

# ANNUAL REPORT 2009



**SUNSHINE SCHOOL**

**EDUCATION PROGRAMME**



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Vietnam**

[WWW.CNCF.ORG](http://WWW.CNCF.ORG)

Reporting Period: January 2009– December 2009

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Established: 1991
- Location: 38 Tu Xuong Street, District 3, HCM City.
- Target group: Disadvantaged and street children
- Local Partner: The Center for Social Assistance for Disadvantaged Children (CDAC)
- CNCF Staff: Mr. Nicolas Pistolas, Ms. Son Thu Trinh, Bui Que Huong and Lam Ngoc Thien Huong
- Monitoring visit: Daily
- Manpower of Sunshine School: 10 staff including 1 principal, 1 vice principal, 1 administrative staff, 6 teachers and 1 janitor.
- Report compiled by: Bui Que Huong

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Background

As a direct result of extreme poverty, thousands of children either never attend school or drop out at an early age. The socio-economic pressures faced by these children means not only are they unable to afford the small cost of schooling but many must work long hours to financially assist their families. Children often work as many as 14 hours a day, seven days a week, scavenging on rubbish sites or selling chewing gum or lottery tickets on the city streets. They are often in close proximity to communities dominated by drugs and organized crime and many are at severe risk of becoming involved in child prostitution, child trafficking and drug abuse.

Education plays a major role in removing children from the destructive cycle of poverty. A child's ability to read and write opens many doors to future training and employment opportunities. There are few vocational training or employment opportunities accessible to adolescents in Vietnam who do not have a Grade 5 Certificate (the final grade in primary school). The encouragement that children receive at school and their involvement in associated recreational activities can play a significant role in their social and moral development.

### The Sunshine School

The Sunshine School was established in 1991 to provide street children and children from very underprivileged families with the opportunity to attend school at flexible hours. The Sunshine School originally opened its doors to 30 children, but today provides more than 200 children with schooling every year.



The Sunshine School is located at the Foundation's centre of operations at 38 Tu Xuong, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City. The school has grown significantly in nineteen years of operation and currently boasts seven primary education classes, from Grade 1 to 5. English classes are also taught there two nights each week. The school provides each child with free education, medical monitoring and a daily provision of vitamin & nutritional supplements to those who need it. The students range in age from 6 years - 17 years and study literacy, social science, mathematics and history as per the State curriculum.

The Sunshine School students also have the opportunity to participate in the Foundation's Sports, Music and Arts Projects. During the school year, the children enjoyed participating in excursions and celebrations organised by the Foundation.



One of the main aims of The Sunshine School is to help integrate children into the mainstream school system. Graduating students can apply for sponsorship that allows them to enrol in a public school, where they have the opportunity to further their education for a better future.

CNCF's full-time social workers are on-hand daily to assist the children with their schooling, future educational and vocational opportunities and to help alleviate their social difficulties. Our social workers have strong bonds with all the children, allowing them

to gain insight into their lives and helping the children to find the most beneficial long-term solutions for their problems.

*Direct beneficiaries:* Children aged 6 - 17 who are classified as being poverty stricken and/or underprivileged. These children are not able to access mainstream schools as they often do not possess the necessary documents for enrolment such as a birth certificate, city household registration, identity card.

*Indirect beneficiaries:* Children's relatives, parents and in particular their siblings, who are able to access additional support from the numerous social support programmes managed by CNCF. These include Child Sponsorship, Education Assistance Programme, and Medical Assistance. They can also participate in other extracurricular classes available as part of the Music, Art and Sports Programmes.

