SOS Children's Villages Pakistan. She is a tremendous asset to the organization, being a qualified and experienced administrator, with great concern for child welfare. We welcome her to the SOS family and look forward to continued progress and growth under her leadership.



a loving home for every child... a loving home for every child... a loving home for every child... a loving home for every child

I will present an overview of recent developments, on-going work and future plans, and reports from the various projects will follow.

The SOS Children's Village Khairpur was opened last February- even though only five homes had been completed- and there are already 80 children in residence. Of the remaining ten homes, which are now nearing completion, six have been donated through the USA support group. The government has been very generous in their support of this project and have now also gifted us an old building, adjacent to the Village. This will be renovated to serve later as a youth facility for adolescent boys.

The Youth Home in Abbottabad has been demolished and a new one is being constructed on the same site. This has been designed like all our new youth facilities, with separate units housing 12 boys each. While the construction is on-going, the Chairperson, Mrs. Khola Mustafa has generously accommodated 42 boys in her school, Iqra Academy.

The Youth Home in Lahore is housed in an old, pre-partition building and we will shortly start construction of a new facility. This is being financed entirely by our support group in the USA.

Work is progressing well on the SOS Hermann Gmeiner Primary and High Schools and College in Dhodial. These will be completed by June and provide quality education to over 1200 students. This project has been mainly funded by a generous donor in the UK.

In Sialkot, the SOS Hermann Gmeiner High Schools were completed last year and the Primary School is now reaching completion. This complex has also been donated by a supporter in the UK.

Expansion of the SOS Multan Institute of Technology is in progress and will be completed by June. The Multan committee is doing a remarkable job in raising

funds for all their projects, spearheaded by the Mughis Sheikh family. The construction of a project for the children of single mothers is now being planned.

The construction of a Girls' High School and Primary School will shortly commence in the premises of the new SOS Children's Village in Sundgran Muzafarabad. Funds for the two schools are being raised by our support groups in the UK and USA.

Future projects are the SOS Children's Village Chakwal, youth facilities in Sialkot, Jamshoro and Khairpur and community schools in Jamshoro and Khairpur.

Our journey of 42 years has been exciting and most rewarding. When it began there was no way we could have predicted the outcome of our efforts but, by now, are convinced that there is no dearth of goodwill in Pakistan for deserving causes. With 56 projects around the country - 28 exclusively for orphans - and many more planned, we are proud of the impact we are making on the welfare sector. But none of this would be possible without your help.

On behalf of the thousands of children who are getting a chance in life, we extend sincere gratitude for your concern and look forward to your continuing support. Thank you for taking the children into your hearts and giving them hope for the future - enabling them to stand on their feet and become contributing members of society. Without your assistance we could have done little but together we are doing so much. Please continue to support us generously and we will, inshallah, take this mission to even greater heights in the years ahead.

Very warm regards to all of you. May you be blessed for your compassion and your concern!

Yours sincerely,



Souriya Anwar
President



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LAHORE

- The past year was filled with new initiatives and new goals and highlighted issues addressing healthy lifestyle building, women empowerment and ensuring safety in all aspects of life.
- The children received First Aid Training through collaboration with Hilal-e-Ahmar. The students were taught all the appropriate steps to take and procedures to follow in case of a medical emergency.
- With the collaboration of the City Traffic Police, the children in the Village and school were provided education about traffic rules, shown documentaries, and taught road discipline and safety measures.
- Makhdoom's Kitchen, an NGO, engaged the students in plantation and organic eating. They planted vegetables and fruits in each house and provided the students with the necessary tools and equipment to harvest and look after the plants- besides organizing interesting cooking competitions.
- To promote a healthy lifestyle, young girls are engaged in physical exercise under the training of sports' teachers from the University of Punjab. They are being taught judo, ju-jitsu, and taekwondo with a special focus on self-defence.
- A memorandum has been signed with Pakistan Sports Board, which will give us access to their swimming pool once a week so that our children can learn swimming from certified instructors.
- A Children's Carnival was held in November. There were different fun filled activities including stalls by schools. and various corporate groups, a food court, Lucky Irani Circus, puppet show, magic show, and games. Funds were raised for provision of solar power in the SOS complex.



