

# ANNUAL REPORT 2013



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGE  
BRITISH COLUMBIA



## The SOS Difference: Our Impacts in 2013

5

families and 25 children and youth  
called the Village home

6

families received support through  
Caregiver Support Services

100%

high school graduation rate of youth in  
the Village compared to 21% for BC youth  
in other foster care settings

20

children attended camps

48

children and youth received  
Therapeutic Services

137

children participated in  
After School Learning Clubs

28

children and youth explored  
the Sounds of Learning Program

27

youth supported by Youth Workers in  
the Transition to Adulthood Program

# Sarah's Story: Achieving Independence, With Help from SOS

The youth workers at the SOS Children's Village BC's Transition to Adulthood program first met Sarah\* in November 2012. They knew right away that with their support and assistance, Sarah could build a successful, independent adult life for herself.

As a child, Sarah lived with her drug-addicted mother. She remembers coming home from school every day to find her mother passed out on the couch. Until one day when her mom just wasn't there. Sarah, only eight years old at the time, never saw her mother again.

## *The SOS Transition to Adulthood workers went to bat for Sarah*

For the next four years Sarah lived with her grandmother. When her grandmother was diagnosed with cancer and died in only three weeks, Sarah was devastated. Her grandmother had been her strongest caregiver and supporter.

Following a brief stint living with an uncle, Sarah became a ward of the court and was taken into the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Services MCFD. Ever since, Sarah has lived in foster homes. She's never really had a loving parent, except for those few years with her grandmother, and she's never had the kind of support most young people in BC take for granted.

But Sarah is a determined young person, and with the help of SOS Children's Village BC, she has made great strides. She has been supported by an SOS Transition to Adulthood worker since November 2012, and together they

have worked on building her life skills, bringing her closer to independence. Her transition worker helped Sarah to find a job, and she's been working and going to school for more than 6 months. Soon she'll be getting her first promotion!

When Sarah needed dental work, the SOS Transition to Adulthood workers went to bat for Sarah, helping to find a dentist who agreed to donate his services. That dentist was so impressed by Sarah's resilience in the face of the many challenges in her life, he pledged \$500 towards her education.

Sarah has also been receiving therapy through SOS and meets regularly with an SOS therapist for talk therapy and neurofeedback training. This has helped Sarah to work through many of the traumatic childhood issues that were preventing her from moving forward in her life.

Sarah is on track to graduate from grade 12 this year with high marks — one of the few foster kids who accomplish this milestone. In BC, only 21% of kids in the care of MCFD graduate from high school on time. Sarah's success is thanks in part to the tutoring and support from SOS Children's Village's Learning Coordinator. With the support of SOS workers, Sarah has applied to several universities and she's looking forward to starting her studies in September.

Today, Sarah is a success story, thanks to the wraparound services of SOS Children's Village BC: the Transition to Adulthood program, the Therapy program, and the SOS Learning Club program that have helped her to thrive and reach her potential.

*\*Sarah's name and some incidents in her history have been changed in order to protect her confidentiality. Elements of her personal story and those of other Transition to Adulthood clients are combined, to help readers understand the common challenges these youth face.*

# Messages from the Chairman of the Board + the Executive Director

## A YEAR OF CHANGE

**Rene Aulinger**  
*Chairman of the Board*

2013 has been a year of change at SOS BC, from the arrival of a new Executive Director to the restructuring of our staff team. Against this background of structural change and renewal we have taken some wonderful strides forward in our programs.

Our Transition to Adulthood program received a three-year \$147,000 grant from the Vancouver Foundation, the largest grant we have ever received, and one which gives the program unprecedented stability. At SOS we believe that children should celebrate every birthday, not suffer the consequences of a birthday. When foster children turn nineteen they are still part of the SOS family, and they still deserve our support. Our care and concern for “our kids” continues as they transition to adulthood and beyond. It is a lifelong relationship.

As a team, our Board of Directors confirmed our commitment to our organizational and operational core: the Village and the foster children who call it home. Our central purpose is to create loving, long-term homes for foster children. All our other programs grow out of this core. Outreach programs allow us to assist more foster children than just those in the Village, and our Caregiver Support activities will see a return to working with Caregivers/Foster Parents both in and outside the Village.

