

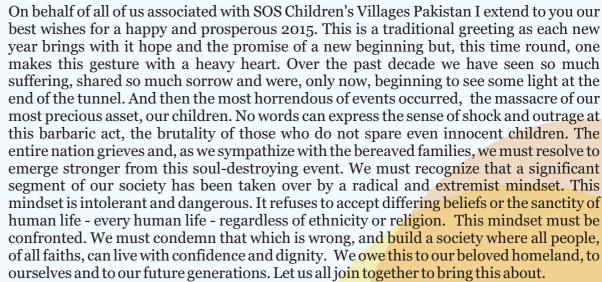
Aloving home for every child

A loving home for every child

January, 2015

1975-2015





Amidst this sadness we also celebrate that which is good and positive, for this is what gives us hope for the future. In this category we can count our own successful achievements. Time has flown by and it is hard to believe that we embarked on this journey four decades ago. This year we are celebrating the 40th. anniversary of the founding of SOS Children's Villages Pakistan, and what a rewarding and fulfilling journey it has been. Credit for this must go to all those who have made it possible. The generous donors with whose assistance we are able to implement ambitious plans, and the committed volunteer committees which establish new projects, maintain high standards and ensure that the orphans also get a chance in life.

When we opened the first project in Lahore we knew that we must also reach out to deserving children in other parts of the country. We also knew that it could be done - that our people would embrace the concept of SOS and help us take it forward. But what we have been able to achieve surpasses anything one could have imagined at the start. We now have a presence in all the four provinces and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and currently have 45 projects - of these, 22 exclusively for orphans. This year we will inaugurate three more SOS Children's Villages - Peshawar, Muzaffarabad and Rawalakotwo community schools in Peshawar and Rawalakot and a technical training centre in Multan, bringing the total number of projects to 51. This is a considerable achievement by any standards, and we could not have done it without your support. What even surpasses these figures is the success of the thousands of children who have benefited from our efforts. Bankers, businessmen, army officers, doctors, architects, engineers, teachers, entrepreneurs, government servants, realtors, technicians, mechanics, salesmen, factory workers. The list is endless, and so is our joy at seeing the difference SOS is making, not only to the lives of orphans, but the contribution to nation-building.

Our work makes steady progress. A school is under construction in Sialkot, mainly funded by UK residents, Mr. & Mrs. Javed Ahmad. The entire school complex in Peshawar has been donated by Mr. Mohsin Aziz, in memory of his father. In Sindh, the construction of the SOS Children's Village Khairpur, generously supported by Syed Qaim Ali Shah, the Chief Minister, is in the preliminary stages. Another project, which will meet a pressing need, is the construction of a residential unit for 100 orphans, in conjunction with a fine school building which has been donated to us in Johar Town, Lahore. The concept differs a little from our regular projects so this has not been planned according to our traditional



Villages with self-contained family homes, but will consist of dormitories with common facilities. The criteria for admission to an SOS Children's Village excludes children with mothers, because no institution can replace a mother. However, we are also aware that this is a very big social problem. Women without support are often unable to earn a livelihood because they are encumbered with small children. We will admit such children to this new facility and will provide as much access to the children as is feasible, including home visits. We hope this model can be replicated, as it will ease much hardship.

Also in Lahore we will soon start planning a new youth facility which will be constructed on land generously donated by Mian Shahbaz Sharif, the Chief Minister. The boys are presently housed in an old pre-partition building which is totally inadequate for their needs.

With so many new projects in the pipeline the need for funds has become urgent. Besides the projects mentioned we also need the following:

- Muzaffarabad primary & girls high school
- Jamshoro youth facility, primary school
- Islamabad primary & girls high school
- Sialkot youth facility, primary & high school
- Rawalakot SOS Children's Village, high school
- Peshawar youth facility

The need is endless but, so is the generosity of our people and, with their help we will one day, inshallah, do all this and more. Please consider making a donation towards the construction of one of the projects and also tell others who do not know about our ongoing expansion. This newsletter is sent to all our donors but we need to reach out to many more people. Please share it with others and invite them to visit our nearest project and see for themselves what we are doing for the orphans. There is so much more that can be done if we all work together.