DHODIAL

- The SOS Hermann Gmeiner School & College continues to flourish and expand. A new academic block, consisting of 12 classrooms has been added to the facility which will now accommodate 1200 students.
- This year, five children participated in the National Children's Mountain Conservation. Trip which was arranged under the patronage of the Adventure Foundation Pakistan.
- Samsung Pakistan installed a smart classroom and donated 30 tablets for the school. E-learning makes it possible to quickly create and communicate training, ideas, and concepts and makes learning an exciting experience.
- Brig.(R) Kamran Khan, conducted a workshop in the school on the E-learning programme and also donated a multimedia system, some tablets and software for the courses of the Boards of Education.
- A Chinese company, CCCC & CRBC, working on the Karakorum Highway, made a generous donation for upgrading the Village and an inauguration ceremony "Donation and Renovation" was held to mark the occasion. Many notable guests and dignitaries attended the function and the company arranged a delicious lunch.
- A Meena Bazaar was organized in the Village and many stalls set up with interesting products and entertaining activities. The local community participated enthusiastically and it resulted in an enjoyable and profitable event.



RAWALPINDI

- To inculcate feelings of patriotism, struggle, passion and discipline in our children, a trip was arranged to the Army Museum. They met the custodians who explained the history of the Pakistan movement and the role of the military.
- Children from the Sargodha and Jamshoro Villages stayed with us during their summer vacations and visited various

tourist sites. This inter-village exchange programme gives them the opportunity to learn about other areas and make new friends.

- All the residents of the Village and Youth Home, along with staff members and teachers, went to Chinar Golf Club in Garial, Murree and were served a delicious lunch at the FWO Rest House.

- National Cleaner Production Centre Foundation arranged an Environment Mela in Ayub Park on the theme “Connecting People to Nature”. Children participated in quiz and debate competitions and were taught how to make models from recycling art and crafts.

- During the summer vacations, many volunteers assisted our boys and girls in completing their homework, and arranged different activities in sports and in extracurricular activities.

- The marriage of one of our girls was solemnized and the children enthusiastically participated in the various functions, especially the mehndi.



KARACHI

- Many activities were organized to enhance the academic potential of the children. In this we are assisted by relevant organizations such as Computing Foundation for computer learning and IAB (I am the best) which held a workshop on youth development, amongst others.

- The SOS Community Clinic remained busy in providing basic health services to the community. Around 5000 outdoor parents were examined and treated last year.

- One of our boys got a commission in the Pakistan Army and is serving in an Infantry Battalion, while another boy after completing a degree in Electronic Engineering has started working in “Ejad International”.

- SOS Technical Training Institute is playing a vital role in community development by providing different technical courses and paving the way for youth to enter the job market or get work abroad.

- SOS has taken an initiative of setting up a centre for the children of single working women. Premises in the vicinity of the Village have been acquired and admissions started.



FAISALABAD

- One of our girls, Aamra Zahoor, passed F.Sc. Pre- Medical Examination with excellent marks and attained admission in Doctor of Physiotherapy classes.

- Serena Hotel organized cooking classes for the young girls which have enhanced their cooking skills.

- The School of Nutrition, University of Agriculture arrange sessions throughout the year for the children, raising awareness about balanced diet, suggesting diet charts and basic principles of health and hygiene.

- The children were taken on numerous excursions which included Rana Safari Park, Head Baloki, Murree and Lahore.

- The youth home boys independently organized a "Jashne Azadi Cricket Tournament" in which 32 teams participated. They achieved second position, which was a big achievement.

- During the year seven of our youth have left upon completing their training and securing good jobs. Two of the boys are trained chefs, two qualified for DAE Electrical, two BBA Hons. while one girl got married.