It is my pleasure to work with an outstanding team of Directors, a passionate team of professionals in our office and programs, and of course the thousands of volunteers, donors, and supporters of SOS BC. Thank you all for another wonderful year.

## A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Douglas Dunn**  
*Executive Director*

This has been an incredible first year with SOS. I've discovered and taken strength from the fact, that although we may be a “small” BC non-profit, we have a global network and over 65 years of practical child development experience behind us. SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest non-governmental, non-denominational child development organization. We're using those networks and knowledge to work more effectively with our partners, and to take a leadership role in foster care issues.

With the support of the Vancouver Foundation, working in partnership with other BC agencies, and drawing upon the SOS Global “I Matter!” Transition Program, we are making a significant impact on the lives of young people transitioning to adulthood. In the coming year we'll be expanding our Youth Services Team and building out five permanent transition suites. More frontline, life-altering activities and programs are planned for the years ahead.

Our program team is making connections and sharing knowledge with our two sister organizations in the US: SOS Illinois and SOS Florida. Our national organization, SOS Canada, has been very supportive of our efforts to enhance our fundraising efforts and communications activities.

I could go on at length (and if you've been reading our Happy Friday blog you know I can) about the many wonderful programs, talented people, and successful outcomes over the last year, but let me focus on the heart of SOS: our Village. And at the heart of our Village are the heroes who face the daily challenges of creating stable loving homes for children who may never have experienced such safety and support before: Anne, Shirley, Shedion, Brian, and Jaol. Thank you for all you do. It has been my honour and privilege to work with you, with our incredible SOS Staff, and the whole SOS Team to help our kids grow into caring, self-reliant adults.

I am looking forward to meeting the challenges ahead, and to sharing the success stories. They are the proof that what we do makes a difference.

# About SOS Children's Village BC



## OUR VISION

Every child belongs to a family and grows with love, respect and security

## OUR MISSION

We provide homes, a supportive community, and programs to help foster children and youth in need grow into caring, self-reliant adults

## OUR VALUES

Courage: We take action

Commitment: We keep our promises

Trust: We believe in each other

Accountability: We are reliable partners

## WHO WE ARE

SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest non-governmental, non-denominational child development organization. In the past 60 years, more than 550 Villages have been established in 133 nations. British Columbia is home to Canada's only SOS Children's Village.

SOS Children's Village BC provides a community-based family care service to improve and sustain the quality of life for foster children and foster families. Foster children are frequently at risk of emotional disturbances, delayed social development and poor educational performance. Foster parents who raise these children require ongoing special resources and support.

SOS BC enhances the development and healing of foster children by addressing their physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs. We actively create opportunities, programs and services for children to become balanced, responsible, contributing members of society. We seek long term stability for the foster children and families in our Village, including a strong focus on transition to adulthood and family reunification programming.



***We have developed a unique program structure that focuses on two distinct areas: the personalized needs of our Village foster families and community outreach programs for foster children and vulnerable youth.***

We're building better futures for foster children and youth at risk, through programs that give them opportunities to achieve their full potential and lead healthier, more productive lives.

Foster children, their biological parents, and their caregivers are benefiting from our Counselling, Transition to Adulthood Support, Art and Play Therapies, Learning and Homework Clubs, and Cultural Activities. Over the past year we have encouraged more cross-program efforts. As part of these successful efforts, we've seen transition workers utilize the counselling program and more clients visiting our thrift stores. We will continue to find ways to link our programs, creating stronger, more client-centric offerings.

#### **COUNSELLING SERVICES**

For those experiencing difficulties in their lives — whether they are children in care, vulnerable youth, foster parents or caregivers — the Counselling Services at SOS Children's Village BC are here to help. The professional counsellors at SOS BC support clients, whatever their stage in life, to make sense of the disorder in their lives and to move forward productively. Our counselors guide and facilitate the resolution of difficult issues through several programs, including: Expressive Therapies (Art and Play), Cognitive Behavior Therapy and Neurofeedback training.

