



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES

## Papa's Legacy: A Journey of Love, Guidance, and Dedication



For 15 years, David Waswa, affectionately known as Papa, has been an integral part of SOS Children's Villages in Kenya. His commitment and unwavering dedication have earned him the endearing title among both his colleagues and the children he serves.

Papa joined SOS Children's Villages in Kenya as an assistant driver at SOS Children's Village in Nairobi. As he chauffeured the children to and from school, he became a trusted figure in their lives. Safety was always his top priority, and he would diligently remind the children to fasten their seat belts and be cautious while boarding or disembarking from the school bus.

During these bus rides, the children saw more than just a driver in David—they saw a father figure. They sought his guidance and advice, turning to him for support and a listening ear. The children's endearment for him led to the birth of the name "Papa," a name that resonated not only with the children but also with his colleagues.

In 2011, David's journey took him to the National Office, located at Gate 7, Marcus Garvey Road. Here, he became the lead driver for a Family Strengthening project, showcasing his versatility and commitment to the organization's noble cause.

In 2017, David was transferred to the National Director's office, where he works to this day.

Reflecting on his journey, David expresses profound gratitude towards SOS Children's Villages' founder, Herman Gmeiner. He believes that without Gmeiner's vision and support, his own family and numerous vulnerable children and youth would not have received the care and assistance they desperately needed.

As a custodian of Gmeiner's dream, David urges staff members to uphold the mission, vision, and values of SOS Children's Villages. He firmly believes that by staying true to these principles, they can continue to impact the lives of more children in the future, offering them a chance for a brighter tomorrow.

David Waswa's legacy as Papa is one of love, guidance, and dedication. Through his role as a driver, mentor, and father figure, he has left a mark on the hearts of the children he has served.