SARGODHA

- Children from the Village went on a ten day trip to Rawalpindi. The children enjoyed themselves thoroughly, visiting different tourist spots and also an excursion to Murree.

- The children were invited to PAF Mushaf Base to attend the annual flower exhibition. They were presented with gifts and thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful exhibition as well as visiting the little zoo on the premises.

- A generous donor arranged a dinner, musical night and magic show for the children at Prime Castle. The team there took good

care of them and they had a wonderful time.

- Sargodha Medical College volunteers arranged the annual Art Competition which served as a great opportunity for the children to express their thoughts and ideas creatively.

- One of our boys, Ubaid ul Hassan, showed great talent and secured second position in the 'Toyota Dream a Car Contest 2017'. He received a shield and gift hamper from the Toyota team.

- A seminar on Health Care was organized in the school and Dr. Nasrullah Khan raised awareness on health issues and daily living skills.



MULTAN

- As in previous years, the SOS Hermann Gmeiner School had excellent results and showed a high pass percentage. One of the outstanding students achieved 1044 marks.

- A friendly cricket match was played between the boys of Beaconhouse School and the SOS youth facility, in which the SOS team was triumphant.

- 'Make a Wish' campaign is a new concept initiated by the Friends of SOS Committee to encourage interaction between the children and the members. A wonderful initiative for fulfilling the small desires of the children.

- This year a new programme was introduced called Reading Buddy internship programme to inculcate an interest in reading and boost the confidence level of the children. It is proving to be very popular and beneficial for them.

- As a continuation of the flood rehabilitation programme carried out in affected villages, further assistance has been provided in the form of livestock sheds, soling of roads and a children's park. This was funded by a UK based donor.

- SOS Multan Institute of Technology has been approved for three trades by the Punjab Skills Development Fund and started providing training, and a monthly stipend of Rs.1500, to over 100 trainees.



SIALKOT

- We are proud to announce that one of our girls has completed her MBA in Human Resources and is employed by a well-reputed company as Assistant Manager HRM.

- The children enjoyed several trips throughout the year and during the summer visited Rawalpindi, Murree, Nathia Gali and Ayubia. In Islamabad they saw the local tourist attractions and especially enjoyed the Heritage Museum.

- Some of our children managed to score exceptionally well in the matriculation and intermediate examination and secured first divisions from City Public School and other institutions.

- The high schools for girls and boys were completed last year and the primary school is nearing completion. Since there is still no youth facility, the boys' school is being used to house the youth on a temporary basis. However, the school has started functioning in the girls' section and is doing well.



QUETTA

- An excursion was organized to the Juniper valley, Ziarat for the children. They thoroughly enjoyed the beauty of the valley and visited the historical residence of Quaid-e-Azam.

- The Austrian Ambassador visited the Village and spent quality time with the children. She appreciated the fact that children are living in a loving and protected environment

- On Pakistan's Defence Day, SOS Village set up a stall in Askari Park which was well received by all visitors and provided the children with an opportunity to mingle with residents of the society.

- The General Manager PTCL, and his team arranged a small carnival for the children. Different games, face painting etc. were organized, they were served delicious treats and received gifts. On the opening of a branch of OPTP they were also served treats.

- A team of dentists from CMH visited and did a check-up of all the children.



ISLAMABAD

- The opening ceremony of the SOS Primary School was held in March. Mr. & Mrs. Riffat Mahmood were the chief guests as well as other major contributors.

- In the summer the children visited Murree and Nathia Gali where they enjoyed the chairlifts and went trekking.

- The first marriage was organised in the Village amidst great festivity. The bride, Ayesha, is one of the earthquake affected children. After matriculation she has also trained as a Montessori teacher.

- A fundraising event was organized by the managing committee at the Serena Hotel at which Nida Azwer, the well-known fashion designer, exhibited her dress collection.

- SOS joined hands with the Downs Syndrome Club, and Green Volunteers to hold a fun event at SOS. Children with Downs syndrome interacted and played with our children and spent a joyful evening together.

