



January, 2016

**Dear Friends,**

As another New Year dawns we extend warm greetings and best wishes for 2016. May it bring peace to troubled regions, prosperity to Pakistan and happiness and good health to all of you.

This year, as we complete 40 caring years, we have reached an important milestone in our history. In 1975 we established SOS Children's Villages Pakistan, with the objective of providing orphans with a loving home, a secure life and hope for the future. This, everyone will agree, is the right of every child, and we have worked tirelessly to ensure that orphans, too, get these rights. The proof of our success is the cheerful atmosphere which pervades in our Villages and the assimilation of our children into the mainstream. Before leaving us they must be equipped to support themselves. Those that are not able to acquire higher education are given skill training, and they are following diverse careers. It gives us tremendous pleasure when they return, with their families, and narrate their stories. Several, both boys and girls, are living abroad, and keep in touch with each other, and us, through the ubiquitous social media.

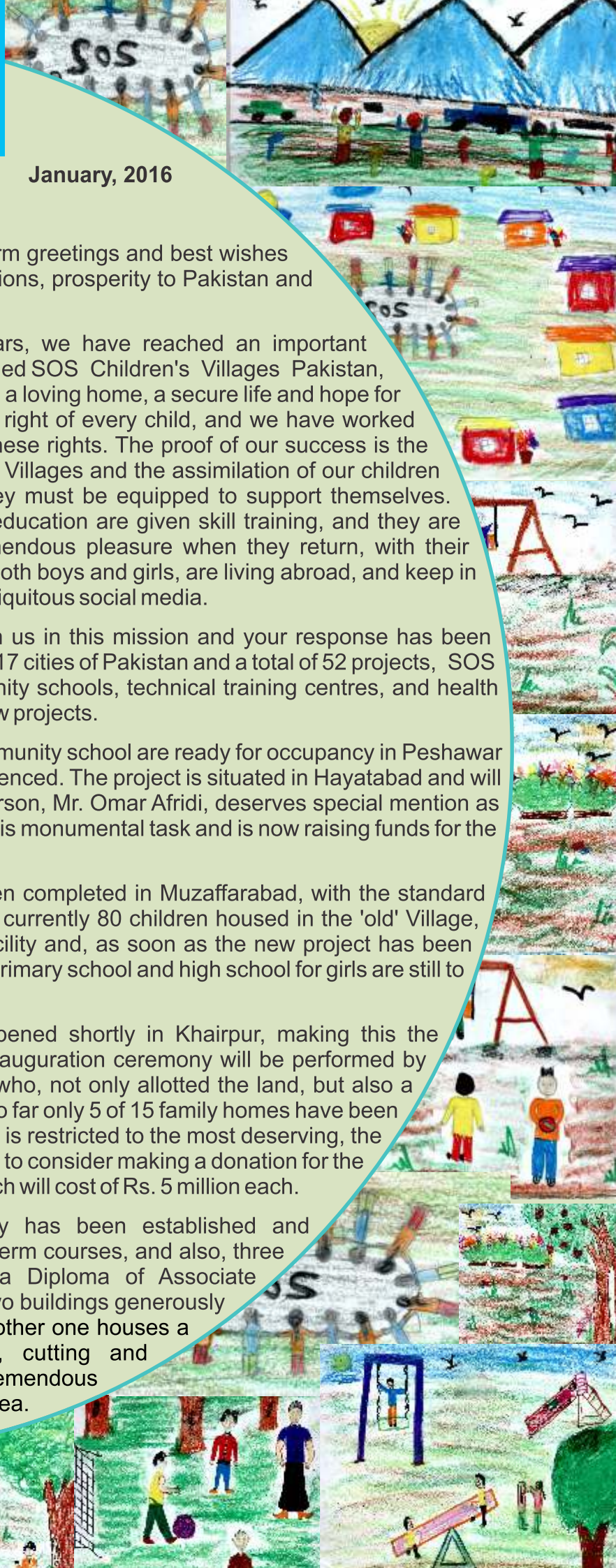
When we started out we invited you to join us in this mission and your response has been overwhelming. We now have a presence in 17 cities of Pakistan and a total of 52 projects, SOS Children's Villages, youth facilities, community schools, technical training centres, and health units. This past year we have added eight new projects.

