



Dear Friends,

January 2012

As a new year dawns it brings with it, yet again, new hope and the dream of a better world. A world of peace and harmony, free of friction and hatred, free of intolerance and violence. Nowhere is this needed more than in our beloved homeland.

May 2012 be happy and fulfilling for each of you personally and usher in some change in the prevailing dismal scenario in the country. It is up to each one of us to contribute to this change, in every way we can, and refuse to accept the status quo. For our part, with your help, we continue to plan and prosper. With your assistance we are able to work steadily to reach our goal of reaching out to orphans and abandoned children in every part of the country.

Last summer saw the completion of the SOS Children's Village in Islamabad and 75 children, orphaned by the AJK earthquake, have moved into their new homes. In October, the first phase of the Quetta SOS Village was completed and the children, who had been occupying the Youth Home premises, moved into five family homes. Construction of the next five is under way. The older boys stayed on in the Youth Home, which is now exclusively for them. The SOS Children's Village Jamshoro is also ready for occupancy and will shortly start admitting children, and in Multan, the construction of a Youth Home is progressing rapidly. Perhaps the best news of all is the start of construction of the SOS Children's Village Peshawar. This is a project which we have been trying to establish, unsuccessfully, for almost ten years and it is finally becoming a reality. If there is one lesson I have learned in all these years it is this, that perseverance brings success. Also, that our role is to not give up and to put our faith in that greater power which makes everything possible.

Yet another area we will soon be serving is AJK. The earthquake badly damaged a large part of the then just completed SOS Children's Village Muzaffarabad. Some of the family homes, the administrative block and the school had to be demolished. The remaining eight homes will now house the older boys and a new school has also been constructed. The need for a Youth Home will arise after the boys reach adolescence, and we propose to open a temporary Children's Village on the premises. Meanwhile, plans for a new SOS Children's Village, in that town, are ready. Construction will commence next month, on a site provided by ERRA and the AJK government. We have also been allocated land in Rawalakot but, unfortunately, local disputes are delaying that project.

As you will have gathered from the above report we are making steady progress and, those of you who share our concern for these vulnerable children, are the people who make this possible. Your generosity is amazing and we thank you, most sincerely, for your support and for your confidence in us. For our part, we renew our commitment to the children and will continue to serve them with diligence and to the very best of our ability.

I would like to request you to please assist us in garnering more support for our work, both for construction of new projects and sponsorship for meeting maintenance costs. The new projects require support which can be given through the financing of a family home or any other facility. Please invite others to consider this sadqa-e-jaria. We now also offer our donors the option of Islamic banking.

There is a need for many more sponsors. Until recently the Human Development Foundation and Telenor were sponsoring 150 and 100 earthquake orphans, respectively, as emergency relief. These children are now assimilated into various projects and need new sponsors. In addition, new admissions are regularly being made. We will welcome any assistance you can give in this regard. Please invite anyone who is interested, to visit one of our projects and witness for themselves how we function. It is difficult to describe the 'atmosphere' in an SOS Village.

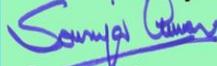
Apart from the generous donors who make our work possible, the other important secret of our success is our volunteers. We have the support of dedicated and competent persons who serve on our committees, organize fundraising, oversee construction, monitor operations and ensure that policies are implemented. Without this input it would be impossible to attain standards of excellence and plan so ambitiously. Words are inadequate to express my thanks. May they be well rewarded for giving so generously of themselves.

Many thanks are also due to our several committees who reach out to the diaspora and collect funds for our work. They organize many successful events and particular mention must be made of an outstanding event organized last summer in London. Shafqat Amanat Ali performed gratis, and amongst other support, the children of Gulgee donated one of his paintings. Tremendous effort was put into this and the results were also brilliant, ensuring the position of the UK Supporters Group as the most successful. Regular fundraising events held in Washington and Kuwait also bring in considerable and steady donations. We are greatly indebted to all our supporters and thank you for your efforts on behalf of the children. If anyone reading this would like to establish a support group in their area please contact me because the more support we get the more we can do. Apart from the website, a brief presentation can also be viewed on YouTube.

The real reward for our efforts is the success of the children and it gives one great satisfaction to see them take their place in society. Many children have done exceptionally well and recent successes include our first doctor and first architect - both girls - and the first entrant to the Central Superior Services. Higher education is expensive and specific donations for this purpose are invited.

With so much else going wrong we are proud to be able to prove that if one has the resolve, standards of excellence can also be achieved. Your assistance is vital to ensure that we can continue to do this and continue to make a difference to so many lives. Thank you for caring.