#### **EXPRESSIVE THERAPIES**

Expressive Therapies at SOS Children's Village BC give children opportunities, through Art and Play, to explore painful emotions and difficult issues in a safe, calm and child-friendly environment. These therapies help children to develop the capacity to deal with their emotions, promote self-acceptance, and build on their strengths to develop healthy coping behaviours.

In 2013, Art Therapist Frauke Reddick worked with 20 clients, the majority of whom were in foster care or recently returned to their biological parents from a foster care

placement. A number of clients were in the care of extended family or in a group home and a few children were in the care of biological or adoptive parents. Clients received services at the SOS office, at Cedarwood Family Program and in the client's home. Half of these clients achieved one or more of the goals set in therapy.

### **NEUROFEEDBACK TRAINING**

In 2013, SOS Children's Village BC delivered Neurofeedback Training to children in foster care and youth at risk in the Surrey/Langley area. Neurofeedback training optimizes brain function by helping the brain to re-organize and self-regulate more efficiently. Symptoms and complaints such as inattention, anger, hyperactivity, anxiety, traumatic reactions, and depression naturally and effortlessly abate, allowing for greater information processing, increased memory, decreased anxiety, better self-organization and high degrees of self-control.

### **PARENT DRIVEN AUTISM SERVICE**

In April 2013 the Parent Driven Autism Service program began as a fee-for-service program serving the needs of children and youth aged 6–19 years old with Autism Spectrum Disorders. A combination of Behavioural Consultation and Neurofeedback Training helps clients to improve their self-regulation and reduces symptoms that negatively impact learning. Other services provided include Counselling, Art Therapy, Child Care Worker support and Academic Tutoring. Profits from this program help to support SOS BC's donor-dependent programs.

The program has enjoyed significant success in its first year and the trainers look forward to expanding the program's client base to serve a broader population. Currently the program serves about 20 families directly, as well as an Autism Parent Support Group.

### **TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD PROGRAM**

The Transition to Adulthood program at SOS Children's Village BC helps youth to gain life skills, make meaningful connections with their community, and move in a positive direction in their life. Youth in the program are able to achieve their goals, gain independence, and begin growing into healthy and contributing members of society. The program provides one-to-one support for youth between the ages of 16 and 24 years in the Surrey area, and operates from a client-centered approach to meet the unique needs of each youth.

While most programs for youth end at the age of 19, SOS BC's program fills a previously unmet need in Surrey by continuing to work with youth until the age of 24 — assisting

them through the most challenging years of their transition to adulthood. In addition, most transition programs for youth require a referral through MCFD. Our program accepts referrals from other professionals, schools, social workers, parents, and most importantly, from youth themselves.

The Transition to Adulthood program served 31 clients in 2013. In December 2013, a large three year grant was applied for and secured from Vancouver Foundation. This grant will enable the program to: add another part-time worker to meet the referral demand, provide on-site lifeskills workshops to youth, give youth access to counselling and learning support, develop a Youth Advisory Committee to ensure that youth have a meaningful voice in program development, and provide 5 semi-independent or independent living suites to house youth in the program. The 5 suites will aid in teaching youth to live independently while providing wraparound support.

### **CAMPS AND RECREATION**

Camps and Recreation provides opportunities for youth and children to get involved with their community, learn about their cultural roots, and gain exposure to nature, arts, and fitness. Children in the program learn about life and develop social skills.

Because of our dedication to programming in Camps and Recreation, SOS Children's Village BC ensures our kids are developing and broadening their horizons. Camps and Recreation programs promote a strong sense of belonging, allowing children to understand their own life experiences as they become a part of a bigger community, and offering them rich learning opportunities.

This year in Camps and Recreation, a team of practicum students mentored the children at our Village on a weekly basis, allowing our staff to target those areas where kids need most development. As a result of mentorships through Camps and Recreation, many of the children were able to overcome social disorders and emotional trauma.

At Sal's Farm, children participated in an eight-week program learning to care for animals. The skills they built through the program helped this group of kids learn empathy and about taking care of one another, and themselves.