## PROJECT UPDATE

### Academic Education

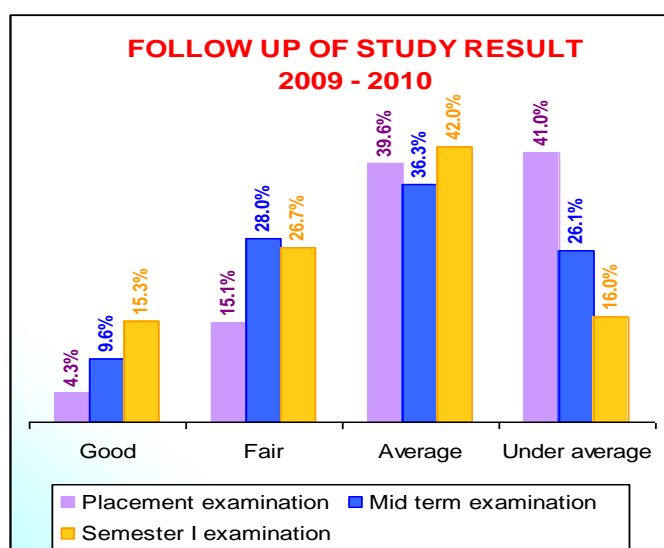
From August to December:  
Semester I of the new academic year 2009 - 2010

Examination result through each term	Good	Fair	Average	Below Average
Placement examination	4.3%	15.1%	39.6%	41.0%
Mid term examination	9.6%	28.0%	36.3%	26.1%
Semester I examination	15.3%	26.7%	42.0%	16.0%

From January to May:  
Semester II of the academic year 2008 - 2009

Of the 178 children who took the final examination, 5.1% gained good results, 16.3% were fair; 41% achieved average result and the remaining children's exam results were below average

All 34 Grade 5 children passed the primary graduation examination for the academic year 2008 - 2009. 18 children were admitted into mainstream school and 16 children were enrolled in the Continuing Education Centre, which is based in District 3, HCMC.



With the additional tutoring classes, the children's academic results improved remarkably. 2009 - 2010 saw an increase in good results whilst reducing the below average result.

The **Tutoring class** is aimed at children with under average result. Class is arranged 3 days every week with a maximum of 15 children for each class.

### Study Support Activities

This has been successful in monitoring children's weekly attendance, home visits and encourages children back into the school system. As a result of the hardships they face on a daily basis, the children are absent from class frequently. To further support their education, children absent from class more than 3 continuous days will be reported and a home visit then occurs. To help combat this problem a system is in place, which involves a flexible timetable and special assistance. This usually has a positive outcome with the children returning to class and completing their primary syllabus.

*Sa Y Thah – a 13 year old student was forced to stop studying and worked full time at a coffee shop due to a very difficult family situation. Her father is unemployed due to ill health and her mother sells lottery tickets, which is not enough to support the family. After a home visit and receiving advice from her teacher, she returned to school. It was agreed to allow her to attend school for 2 hours a day instead of 4. As a result of this measure, she completed the primary graduation examination with good results and was accepted into a mainstream school. She also attends classes at the Continuing Education Center in the evening and works during the day to support her family.*

### Fortnightly Awards



**Launch:** Has been in operation since 2006 and is carried out during each academic year

**The purpose:** To encourage good behaviour amongst children. This includes contributing opinions in class, diligence in their studies, classmate assistance and well-prepared assignments. The programme is summarized and rewarded each fortnight.

An average of 50 children are rewarded fortnightly at school. During 2009, 305 children received awards from this system and this had a positive impact on their overall confidence and desire to continue their education.

### Library Activities

Activities	Rate of response	Target attained
Reading and borrowing books	An average of 30 children per day. 38.6% of children read books at the library-an increase of 8.6% from previous year	Improved knowledge and awareness through stories
Reading contest with the topics "We love Vietnam history" and "The good deeds we do" (April 2009)	63 children participated with 10 children winning prizes	Gaining understanding about Vietnamese history. Encouraging team work for children
Participating in games such as lego and puzzles (October 2009)	An average of 10 – 20 children per day	Time for relaxing and creative development. Good team work attitude
Christmas card guidance and contest (December 2009)	67 children took part and 13 won the prizes in the contest	Creativity and learning to express their feelings

### Life Skills Course



This is carried out annually with the aim of imparting knowledge to the children in assisting their difficult lives on the street. In 2009, 45 children were trained in life skills such as self awareness, making a study plan and self values.

During the 16 sessions, the children contributed with good cooperation, team work and orientation for their study purposes. 13 outstanding children received certificates for their excellent participation during the training course.

## Healthcare Programme

As part of the Sunshine School's annual plan, the children have a general medical check-up. This includes an eye examination of which 10 children are offered near-sighted glasses by the HCMC Eye Hospital and District 3's Youth Union. Other health care initiatives include issuing of laxative tablets, daily milk for 50 malnourished children and hospital fees for 5 children with diseases. For minor ailments, they can be seen by the doctor and receive free medical treatment at the school's medical bureau.