Yours sincerely,



Souriya Anwar
President

www.sos.org.pk

DID YOU KNOW THAT

- SOS Children's Villages International is the largest orphan care charity in the world, operating in 133 countries and serving over 25 million children
- It was founded in Austria in 1949 by a young medical student to help war orphans
- SOS Emergency Programmes are an integral part of our work. In Pakistan, the Afghan Relief, Earthquake Relief and Flood Relief Programmes have made an outstanding impact
- Food supplies (Rs.170 million), medicines (Rs. 7 million), and tents (Rs.20 million) were distributed to flood affectees. In addition, two model villages (Rs.55 million) were constructed.
- These programmes were mainly financed by the SOS Promoting Associations in Europe
- SOS Children's Villages Pakistan is the **ONLY** association, outside Europe, which is self-financing
- There are 45 SOS projects in the country which include community schools, technical training facilities, medical centres and an integrated rural support programme
- 19 projects are exclusively for orphans
- The girls' marriages are arranged by SOS
- Every child is enabled to become self-reliant through access to higher education, technical training or skill learning
- An SOS boy has donated a family home in 'his' Village, Lahore. This is the only example of its kind, worldwide

KARACHI



SOS Village Karachi has had a very busy and productive year. Activities included Sports Week and Summer Camp, comprising of cooking, painting, riding and swimming classes. Mr. Lloyd Mabdock CEO HSBC Pakistan, was the Chief Guest of the closing ceremony of the Summer Camp.

Many corporate visitors, including P&G and Phillip Morris, arranged beneficial activities in the Village. P&G has regularly supported SOS by giving donations and sponsoring the children. A health related NGO, Naya Jeevan, launched medical insurance for SOS children and staff, sponsored by Dupont Pakistan. Under the leadership of Mr. Javed Jabbar, the Jamshoro Village is nearing completion. The process of setting up a Jamshoro Managing Committee and recruitment of personnel has commenced.

A group of students from different classes participated in a global competition arranged by "Design For Change Pakistan". The students started a fundraising drive to collect funds for uniforms, shoes, school bags and stationary. As a result, several under privileged children from nearby communities have been provided basic education.

SIALKOT

Like every year, SOS Hermann Gmeiner School students performed exceptionally. The children excitedly participated in the Annual Prize Distribution ceremony. We are proud to announce that five Cadet College boys from SOS got 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions in their respective classes.

Eid Milad un Nabi was celebrated enthusiastically, while other events, including Sports Day, saw the active participation of children. During Ramadan, the children enjoyed fasting, praying and iftars at KFC, McDonalds and Pizza Hut.

Children planted vegetable and fruit trees on the fertile area within the Village and enjoyed fresh vegetables throughout the summer season. During Ramadan, the Village had an ample amount of guavas growing on its trees. The Village has purchased thirty chickens and built a proper cage for them, aiming to provide children with fresh eggs during the winter season. This is an experimental project and will expand according to the requirements.



LAHORE



Like every year, this year the children at the Lahore Village were engaged in different healthy activities, some organized by different corporate groups. ICI Pakistan invited our children to visit the Khewra Salt Mines. Lakson Group has very generously offered to improve the Village gardens and plantations this year. Albario replaced all worn out UPS batteries with new ones; a much appreciated gesture due to the extreme summer heat and frequent power outages.

Phillip Morris, Coca Cola and Ufone organized Iftar parties that added extra spark to the holy month of Ramadan. Seeds of Peace, an NGO working for peace conducted a large-scale 'green' activity in the Village and planted a fruit tree in each home. Children are enthusiastically nursing their saplings in their yards. Two Austrian bikers traveling to raise funds for establishing an SOS Village passed through Lahore and visited us. This was a moment of complete awe and amazement for the children.

DHODIAL

RTP NGO organized Women's Day, Youth Day and Peace Day at the SOS Children's Village, and also held workshops on child nourishment and development. The Village children continued to participate in the usual outdoor education programmes, including a first aid course, advance skiing, etc, sponsored by the Adventure Foundation. This proved to be beneficial as children can apply these skills to their practical lives.

Recreational trips to Ayubia and Nathiagali were thoroughly enjoyed. The chair lift ride in Ayubia being the favourite activity.

On Eid Milad un Nabi children lit up the entire Village with candles to celebrate the birth of the Holy Prophet. A reunion of ex-SOS children took place in March 2011, where some brought their spouses and children. They shared fond memories of the time they had spent in the Village and Youth Home. It was decided that an Association of Ex-SOS Youth would be formed to keep them in touch with each other and the SOS Village.