SOS provided a two-week Spring Break camp for children to experience skating, swimming, fishing, and events at the Surrey Nature Center. And as an end-of-camp treat, 14 kids and staff attended one of the last shows at the Clova Cinema.

# 2013 in Review

Our partners at Louis Vuitton helped to bring a sense of the art world to our kids through four art workshops provided in partnership with local Vancouver artists. They were all a huge success. The children who participated learned to break creative walls, producing beautiful textiles, sculptures, book binding, and paintings.

Throughout the year we brought cultural opportunities to our kids. Working with practicum students, we were able to provide weekly cultural opportunities in partnership with local Aboriginal agencies. Our involvement with Metis Family Services will be increasing in the coming year, with plans in development for a Summer Camp.

## LEARNING CLUB

In 2013, the Learning Club provided a safe, fun, and positive afterschool environment for 80 kids. A further 128 kids enrolled in the club in the 2013/14 school year.

The Learning Club was established as a preventative measure for families, keeping children safe in our community. SOS Children's Village BC maintains a high quality of service in the program by ensuring all Learning Club staff are BC Certified Teachers. Our teachers encourage positive behaviour and base their curriculum around current learning theories that support kids as they learn and develop life skills.

Through a partnership with the Surrey School District, SOS Learning Clubs focused on schools with high numbers of vulnerable families, located in low income housing areas, development housing for status families, and communities threatened by crime and gang involvement.

The program ran out of seven locations, including five Surrey School District schools, the Cloverdale Library, and our Village. Each group of kids worked with a program teacher once a week, building life skills and learning how to stay safe in our communities. It was a huge success and we've established strong community partnerships to ensure this program continues to run for the betterment of families in our local communities.

## SOUNDS OF MUSIC

In 2013, the Sounds of Music program benefited both our Village children and community partners. Two Village children participated in one-on-one Sounds of Music program sessions, while a wonderful group of students at Martha Currie Elementary took part in group sessions.

Sounds of Music helps children use music to overcome emotional trauma and build confidence. With the assistance

of our community partners, we're able to identify the children who would benefit most from the program and we offer it predominantly free of charge to families. We look forward to providing more opportunities for Village families and for children in the community in the coming year with the help of our partner, ReSound.

## CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Caregiver Support Program was revised in the last year to meet the growing needs of our families. We supported five Village caregivers and two caregivers as an extension of our Village, providing monthly meetings, weekly follow ups, and emergency support when necessary.

The Caregiver Support program goes beyond basic measures and provides therapeutic support, counselling, and everyday support to caregivers, helping them to provide the best possible care to their foster children. Our caregivers enjoyed opportunities to discuss child development, increasing their knowledge and understanding of the needs of children in care. Through cultural activities undertaken with our Aboriginal partners, we are acknowledging and learning more about important cultural practices.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The 2013 holiday season saw the introduction of SOS BC's first-ever online 'peer-to-peer' campaign. This may be the future of fundraising. We disseminated a compelling appeal about our Transition to Adulthood program to our email list of 6,000, through Facebook, and to our staff, board, and volunteers. People responded. The campaign raised \$11,000 and we look forward to building on this for next year as people become more familiar with this powerful new method of donating.

We also began an extensive expansion of the website, adding attractive features such as an SOS Children's Village BC blog, the option to sign up as a monthly donor or make a tribute donation online, a real-time feed of our Facebook account, and prominent links on our homepage to events and to our Parent Driven Autism Services. As a result, the number of visits to our website grew significantly. As part of our plan to build online engagement, we placed new emphasis on social media: regular, quality postings dramatically increased our reach and the number of followers, and attracted younger supporters.

Finally, we have completely redesigned the quarterly newsletter to comply with SOS branding and improve readability and content — it is now a professional-looking periodical.