Last year in the newsletter I mentioned that, in the interest of economy as well as security, we were exploring the possibility of installing solar power in our projects. I am pleased to inform you that this is becoming a reality. Solar power meets 50% of the energy requirement of the SOS Children's Village Multan and in the SOS Children's Village Lahore, 40%. The Islamabad Village has installed solar hot water gevsers in all 15 family homes, through a donation from the SOS UK Pakistan Supporters Group, and 10 homes have two solar powered lights and a fan each, courtesy of ZTE, a Chinese company. The performance of the solar units is excellent and the price is also steadily coming down. It now costs Rs. 350,000 to provide solar power (3KVA) to one family home and we invite you to consider making a specific donation for this purpose. The best news of all has to be the very generous gesture of K-Electric of providing free electricity to the SOS Children's Village, SOS Youth Home and SOS School in Karachi - a shining example of corporate social responsibility. In this context, others who deserve special mention are KFC, whose management presented us with a cheque for Rs.6 million, the proceeds from a fundraising campaign 'Mitao Bhook', organized by them in their restaurants during Ramzan; AG Publications which, as a public service, publish a complimentary advertisement in every issue of Newsweek, and the Punjab Group of Colleges, which provides 25 scholarships to our children in different locations. Mobicash is soliciting donations for SOS through 50,000 outlets across Pakistan. It is due to such generosity that we can move forward.

In ending I would like to express sincere thanks to all our donors, here and abroad, to our wonderful support groups in the UK, US, Canada and Kuwait and to those who are the secret of our success - our dedicated volunteer committees all over the country - who make it possible for us to establish and maintain centres of excellence. To quote the Japanese poet Ryunosuke Satoro "Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean".

All that we have achieved over the last 40 years has been made possible through your support. Where Pakistan features at the bottom of just about every rating, in the SOS fraternity it ranks at the very top. Out of 134 associations (excluding Europe) we are the ONLY self-financing country. What a huge credit to you, our supporters! What a testament to the nation's spirit of philanthropy!

As we enter our fifth decade we look forward to your continued support. Thank you for keeping the children in your hearts and making SOS Pakistan a source of great pride. May you be blessed for your concern.

Yours sincerely,

Souriya Anwar President

Lahore







- •The 2014 annual SOS Carnival was a huge success. The stars of tinsel town, Fawad Khan, Bilal Lashari and Coke Studio's Jimmy Khan, added excitement to the event.
- Fatima Group generously provided solar power to one of our homes, as did Mr. Sohail Afzal and friends.
- Twenty five young students from a Korean Youth Organization, 'Hi Friends', entertained the children with mesmerizing performances, ranging from traditional dances to small skits. Our children, ever eager to learn and widen their horizons, made some lasting friends.
- •Qaiser Abbas of an NGO "Possibilities" visited the children and shared his inspiring story. Not being able to afford a bicycle as a child, he arranges the distribution of bicycles to children under a programme, 'My First Bicycle'. After the initial donation he arranged an additional 10 cycles sponsored by Coca Cola. Every house in the Village now has a bike.
- •At the '13th Youth Performing Arts Festival', the children performed in a play on "Child Rights" and won the Junior Award. They also won first and second prize in a poster competition held by Arfa Technology Park.
- •The children had a wonderful field trip to Oasis, Golf and Aqua Resort, sponsored by Wareesa Islam Trust, headed by a team of doctors.
- This year the annual SOS Inter Village Cricket Tournament was successfully hosted by SOS Karachi. The team from Lahore made us proud by bringing home the champion's trophy for the third year in a row. As an extra bonus they had the privilege of travelling to and from Karachi, along with the team from Sargodha, in a VIP saloon generously arranged by the Federal Minister for Railways, Khawaja Saad Rafique.

Dhodial







- •A new academic block is being added to the school with assistance from SOS Children's Villages Pakistan USA.
- •The SOS Children's Village Dhodial continues to delight all by consistently producing excellent results on the academic front and instilling a strong sense of ambition in the children.
- •The SOS Hermann Gmeiner Public School and Dhodial College are steadily increasing their intake and presently serve 842 children.
- •This year, kitchen gardening was started under an eco-literacy program. The children enthusiastically participated in the programme and were educated about gardening. The idea proved very successful and now each house is growing its own seasonal vegetables.
- •Children participated in a skiing course held at the PAF Base Kalabagh, organized by the Adventure Foundation of Pakistan. They also participated in a function arranged by an NGO 'Right to Play' on "International Day of Sports for Development and Peace" at a government school.
- •Representatives of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society KPK visited the Village and spent time with the children.
- •During Ramzan, iftari parties were organized for the children, sponsored by various supporters including an NGO "Human Appeal".
- •Children visited Faisalabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan. They also visited Gourmet Cola Company and saw the making of soft drinks and recycling of bottles.
- •Four of our girls Dr. Mehnaz Gul, Uzma, Tasleem and Saba got married. We wish them a blissful marital life.