An SOS Children's Village and adjoining community school are ready for occupancy in Peshawar and staff recruitment and training has commenced. The project is situated in Hayatabad and will be commissioned very shortly. The Chairperson, Mr. Omar Afridi, deserves special mention as he has, almost singlehandedly, completed this monumental task and is now raising funds for the youth facility.

A new SOS Children's Village has also been completed in Muzaffarabad, with the standard requirement of 15 family homes. There are currently 80 children housed in the 'old' Village, which will eventually serve as the youth facility and, as soon as the new project has been furnished, the children will move there. The primary school and high school for girls are still to be constructed.

Another SOS Children's Village will be opened shortly in Khairpur, making this the 26<sup>th</sup>. project exclusively for orphans. The inauguration ceremony will be performed by Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Chief Minister Sindh who, not only allotted the land, but also a generous grant for construction purposes. So far only 5 of 15 family homes have been constructed but, since the admission criteria is restricted to the most deserving, the intake will be slow. We invite our well wishers to consider making a donation for the construction of the remaining 10 homes, which will cost of Rs. 5 million each.

The SOS Multan Institute of Technology has been established and recognized by TEVTA for conducting short term courses, and also, three year courses leading to the award of a Diploma of Associate Engineering. This is situated in one of the two buildings generously provided by Colony Textile Mills, while the other one houses a Vocational Training Centre for sewing, cutting and dressmaking. These initiatives will make a tremendous impact on the uplift of the youth of that area.





A youth facility and high school for boys have been completed in Islamabad and construction of a high school for girls and primary school is on-going. The former is being funded by our SOS Pakistan Support Group in the UK, and last August, a successful fundraising dinner was organized in Manchester for this purpose. I had the pleasure of attending and witnessing the fastest donation of over £ 100,000, which were pledged in less than half an hour. The desire of expatriate Pakistanis to assist in improving conditions here, is heartwarming and encouraging. Construction of the primary school will require Rs. 25 million and we are seeking funds for this purpose.

Another community school project is under construction in Sialkot, adjacent to the SOS Children's Village. The separate high schools for boys and girls are nearing completion, but funding is required for the primary school which will cost Rs.20 million.

As you will gather from the above, much has been achieved, much is on-going and much more still remains to be done. But we are not daunted by the task and are aware that there is a vast reservoir of good will for the orphans, which provides for their needs. All that we have been able to achieve confirms that the level of philanthropy in Pakistan, competes with the highest in the world. This, coupled with a superb spirit of volunteerism, enables us to plan ambitiously and attain standards of excellence.

My heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who, in one way or another, plays a role in taking SOS forward. But my most special thanks are reserved for those who serve on our managing committees. Without their help it would not be possible for the National Office to effectively supervise such a widespread network. And without their commitment, it would be impossible to reach out to the local communities, solicit funds, establish the projects and ensure high levels of performance. They do all this, and more, and are the strength of the organization. They, along with our donors, are proof of the tremendous potential in our nation and prove that, at least as far as altruism is concerned, we are second to none. Here it is relevant to mention a fact which I repeatedly state. There are SOS associations in 134 countries and, outside Europe, SOS Pakistan is the only self-financing country. What a credit to all of you who support us!

We are able to meet the maintenance costs of the children through a sponsorship programme through which individuals undertake to meet the expenses incurred for an allocated child. Over the years steady inflation has made it necessary to gradually raise the sponsorship amount. For the past five years this has been Rs.6,000 per month, although the actual cost was higher. The difference was met through donations in kind, and general donations. Effective January 1, 2016 the monthly sponsorship has been increased to Rs.10,000 per month. Sponsors have the option of a sole sponsorship at the enhanced rate, or can opt for a shared sponsorship at Rs.5,000 per month. This covers our total running expenses - the child's personal costs such as food, education, clothing, health and outings, as well as the indirect expenses of administration, salaries, utilities, transport, maintenance etc.