## Other Support Programmes

### Festivities and excursions

This year, 271 children from the Sunshine School were given the opportunity to interact with international schools such as UWCSEA, Chinese International School, Colaiste Dulaigh School and Ho Chi Minh City International School. They were also treated to a clown performance by a circus troupe from Holland during a summer camp for disadvantaged children.

### Family Assistance Programme

Three impoverished families were given financial support to start their small business, which includes pancake and bread baking and motorbike taxi driving. This has vastly contributed to the children's quality of life, and frees up more time for school and education.



*Thao lives with her parents and siblings in a small rent room. Because her parents have no steady income, their life is very difficult. Everyday her father hires a motorbike to earn money and her mother works as a cleaner for neighbours. They earn a total of 5-6 USD/ day of which 1 USD pays for the rental of the motorbike. Since receiving support from CNCF her family's financial situation is more stable.*

### Sunshine School Dance and Singing Group

Since September 2008, Mai Ha (a former resident of Girls Shelter) has been working at CNCF as a dance teacher. This dance class has expanded from 8 to 14 children. There are 2 sessions daily during the week and they always bring a festive and cheerful atmosphere to all CNCF celebrations such as Christmas Day, Children's Day and the Mid-Autumn Festival.



### Art - Music – Sports

Children have the opportunity to participate in the extracurricular activities available through the foundation

- Tennis : 11 kids
- Taekwondo : 29 kids
- Football : 08 kids
- English class : 10 kids
- Dance : 14 kids

At the end of year ceremony held in May 2009, 33 children from these classes were awarded for their good participation during the previous academic year.

The drama group performed at the Summer Camp held by The Friends for Street Children Association at Dam Sen Water Park in June 2009. This activity helped them to integrate into society with more confidence.

### Sponsorship, Education and Bicycle support programme

As well as being given a primary education at the Sunshine School, the children can benefit from other programmes available such as

- Sponsorship programme : 38 children
- Education Assistance Programme : 16 children
- Bicycle and helmet support programme : 29 children

*Anh's family is very poor and every day, she has to borrow a bike to travel to school. Sometimes she is absent from class because the borrowed bike is broken. Her mother sells seafood at Xom Chieu market which brings a daily income of 40.000 VND – 50.000 VND (approx. 2.35 – 2.94 USD). Tragically, her elder sister's death from brain tuberculosis has left the family in great debt. In addition, Anh's family has to also support 2 maternal grandchildren. The family circumstance continues to be difficult however, when Anh was offered a bike she progressed in her studies and in the primary graduation examination passed with the highest score of 8.00 and was accepted into mainstream school.*



### Tet Gifts



*“This Tet, our children can enjoy Tet like the other children. Thank you very much for CNCF support” said a child's mother.*

In 2009, 30 impoverished families were presented with Tet gifts including candies, coke, cake, rice and sausages from CNCF. This was to support them and help them to enjoy this important traditional holiday.

## SUCCESS STORY



With the aim of attracting more children to the library and strengthening team spirit, the Sunshine School library launched the reading contest for all children from grade 1 to grade 5 in March and April.

The children had two topics for the contest;  
For grade 1 – grade 2: “The good deeds we do”  
For grade 3 – grade 5: “We love Vietnamese history”

69 children were eager to register for this competition and were very excited to get involved.

The organizing team worked very hard for many weeks in preparation.

69 children entered the first round, a multiple choice round. The final round was formatted as a team quiz with 5 top children of each class being a team to compete against each other. All children were very happy and the atmosphere was filled with competitiveness, excitement and good fun. All participants received prizes and left the library with smiles of happiness.



*In addition to lucky money and gifts for kids, 30 impoverished families are offered Tet gifts*



*Children enjoyed festivities with gifts and face painting on Christmas festival 2009*



*A performance by a clown from Holland*



*Photo with all contestants in the reading contest last April*



*A library corner with lego and puzzles for kids at break*



*A child making a Christmas card*



*A family is supported capital for a small business of selling bread*

*"Every Child needs a foundation to grow and develop"*

**Christina Noble**