- A workshop on "Climate Change" was held at the Village in which the older children participated. Children got awareness on the topic of global warming, the reasons behind this problem and our role in saving the environment.

- Many volunteers visited the children and organized fun-filled activities for them.

JAMSHORO

- During their vacations eleven children went on an extensive trip, which included visits to SOS Villages in Faisalabad, Sargodha, Rawalpindi, Dhodial and Lahore. It was an amazing experience for all the children to explore different historical and recreational places and they were able to see so much in their brief stopovers.

- The annual fundraiser "Jashan-e-Baharan" was organized in March. More than 3000 people attended the occasion, which comprised of activities like buggy rides, face painting, puppet show, musical performances, lucky draws, and robotics show.

- During the winter vacation one of our generous donors sponsored a trip for the children to visit Karachi. They visited the SOS Village and Youth Home and were taken to recreational places like Aladdin Amusement Park, Safari Park, Sea View and the Quaid's mausoleum.

- Visits were arranged to recreational and educational spots like Sun Way Lagoon, Gharo Water Park, Pakistan Naval Academy, Sargodhian Spirit Trust Public School, Rashidabad. These visits add to the exposure of their young minds.



MUZAFFARABAD

- The year has been very eventful with many exciting activities for the children. Our generous volunteers have organized iftar parties, events and outings for them and maintained an external link with the community

- Our young boys attended a seminar on "The Role of Youth

in Peace-building and Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals” at the Kashmir Institute of Management. •They also participated in International Youth Day at the institute. President AJK Sardar Masood Khan was the chief guest at the event.

•Azad Jammu Kashmir Students’ Patient Welfare Society (ASPWS) arranged a medical camp at the SOS Village and a team of doctors conducted a complete medical check-up of the children.

•Three of our young boys joined TEVTA for technical education: Sadaqat was enrolled in a course for obtaining a Diploma in Civil Engineering at Taxila whilst Badar and Haseeb were enrolled in a woodwork course in Athmuqam, Neelum.

•The annual excursion day trip for children was organized to the famous nearby tourist destination “ Peer Chanasi”. The day was packed with fun activities and children enjoyed the breathtaking views and snowfall.



PESHAWAR

•A fundraising event was organized by ‘Voice of Innocents’, at the PIA Planetarium, to support the SOS Village. The programme included musical performances and dinner for the children.

•A funfair was organized by a volunteer organization. The event was filled with fun activities and games for children including kite flying, jumping castle, food stalls, face painting, and a beautiful lantern show.

•The children were taken to Peshawar Bowling Alley, which was a new experience for them and they thoroughly enjoyed learning a new sport and leisure activity.

•A group of young adults was taken to ‘Huner Mela’ organized by the Tourism Corporation. It was a good learning opportunity where participants saw various stalls of artisans at work and enjoyed a fireworks show and a live musical concert.

•The Austrian Ambassador Dr. Brigitta Blaha visited the SOS Children Village and spent quality time interacting with mothers and children. She greatly appreciated the set up and facilities of the Village.

•The Awareness and Training Wing of Rescue 1122 arranged an awareness and training session for the children, which focused on safety of health and life.



KHAIRPUR

•Presently nine houses in the Village are occupied and the remaining six are nearing completion. There are already 80 children admitted to the facility.

•Trips to Kot Diji Qila, Bilawal Bhutto Zaradari Park and other interesting places were arranged for the entertainment and exposure of the children.

•Many generous donors from the community arranged iftari and dinner for the children during Ramzan.

•The Child Protection Unit and Red Crescent Association organized numerous activities to enhance the knowledge of the children. These included sessions on child protection and first aid.

•To impart basic health services in a meticulous and systematic manner, doctors from Peoples Primary Healthcare Initiatives (PPHI) attend to the children on a regular basis.

•Two prominent and warmly welcomed visitors were Syed Qaim Ali Shah, former Chief Minister Sindh , and Dr. Nafeesa Shah MNA. They were instrumental in arranging for the donation of the site as well as a generous government grant for this project.





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