MULTAN



This year, SOS Multan arranged its first Children's Festival in collaboration with the Rafi Peer Theatre, Lahore. The festival was sponsored with the amount of Rs. 225,000 donated by the Chairperson and committee members. This beautiful event was arranged in collaboration with the private schools of Multan and took place on the Village premises. Puppet shows, magic shows, mural painting and face painting were part of the programme. SOS Multan was able to generate Rs. 885,723 through this successful festival.

In the wake of the devastating floods last year, SOS recognized the need for providing shelter to flood victims. With the donations received, the SOS Multan committee took upon the task of constructing two model villages in Muzaffargarh district. This project will provide homes to 150 affectees and is now almost complete. Inauguration of the Govt. Bakhsh Wala School in Multan district took place in September. The floods had almost completely destroyed this school, leaving 150 children without a school. Through the generous donation of some employees of McKinsey & Company, SOS has rebuilt the existing rooms of the school and built three new rooms and three bathrooms.

Rotary Club organized a dinner for the children. A Rotarian donated 10 air conditioners for the auditorium as well as Rs. 45,000.

RAWALPINDI

Several recreational and informative trips were taken during this year, organized by TDCP.

Various organizations, including Maxus, arranged competitions and activities for our children. A one-day free dental camp was arranged by Margala Dental Hospital for all the Village and Hostel children.

Prizes were distributed among the school position holders at the Annual Prize Distribution. Many beneficial workshops related to education were arranged by I-Earn that helped children with their English speaking skills.



FAISALABAD

The staff and children were saddened by the sad demise of the Village Director Mr. Tassarwar Hussain Naqvi. He served the SOS Village for ten years and his dedication and hard work will always be remembered.

Friends of SOS organized a "Family Festival" in the Village that generated Rs. 700,000. Stalls were set up selling various food items. Families visiting the festival also gave generous donations.

Volunteers from different schools joined the Summer Volunteer Programme, helping children with their homework as well as holding extra-curricular activities such as flower arrangement, pottery making, etc.

Both Eids were celebrated with great enthusiasm followed by the distribution of gifts and delicious meals.



QUETTA



The opening ceremony for the Village's first home was held in July. This was a very remarkable development for the Quetta Village, as previously children were living in temporary premises. Miss Raheela Hameed Durrani, Minister for Prosecution, donated one of the family homes. She has also promised to provide a security system. The fully furnished house provides shelter to ten children and their mother.

The year was also marked by many official visits. The American Ambassador visited the Village and gave a donation of USD 100,000 for the construction of two family homes. Mr. Tahir Mehmood, Minister for Education, gave a donation for the construction of a portion of the building. The German Ambassador donated a dispensary for the campus. The President of Germany awarded the Cross of the Order of Merit to Brig. Abdul Razaq Baloch, General Secretary SOS Village Committee. It is the first time that this honour has been awarded to any Pakistani.

Children went for a recreational trip in the winter holidays, as it gets very cold in Quetta. 61 SOS

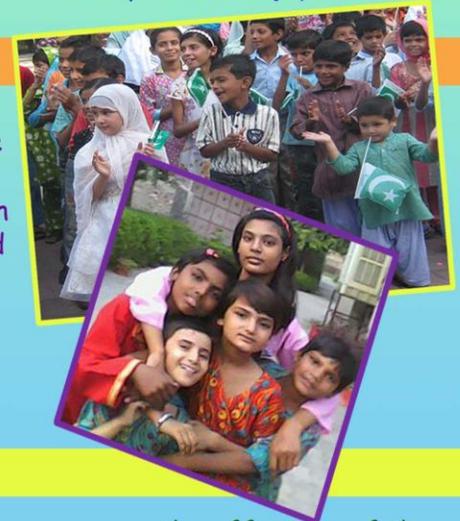
children along with mothers visited Rawalpindi and Lahore. Mothers were given training on Child Protection and Care and the children were given English and Art classes. They had an enjoyable time visiting historical places and other landmarks.

SARGODHA

Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm, as were the other important days, including Eid days, Mother's day, Defense day.

An Agricultural Exhibition was held at Agricultural University, which was attended by almost 100 children. Horse Dance, Dhol Dhamal and Neeza Bazi, the highlights of the function, were greatly enjoyed by the children. Famous scientist, Dr. Samar Mubarak Mund, the Vice Chancellor of Sargodha University, was the chief guest.

Finally, community awareness of this project is increasing and will enhance the lives of the children in many ways.



ISLAMABAD



All the children who moved in over the summer are the affectees of the 2005 AJK earthquake and had previously been accommodated in temporary accommodation.

As the local community discovers this project in their midst, the children are being warmly welcomed. In particular, the Headstart School System and NUST University staff and students have organised some enjoyable programmes.

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