# SOS Children's Village BC

## Statement of Program Operations for fiscal year ended December 31, 2013

### PROGRAMS REVENUES

Thrift Stores Net Revenues	144,779
Rent Recovery	151,220
Program Contracts	57,863
BC Gaming	100,000
Designated Grants and Other Donations	155,000
Therapy Services Contributions	34,837

Total Programs Revenues	\$ 643,699
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### FOSTERING GROWTH PROGRAM COSTS

Therapy Services	122,513
Literacy and Learning	49,766
Sounds of Music	6,335
Transition to Adulthood	43,570
Camps and Recreation	5,485
Caregiver Support	87,456
Rent Subsidies	56,225
Celebrations	2,798

Total Programs Direct Costs	\$ 374,148
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### CHILDREN'S VILLAGE SITE

Amortization	17,047
Property Taxes	18,943
Insurance/Building, Liability	9,637
Utilities	5,107
Repairs and Maintenance	71,675

Total Village Costs	\$ 122,409
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### GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION

Support Staff	91,492
Office (rent, utilities, equipment supplies)	27,619
SOS KDI Fees and Conferences	16,159
Vehicle Expenses	9,401

<b>Total General and Administration</b>	<b>\$ 144,671</b>
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<b>Total Fostering Growth Programs Costs</b>	<b>\$ 641,228</b>
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<b>Balance of Programs Fund Reserve at Year End:</b>	<b>\$ 2,471</b>
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### BUDGET NOTES

SOS Children's Village BC does not receive federal program funding. Support services for families living in the Village are partially funded through Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services (VACFSS) and a grant from BC Community Gaming. Our programs are funded through our Thrift Store revenues, signature events, corporate/community/foundation grants and through the generosity of our donors.

SOS BC's administration as reported on the Canadian Revenue Agency website is high due to the cost of running our Thrift Stores in Steveston and Kerrisdale. Although the thrift stores bring in substantial income, operating the stores is considered an administration cost. This increases our non-program costs and skews the CRA reports.

While SOS Children's Village BC is a proud to be one of the 550 Villages under the umbrella of SOS Children's Villages International, we do not receive any direct funding from SOS International or SOS Canada.

# Thank You to Our Sponsors

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all our sponsors, for helping to make each of the SOS Children's Village BC events a tremendous success. The year kicked off with our annual SOS BC Run at the Richmond Olympic Oval and wrapped up on a high note with our classic winter event, the Parade of Christmas, including our very own Gingerbread Village and Holiday Gala.

SOS Children's Village BC is sincerely grateful to our sponsors and donors for their support. Thank you for helping to make the lives of the children and families in our Village and our programs better and brighter.

## **FIFTH ANNUAL SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE RUN & WALK**

CHC (Helicopters)  
City of Richmond  
Embassy  
King of Floors  
Richmond Olympic Oval Corporation  
Richmond Recognition  
The Rotary Club of Richmond  
The Running Room  
Verico Real Mortgage Services  
WPCG – Recruitment Consultants

## **PARADE OF CHRISTMAS 2013**

Parade of Christmas and Holiday Gala  
Presenting Sponsor – RE/MAX

## **SOS CHILDREN'S GINGERBREAD VILLAGE SPONSORS**

Corintia Developments  
Freedom 55 Financial – A division of London  
Life Insurance Company  
Formwerks Architectural Inc  
Heming, Wyborn & Grewal  
Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc  
Lynn Valley Lions Club



Rene Aulinger, and friend, Lyle Green, Kathy Watson,  
Tom Watson, Lois Bouchard

Patty's Girls  
MacDonald, Dettwiler & Associates  
Mogo.ca  
North Van Host Lions Club  
Stewart, Aulinger & Co.  
The Rotary Club of North Vancouver

## **GIFTS IN KIND/ EVENTS**

We wish to recognize the generosity of those groups and individuals who have contributed to SOS Children's Village BC by donating a gift in kind for our auctions and raffles, or by holding their own events:

Aman Jina, SOS Children's Village BC Youth Ambassador  
Amelia Misak, SASSY Award Winner 2013  
a blue car films  
Blackcomb Aviation  
Grouse Mountain Resorts  
Helijet  
Louis Vuitton  
MPC (Moving Picture Company) Vancouver  
Parade of Christmas Committee 2013  
Reinhart Aulinger  
Tom Watson  
Trench Gallery  
Vancouver Whitecaps FC  
Westjet  
Yoga for Hope  
5th Annual SOS Children's Village Run & Walk Committee

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013**

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Stewart, Aulinger & Company

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TELUS, Chief Security Officer/VP Security

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**Jeremy Sandbrook**

SOS International, Continental Director



Academy Award winner Guillaume Rocheron and Daryl Sawchuk of MPC Vancouver, and auction winner Dylan McIntyre and Jason Bergunder, Brennan Harcus, and Satbir Rai.