Rawalpindi







•Like every year, this year too, we took immense joy in watching our children grow and helping them transition smoothly from one phase of life to another.

- •Al-Shifa Eye Hospital setup an eye screening camp for the Village and school children, where free examination and consultation was provided.
- •The PIA Boy Scouts Association arranged a camp for SOS Boy Scouts. Together, they held a march, highlighting the importance of peace. They carried banners and placards stating "We Want Peace". Two of our scouts were selected to participate in the prestigious 'Gold Medal Camp' held in Karachi at the PIA Training Centre.
- •On "World Oral Health Day", our children were invited to a function arranged at the Armed Forces Institute of Dentistry. Through a mix of enchanting audio and video presentations, they were made aware of the benefits of a healthy mouth and how simple changes in daily routine can reduce the number of dreaded visits to a dentist.
- *During the winter, the group of older children went to Murree and enjoyed the snowfall. Another group of children spent their summer vacations in making new friends and exploring the scenic environs at SOS Dhodial.
- •Madame Valentino and other members of the Russian Embassy visited us. They enjoyed the interaction with the children and made their day by distributing candies, chocolates and gift items amongst them.
- •Two of our girls were married with the usual traditional rites and rituals. One of them married an ex-boy of our Village. We wish them a very happy married life.

Karachi







- •This has been another busy and fruitful year in the life of SOS Karachi, currently housing 175 children in the Village and Youth Home.
- •The children had a year full of knowledge/entertainment and festive activities, sponsored by our dedicated volunteers and eminent citizens.
- •Summer camp was the most looked forward to activity helped by students of IBA/NUST/Karachi University/Beaconhouse School System and Bahria University.
- •Scouting, both in the Village and Hermann Gmeiner School, is a regular activity. All the children are encouraged to attend the training programmes held at the PIA Scouting Academy.
- •Aga Khan University conducted some valuable awareness programme about health and hygiene.
- Our Youth Home boys are doing well in their studies. A number of capacity building workshops covering leadership qualities/attitude/communication skills have been conducted for them. The space study and observation of different planets by powerful telescopes was the favourite one, conducted by the Karachi Astronomers Society.
- •The SOS Hermann Gmeiner School showed good results in both SSC and HSC. The school also had an activity filled year.
- •The SOS Medical Centre plays an important role by providing out-patient service to a large number of women and children from the community. Ultrasound, immunization, polio eradication and other essential services are provided.
- •The SOS Technical Training Institute, maintaining its philosophy of "Skill Development for Employment", is marching forward with a number of success stories. It is also engaged in a partnership with the Shell Tameer Programme, creating enterpreneurial opportunities for the youth. Many trained are well settled in business and jobs, both in the local and overseas markets.

Faisalabad







•The SOS Village experienced many improvements this year. Renovation work on four homes was completed with the generous help of Serena Hotel, Faisalabad. A donation from Universiti Teknologi Petronas, Malaysia, went to the renovation of the Village mosque. A new room has also been renovated in the Village which will serve as a play room. Thanks to Mr. Saeed and his friends from the United States, we were also able to renovate and refurbish our community hall.

- •Lectures were delivered by Highway Police officers on the importance of obeying traffic rules and the avoidance of accidents. Health department officials lectured them about the prevention of dengue and other diseases.
- •A six-month computer skills programme was arranged for girls and boys in the IT laboratory, for which they were awarded certificates.
- There were many visits from various luminaries and volunteers this year. The DCO Faisalabad visited the Village on Eid day, accompanied by the management of Klash (Pvt) Ltd. They were kind enough to spend some time with our children, distributing toys and other gifts. The DCO also donated Rs.200,000 for sports equipment.
- •Commissioner Child Rights (Ombudsman) Punjab, Mr. Javed Nisar also visited the Village. He appreciated the hard work we are doing to improve the lives of the children.

Sargodha







- •The SOS Children's Village Sargodha remained busy with a host of activities on the academic as well as the recreational front.
- •PAF Mushaf Air Base invited the children to two flower exhibitions that it organized, to celebrate nature and beauty. Transport facilities, refreshments and gifts were provided by the officers. Later in the year, the children were even more excited when they were invited to the PAF march past. The officers again accommodated SOS children in every way possible and we remain indebted to them for their generous hospitality and partnership.
- •In May, the Youth Home boys went on an exciting trip to Islamabad and Murree where they visited many beautiful sites including Faisal Mosque, Shakarparian and the Pakistan Monument. In Murree they especially enjoyed the chairlift in Patriata. Some children also visited the SOS Village Multan and were shown around the historical and religious monuments of the city. The children thoroughly enjoyed the stay and took back a lot of memories and friendships.
- •In June, the children enjoyed a mango and lassi party, in which the DCO and his family also participated enthusiastically.
- •Two of our beloved SOS girls, Rabia Imran and Nasreen Akhtar were married during the year with the traditional festivities which the children enjoyed thoroughly.

Multan







- •We are pleased to inform you that this year SOS Multan got 100 % first division results!
- An additional unit in the Youth Home was formally inaugurated.
- •The Fundraiser Event 2014 took place with a bang! A sophisticated evening was arranged, showcasing singers Saman Marvi and Amanat Ali Khan, followed by dinner. The revenue generated exceeded all expectations, reaching a grand total of Rs. 9,365,000.
- •The children attended a Rescue Training Workshop. Mian Mughees A. Sheikh (Chairman Colony Group) was the chief guest. Mr. Zafar Ali Shah, Regional head Rescue 1122 and Mr. Muhammad Hanif from Rotary Club also attended.
- •Mr. Gohar Zaidi, General Manager and Mr. Abdullah Umer, GM Operations of Nizam Energy visited the Village. With the help of generous donors they equipped ten homes with solar energy.
- Every single iftari was sponsored by our friends, members and sponsors. The Ramzan campaign brought good results in the monetary collection of funds. Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with great fervour. Mr. Azhar Baloch and Mr. Javid Hashmi distributed clothes to the children to add colour to their Eid festivities.

Sialkot







- •The blessings of solar technology arrived in the SOS Children's Village Sialkot when, in January, a very generous donor had 10 homes installed with solar powered water heating systems, making the biting cold weather more bearable.
- •We are really thankful to Anas Cheema, a Pakistani student in Canada who, inspired by the mission of SOS Children's Villages, decided to collect funds for this noble cause through a bicycle tour of the country.
- •On March 23rd. the children viewed a parade arranged by the Sialkot Cantonment in Garrison Polo Ground to commemorate Pakistan Resolution Day. Additionally, they were briefed about military equipment such as tanks, anti-aircraft guns, mobile kitchen, army communication systems as well as solar energy systems. They were also invited to a Spring Festival, organized by the Sialkot Garrison Commander.
- •On Independence Day, Eden & Crescent Lions Club members arranged a walk, followed by a flag hoisting ceremony, lunch and a musical evening.
- •GOC 15 Division Sialkot Garrison, Major General Amir Aslam Khan, invited the children to participate in a function organized by the army on "Youm-e-Shuhada". Children paid homage to the martyrs by presenting patriotic songs.
- •As a reward for producing excellent results in the final examinations, the children were treated to an excursion to Islamabad. The older boys enjoyed a trip to Bhimbher and Mangla Dam.

Quetta







- •There are presently 100 children, from various districts of Balochistan, admitted in the Village and Youth Home.
- •The construction of the Youth Home, Administrative Block, Fitness Centre, Mosque, Dispensary, Director's Home, Aunt's Home, Community Hall, and 15 Family Homes has been completed. The homes are fully equipped and furnished and can accommodate 200 children. This was impossible without the help of our generous donors. We are now in the last phase of construction. Hopefully we will reach our target by the end of 2015.
- •Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, the Chief Minister, visited the Village and announced the donation of a home in memory of the late MPA Handry Masih Baloch, a school bus and Rs.2 million for the renovation of the Youth Home. He also promised 8 acres of land in Gwadar for future expansion.
- •We are immensely grateful to Merck (Pvt.) Ltd., HQ Southern Command and HQ FC Balochistan for their generous ongoing support.
- Our children are getting the best possible education in Army Public Schools. Two of our Youth Home boys got first division in matriculation and went to one of the Punjab Group of Colleges for further education.
- •The Village has started 'Blue Birds' and 'Girl Guides' programmes with the help of the Girl Guides Association. We have also started Montessori classes for toddlers who are not yet going to school.
- •Children enjoyed a one day trip to the scenic Hanna Lake. It was entirely facilitated by the Frontier Corps Headquarters.

Islamabad





- •The SOS Children's Village Islamabad welcomed Lea Meier, a Swiss national, as a volunteer for one year. Her enthusiasm and passion to contribute to the development of our children is heartwarming.
- •Mr. Isa Soemawidjaja, an Indonesian national, currently working as RSD Consultant at UNHCR, Islamabad, along with his colleagues, celebrated his birthday with the SOS children. "This year's birthday is very special in my life", he said.

- •A group of final year medical students from Shifa Hospital Islamabad, arranged a medical camp in the Village. They conducted free medical examination and consultation. Green Volunteers joined hands with them, organizing fun activities for the children.
- •Telenor and WWF arranged a paper making workshop for young children, creating awareness regarding the environment and recycling. On another occasion more than 200 fruit trees were planted. Every child planted a tree and will be responsible for looking after it.
- •Madam Bao Ji Qing, the wife of the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, and wives of other senior officials of the embassy, visited the Village and school. Children chanted slogans of 'Long live Pak China friendship' in English and Chinese. Solar home systems were donated to the homes by ZTE, a Chinese company.
- •Marine Security Guards from the American Embassy invited the younger children to the embassy under the "Toys for Tots" programme. Ambassador Richard Olson also joined the children for some time, and the enjoyable function ended with lunch and distribution of gifts.

Jamshoro







- •Functional since April 2012, the SOS Children's Village Jamshoro currently houses 41 children and has enjoyed a fruitful year.
- •Six of the children, with absolutely no background in education, graduated from the accelerated learning programme, 'Jugnoo'. They were directly accepted into senior classes at a private school.
- •The Village nursery has been fully established. Grown plants are being regularly used for landscaping work in the Village and are also being offered for sale.
- The children participated in a Youth Conference organized on 'Pakistan Resolution Day'and put up impressive performances which won them appreciation, awards and certificates. They also won 11 prizes in the Inter Orphanages Educational Gala 2014, organized by Isra University Welfare Society.
- •The children made cards for Village employees on 'World Dignity Day'. They expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the gardener for keeping the Village green and beautiful, the sweeper for keeping the Village neat and clean and the driver for pick and drop services.
- •Mahran University, Sindh University, Beaconhouse School System, Saint Bonaventure, ISWS, Hyderabad Welfare Society and community members visited the Village and extended support in kind comprising of school uniforms, bags, socks, ration items, clothes etc. Hindu Panchyat also visited the Village, spent a couple of hours with the children and had lunch with them.
- •Children visited Colgate Palmolive Ltd., Indus River, Sindhology, Funland and the zoo. These were exciting as well as learning experiences for them.

Muzaffarabad







- We are very proud to have established a primary school with plans for further expansion in conjunction with the Village. The school, functional since May 2014, is a result of a successful collaboration between SOS and a prestigious private school, 'Headstart', based in Islamabad.
- •We are grateful to Karwan Foundation for donating 250 fruit and forest plants. We are also thankful to the Veterinary Department of the AJK Government for setting up a chicken shed complete with 50 live chickens. Now, the eggs for our children's breakfast come straight from this shed. Mr. Bazal Naqvi, Minister for Livestock, Agriculture and Information visited the Village for inaugurating of the shed. The Agriculture Department trained and educated the SOS staff and children about kitchen gardening.
- •A team of dermatologists and pediatricians from AJK Medical College regularly visit to carry out the children's medical check-up. The young doctors also arranged a pre-Eid ceremony in which they distributed presents to the children.
- •As part of the annual excursion trip, the children visited 'Peer Chanasi', a popular tourist destination a few kilometres from Muzaffarabad, and enjoyed its breathtaking views amidst falling snow.
- •The head of the World Food Program, Mr. Nadeem Baig, very graciously arranged an iftar dinner for the entire Village, to which all UN departments were invited.
- •On the occasion of Chand Raat, a musical band, 'Youth on the Move' arranged festivities for the children and added to their Eid excitement by giving them presents.

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