As we celebrate four decades of achievement we salute all of you who have made it possible. We thank you for your concern for the children in our care. We thank you for taking them into your hearts, and we thank you for your trust and confidence in our ability to deliver. We cannot rest on our laurels and must continue to invest in the future of the orphans. For this we need your continuing support.

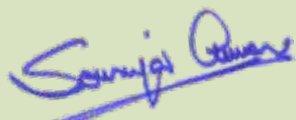
All of us associated with SOS Children's Villages Pakistan, renew our commitment to do our utmost to ensure that the orphans get a happy childhood, and every opportunity to develop to their full potential.

We assure you that your donations will be used judiciously and that we will not falter in our resolve to build national institutions, second to none.

With your help the sky is the limit. Let us reach for it!

With warm regards and thanking you once again.

Yours sincerely,



Souriya Anwar  
President





# Lahore

- Our library was renovated and upgraded by a group of volunteers led by Zerka Tahir. The library and community center were inaugurated by the Chief Secretary Punjab, Mr. Khizar Hayat Gondal, who applauded our efforts, and announced the generous donation of a new bus for the children and the provision of solar energy to the seven homes, yet to have this installed.
- The digital learning centre was inaugurated by the Governor Punjab, Mr. Rafique Rajwana. This is a fully functional computer laboratory, with advanced software, to keep our children updated with modern technology.
- Various celebrations in the Village included Eid Mela, Christmas party, Iftar gatherings, Mother's Day, Independence Day and a New Year's party with a bonfire. Many people celebrated their children's birthdays and there were countless visits by different schools and other institutions.
- Solar energy systems have been installed in 15 family homes and we will soon complete the 'greening' of the entire Village. We

would like to thank our donors who generously support such useful initiatives and enable us to upgrade our facilities as necessary.

- On International Chefs Day, COTHM, a leading hotel school, organized a Junior Chef competition. Along with other schools, our children were invited to participate and won a position.

- Special thanks are due to all those who take the time to organize various activities for the children and, especially, to all the young students who volunteer their time and organize the summer camp.



## Dhodial

- Eid Milad-un-Nabi, Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha were celebrated with full religious fervor and, of course, new clothes and the accompanying food specialties.
- During the summer vacations the children visited the Lahore, Karachi and Faisalabad Villages. As always, they had the most enjoyable time and were able to renew their ties with the other children.
- The annual donors gathering and Fun Gala evening were arranged at the SOS Village. The Assistant Commissioner, Mansehra, along with a large number of the local community and donors, participated in the event. A stage show was organized in the school hall and the children presented various programmes which were greatly appreciated by the audience.
- Commissioner Hazara, Arbab Muhammad Arif along with the Deputy Commissioner, visited the SOS Children's Village and met with the staff and children. They were impressed by the system and the functioning of the Village and congratulated the management on such brilliant work.
- A First Aid Course was organized by Brig. (R) Jan Nadir Khan. Older students, mothers and staff learnt basic techniques of first aid in case of any emergency.
- AGHS an NGO, arranged a presentation on climate change and its effect on the environment. They briefed our children regarding the topic. A painting competition on global warming was organized in Jinnah College, Mansehra. Children from our Village along with children from different schools participated in this event.

# Rawalpindi

- In December the SOS Inter-Village Cricket Tournament 2015 was hosted by Rawalpindi. The tournament was sponsored by Chevron Lubricants Pakistan Ltd. With 11 SOS teams representing 11 cities of Pakistan, there was a series of exciting matches and eventually the host, Rawalpindi, won the tournament. The event was well organized and the participating teams expressed their appreciation of the warm hospitality extended to them. Before returning home they were also able to make a visit to Murree and see the snowfall, which was a unique experience for all of them.
- Mrs. Valentina Kuznetsova along with 18 officials of the Russian Embassy visited the Village. They spent quality time with the children and distributed gifts to them.
- PIA arranged an Annual Sport Day for the Shaheen Scouts Group at the SOS Village. Children from both groups enthusiastically participated.
- Students from NUST University came to the Village and conducted workshops on Leadership and Moral Ethics for the children.
- A group of children from the Village participated in the Grand Science & Art Fair 2015 held by the Indus School Islamabad. It was an informative educational activity for the children as there were several science related projects on food, transportation, human organs, pollution and the greenhouse effect.