## **SOS STAFF TEAM**

**Douglas Dunn** *M.B.A., C.F.R.E.*

*Executive Director*

**Shelina Jamani** *Office Manager*

**Raymonde Delisle** *Finance Officer*

*Development*

**Gillian Harrow** *M.A.*

*Development Manager*

**William Brennan** *B.Comn.*

*Communications Coordinator*

*Programs*

**Doug West** *M.A. (Cand.)*

*Manager of Autism Services*

**Mark Thomas** *M.A., R.C.C., CHT*

*Clinical Director, Village Director*

*Neurofeedback Practitioner*

**Kistie Singh** *B.A., B.Ed.*

*Education Coordinator & Village Manager*

**Frauke Reddick** *B.Sc., DVATI Art Therapist*

**Katie Perkins** *Youth Worker*

**Stephanie Shuttleworth**

*Youth Worker*

**Jeff Prasad**

*Behaviour Consultant*

**Shayne Forster**

*Youth Worker*

*SOS Children's Village BC Thrift Shops*

**Barbara High**

*Manager of Retail Fundraising and*

*Volunteer Coordinator*

**Vera Gover**

*P/T Store Manager, Kerrisdale*

**Karen Gordon**

*P/T Store Manager, Kerrisdale*

# DONORS

## **CANADIAN LEGACY MAPLE \$100,000+**

Estate of Isabelle Marion McCrae

## **BENEVOLENT BC DOGWOOD \$30,000-\$99,999**

Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society

## **ENDURING CLIMBING ROSE \$10,000-\$29,999**

First West Foundation

Grouse Mountain Resorts

HSBC - Future First Program

The Sook Ching Foundation

## **SUSTAINING SUNSHINE DAISY \$5,000-\$9,999**

Debora De Merich

Diego De Merich

Edith Lando Charitable Foundation

Intact Foundation

John Hardie Mitchell Family Foundation

Manulife Mutual Funds

RE/MAX Lower Mainland

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## **TRUE LAVENDAR \$1,000-\$4,999**

Anonymous

Bentall Kennedy

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CHC Helicopter Corporation

CIBC Children's Foundation

CKNW Orphans' Fund

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Douglas Dunn

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North Vancouver Rotary Club

Peter Birrell

RBC Royal Bank

Rotary Club of Richmond

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The Great-West Life Assurance Company

The Home Depot Canada Foundation

The King of Floors Ltd.

Tom Poor

United Way of the Lower Mainland

West Coast Title Search Ltd.

West Pacific Consulting Group

## **SPECIAL THANKS FOR DEVELOPMENTAL AND PROGRAMMING SUPPORT:**

SOS Kinderdorf International

SOS Children's Villages Canada

SOS Children's Villages Illinois

SOS Children's Villages Florida

## **TO SPEAK TO A SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE BC REPRESENTATIVE PERSONALLY AND CONFIDENTIALLY:**

**T** 604.574.2964

### **DONATIONS CAN BE SENT TO**

SOS Children's Village BC

102 – 5830 176A Street

Surrey, BC V3S 4H5

Or donate online at [www.sosbc.org](http://www.sosbc.org)

Cheques/money orders are payable to  
SOS Children's Village BC.

SOS Children's Village BC staff will be  
pleased to process your donation using  
your VISA or MasterCard.

### **GIFTS GENERATE TAX CREDITS**

Charitable Business #129935011RR0001

Receipts for tax purposes are issued for  
all donations over \$20.



**SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGE**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA