

11th December 2008

Dear Acutus,

I was so delighted to receive your email - what a wonderfully kind and generous donation you have made and thank you so much for choosing to support SOS Children!

Last month I visited SOS Children's Villages in Gambia, where we have one village in Bakoteh (near Banjul, the capital) and a second that opened just last year in Basse, in the upper river region. I attended the inauguration of Basse village and schools and it was a very joyous occasion to see orphaned children living with a mother in a family house and attending school for the first time. There are so many more vulnerable children in the wider community of Basse that need our support: 350 vulnerable families have been identified (as at risk of abandoning their children) and are to be aided by our family strengthening programme, which basically means the provision of comprehensive support - counselling, food parcels, tuition fees, skills training for the adults, income generation projects to help the families become self-sufficient in the long term.

The programme needs funding to begin operation; circa £20,000 is required, so your contribution would be support 175 vulnerable families to stay together through the most difficult of times. Gambia is one of the poorest countries in Africa with few natural resources and low levels of literacy, hence the reason for the building of the second village and schools in Basse last year. In this part of the country there is a high incidence of mothers dying in childbirth which puts extra burden on already impoverished extended families.

Many thanks again for your wonderful pledge of support - it is greatly appreciated!!

With kind regards
Caroline

Caroline Baker
Corporate Liaison & Challenges Coordinator

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SOS Children has been providing a family for life for children who have lost their parents through conflict, famine, disease and poverty, since 1949. Over 70,000 orphaned or abandoned children are cared for by SOS mothers in clusters of family homes in more than 470 of our unique children's villages, in 123 countries around the world.

A further million benefit from SOS Children's outreach support which includes education, vocational training, medical care and community development programmes.