# Karachi

- One of our boys, Inzimam ul Haq, was selected for the long course at the prestigious Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul. Everyone is very proud of his achievement and gave him a warm send-off. Another Youth Home boy, who is a student of engineering at PAF Keits, and a senior Rover scout, represented SOS Scouts and performed Haj duties at Jeddah Airport. He was also blessed with the opportunity to perform Haj this year.
- The State Bank of Pakistan organized a Girls Karachi Inter School Cricket Tournament at their stadium. Our SOS team participated for the first time and won the tournament. They were awarded with the grand trophy and a cash prize.
- Through a generous donation from the Cowasjee Foundation, new furniture was provided in all the classrooms of the SOS Hermann Gmeiner School. We are ever thankful to such supporters and patrons for their generosity and support.
- The SOS/Shell Tameer Program is creating entrepreneurial opportunities for the youth of Pakistan at the Technical Training Institute in Korangi. The first batch of 11 children, of which one is a girl, was selected from SOS Karachi after strict scrutiny and a training process. A ceremony was held at the TTI in September for distribution of tools and equipment to these children.
- We are proud that our informal schooling programme, offered to 17 poor children of the community, is progressing well in the Village and the children are participating enthusiastically.
- Asifa Bhutto Zardari visited Karachi Village this year and spent time interacting with the children in their homes. She responded positively to the wish list presented by the Director and donated 20 computers, foam mattresses for the children's beds, and arranged for the re-carpeting of the driveway.





## Faisalabad

- We are happy to announce that children represented SOS at a Defense Day event organized by the District Government. They also participated in the Spring Festival and different competitions organized by the University of Agriculture.
- The DCO Faisalabad, Noor ul Amin Mengal visited SOS and made a generous donation on the behalf of the District Government. MPA Dr. Najma Afzal Khan, and many other renowned people from various fields, also visited and appreciated the efforts being made for the welfare of the orphans.
- SOS facilitated many students from different fields for their research projects, and volunteers also arranged educational and fun activities for the children. More than 100 volunteers, from different institutions, participated in a summer camp at the Village and helped the children with their homework, besides organizing many fun-filled activities.
- Ms. Lotte van Dooren, a donor from Holland, visited the Village to make a documentary. She engaged the children in different activities and games during her stay of three days.
- Officials of Rescue 1122 provided training in First Aid and firefighting methods in which the supervisor and older girls participated. Security training was also given to the security guards by the Police Department.

## Multan

- Mr. Tuncay Ozilhan, Chairman of the Anadolu Group from Coca-Cola IÇecek visited with their team. They donated many useful items and decorated the children's play area. They also committed a donation of \$ 10,000 through their corporate responsibility programme.
- A company staff team from Nielsen also visited the Village. They undertook a plantation initiative and sponsored lunch for all the children. Nielsen conducted similar activities in various SOS Villages across Pakistan.
- General Faheem visited SOS Multan this year. He took a tour of the Village and donated a generous amount for the welfare of the children. Similarly, Governor Punjab, Mr. Rafique Rajwana, DCO Multan, Mr. Zahid Saleem Gondha, and Mr. Azhar Baloch also paid a memorable visit to the Village.
- The President of Rotary Club Chenab, Mr. Rao Jamshaid Ali Khan visited the Village and its projects, along with the Rotarian members of USA, Ms. Sara and her team.
- National cricketer Muhammad Amir, visited the SOS Village and played a friendly cricket match with the boys. The children were very excited to receive cricket bats donated by him.



## Sargodha

- A known horticulturist, Mian Nafees Ahmad, voluntarily designed and started a landscaping project in the Village. He is passionately working on the grounds of the Village to make them look more attractive. Likewise, Justice (Rtd) Ejaz Ahmed visited with his wife, and planted 50 flowering plants in the courtyard of one of our houses. The children enjoyed the healthy planting activity and were happy and excited to see new flower plants in their gardens.
- The Village children went on an exciting tour to Muzaffarabad in the summer vacations. They enjoyed their stay and came back with a lot of happy memories.
- Three of our girls got married this year; the functions were celebrated in a traditional way and the children participated enthusiastically in the festivities.
- Mr. Hafeez, a leading all-rounder of the Pakistan Cricket team, visited the SOS Village and generated a great deal of excitement. He played cricket with the children and presented them signed shirts, bats and balls.
- The Biren Holden Vision Institute Foundation organized an Eye Camp in the Village. They performed vision screening, refraction and provided suitable glasses to all who required them.

## Muzaffarabad

- The children were engaged in planting trees and growing vegetables in the Village throughout the year, as a part of the go green/organic programme.
- The President of 'Youth Forum for Kashmir', Maria Iqbal Taraana spent Eid day with our children and distributed sweets and gifts. Another function was arranged by the Azad Kashmir Students Patients Welfare Society of a local medical college. Apart from helping the children in their Eid preparations, they also distributed gifts, sweets and Eidi to them.
- Although still a new Village, we are blessed with many generous donors who, not only sponsor the children, but provide them gifts and many items which make their lives more comfortable. A physician who was visiting from the States donated a television set, a refrigerator and warm clothes. We look forward to increased support as the community gets more involved.
- The beautiful new SOS Children's Village constructed in Sundgran is ready and we look forward to moving into the new premises later this year, when the furnishing has been completed. The homes we are presently occupying will be allocated for older boys and serve as a Youth Home.



## Quetta

- The Minister Planning and Development, Dr. Hamid Khan Achakzai, and Director General Quetta Development Authority, Noor Ahmed Pirkani, inaugurated the Maryam Children Park at the SOS Village.
- We welcome many visitors and guests from different colleges and schools throughout the year as well as many important personalities. This year the Governor of Balochistan, Mr. Muhammad Khan Achakzai visited the Village and had lunch with the children. It was undoubtedly an overwhelming experience for them. He also gave a generous donation of Rs. 5 million for the Endowment Fund.
- Ramzan is a time when many donors offer iftari and other gifts. The Mayor, Dr. Kaleemullah, the wife of the IG Frontier Corps and the wife of the Corps Commander Nasir Khan Janjua visited the Village and distributed Eid gifts to the children.
- A basketball court was constructed and the library of the youth hostel was furnished and equipped, through the assistance of the Direct Aid Programme of the Australian Government. The residential units of the facility have also been renovated so the project now has a smart, new look.

## Sialkot

- An exciting experience for some of the children was their visit to Poland this year. SOS Children's Villages Pakistan, under 17, football team visited Poland to participate in the third World Cup arranged by HOPE FOR MUNDIAL POLAND. The travel expenses were generously sponsored by Habib Bank, while the hosts took care of the local arrangements.
- The SOS Village celebrated the annual festivals with much enthusiasm. On 14<sup>th</sup> August, Seerat Study Centre invited the children for a programme and lunch at McDonald's. Youm-e-Diffah, the 50th Anniversary of the 1965, was commemorated with the performance of milli naghmas and lighting candles in memory of the shuhada.
- Farrukh Zahur Education Foundation distributed awards at Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry among position holder boys and girls in Sialkot District, for both academics and sports. A special Sportsmanship Award was given to Ahmad Khan, the captain of the SOS team which participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mundial World Cup held in Poland.
- Mukkaram Tareen, a renowned, motorbiker, tourist, sculptor and photographer, selected the SOS Children's Village Sialkot for a charity ride this year. He spent an entire day in the Village with our children, for whom it was a very inspiring and unique experience.



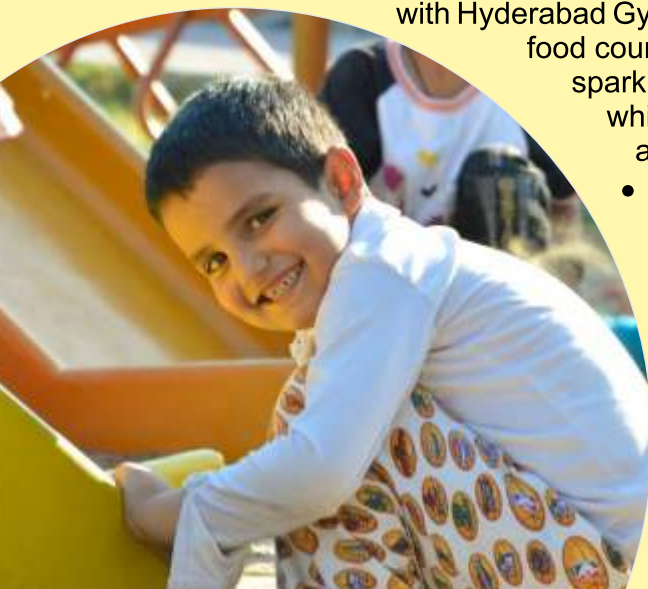
# Islamabad

- The first fund raising event of the Village was arranged by the Executive Committee. A fashion show was arranged with the kind support of the renowned Karachi based designer, Sonia Batla. The management of Serena hotel also extended their full cooperation in organizing the event. Besides others, the National Bank of Pakistan generously donated Rupees Three million and a substantial amount was collected.
- A group of committed ladies have been regular supporters and assisted the Village Director throughout the year. They taught the girls different recipes, baking, recycling techniques, making of table runners and other attractive items for decorating their homes.
- A good friend of SOS, Mr. Tauqir Awan, organized a musical evening at the Village in May. The children enjoyed folk, fusion and contemporary music. A special feature of this event was the presence of many ambassadors and diplomats. H.E Nedim Makarevic, Ambassador of Bosnia Herzegovina and H.E. Hiroshi Inomata, Ambassador of Japan also performed, and the children were thrilled by this unique experience.
- 'Life Skills Sessions', with the help of the Centre for Counseling and Career Advisory at NUST University, were arranged for the children. Each session helped the children to deal with issues like feelings, anger management, self-esteem, friendship, prejudice, bullying etc.
- Activities based sessions were arranged throughout the year, for older girls and the youth home boys, to help them gain confidence, choosing the right vocation by giving multiple career choices and the art of public speaking and debating. We are grateful to OMV Pakistan, Standard Chartered Bank, NUST University, ASRO and other friends who helped with these activities.
- The children were invited to Fun City to enjoy the musical concert of an American rock musician, Ron Thal, besides the opportunity to watch movies in Cineplex and celebrate Chaand Raat in Centaurus Mall.
- 'Choti Duniya' in collaboration with 'Green Volunteers' arranged a beautiful Winter Gala under 'Smile For a While' programme in the SOS Village. The children enjoyed games, bonfire, fireworks, BBQ and live music.



# Jamshoro

- UNICEF arranged a session on child protection in the Village this year.
- Pak USA Alumni Network (PUAN) Hyderabad, and famous singer Saif Samejo, celebrated New Year with the Village children. The New Year night was filled with fun and they indulged in activities such as face painting, scavenger hunt and a bonfire.
- A fund raising event 'JASHN-E-BAHARAN' was sponsored by the Hyderabad Rotary Club, in collaboration with Hyderabad Gymkhana. The fun filled activities were outstanding and included a food court, jumping castle, puppet show, etc. with a musical band adding spark to the carnival. More than 500 families attended and the event, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, also generated a substantial amount of funds.
- Summer Fun Week was organized in collaboration with Habitat of Humanity (HoH). The event comprised of different exciting, entertaining and learning activities such as Mango Masti, Music & Dance, Movie time (Jumanji), Poster Painting, Arts & Crafts and, last but not least, a thrilling trip to Thatta, Makli Hill and Keenjhar lake.
- To promote sporting skills, agility and also raise confidence in the children, the "Junior Athlete Games JAG 2015" was organized by Isra Social Welfare Society. A test cricketer, Muhammad Irfan was the chief guest on the occasion.





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