



CNCF UK Newsletter

Volume 7
July 2009

Mongol Rally 2009

Goodwood to Ulaanbaatar in wholly unsuitable vehicles



A warm but windy July day saw the launch of the 6th Mongol Rally, from its new starting post, Goodwood Motor Circuit, Chichester. Over 350 teams from around the world, in all kinds of vehicles, including an old fire engine covered in red fun fur, managed to make it over the start line and off on their adventure to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. For most the journey will take about three weeks, depending which of the three routes is taken and how many stops they take along the way. This year none of the vehicles taking part is more than ten years old after a third of them didn't make it to Mongolia last year. (20 didn't even make it out of Hyde Park which was the start point.) Once in Mongolia many teams will visit our Blue Skies Ger Village and see first hand what their fundraising money supports. CNCF has been a chosen charity for the Mongol Rally for the past four years, with participants increasing each year along with the total raised for CNCF. A massive thank you to all the teams who have fundraised and to the organizers of the event.

Today's Children Tomorrow's Future.



From the 30th September- 24th of October CNCF UK will be holding a photographic exhibition in the lobby of the Irish Cultural Centre in Hammersmith, London. The exhibition highlights experiences and memories of past volunteers and staff who have worked for CNCF in Vietnam and Mongolia. Some fantastic photographs are included in the exhibition which really help set the scene of what it means to be a volunteer. Anyone who is thinking about volunteering would be encouraged to drop in, and we hope as many of our supporters as possible will have an opportunity to visit. The Irish Cultural Centre: Blacks Road, Hammersmith, London W6 9DT www.irishculturalcentre.co.uk
If you know of a venue that may be interested in taking this exhibition at a later date, please contact the UK office.

Inside this Issue

Mongol Rally	Page 1
Volunteers Visuals	Page 1
Irish Band night	Page 2
Vietnam Challenge	Page 2
Project Review	Page 2
Sunshine Talent	Page 3
Audley Travel	Page 3
Sponsor Graduation	Page 3
Buy a Bike Project	Page 4
A Touch of Summer	Page 4



At little Shindig at the Irish Centre



A night of fundraising fun and great music will be held at The Irish Cultural Centre on the **3rd October** as two of London's best loved Irish bands, **Hungry Grass** and **Bible Code Sundays** play in support of CNCF. Doors will open at 7pm until the early hours. Tickets are on sale at £10 in advance and £12 on the door and all profits will go directly to CNCF. Performing first and guaranteeing a lively start to the evening will be **Hungry Grass**, a 5 piece band who play their own brand of traditional Irish and original music. Following on will be top Irish band the **Bible Code Sundays**, led by guitarist and lead vocalist Ronan McManus, younger brother of Declan McManus (aka Elvis Costello). The Bible Code Sundays have played all over Europe and recently completed a very successful tour of America. Their music mixes the traditional sounds of their Irish heritage with the modern to produce a foot stomping sound! Both bands have a loyal following and will ensure a good crowd.

With a late bar and great music a good night is anticipated by all! For tickets please visit The Irish Cultural Centre website www.irishculturalcentre.co.uk e-mail infor@irishculturalcentre.co.uk or Telephone: 0208 563 8232. Tickets will go on sale mid August.

We shall also be holding a raffle at this event so if anyone knows of any organizations that may be willing to donate something, please do let the UK office know. Thanks for your help.

Vietnam Challenge - Sapa Hill Tribe Trek



CNCF Ireland has been busy putting together an exciting trip to Vietnam which is open to all supporters. This year's charity challenge will take place between October 22nd — November 1st 2009. The trip begins in Hanoi, the capital city of Vietnam, and continues North to Sapa, in the Tonkin Alps, and one of Vietnam's most stunning areas. A trek will begin here with the chance to see Hill Tribe people in traditional dress and spend a night in a home in one of the working villages. The trek will continue along the best trails and off the beaten path and will maintain the essence of a challenge without the discomfort and promises to be the experience of a life-time. The trip will end in Ho Chi Minh City with a visit to the CNCF Social and Medical Centre. There are a few places left and if you would like information about the price or more details of the itinerary, feel free to contact the UK office.

Project Review:

Art and Music Mongolia.



Art and music is a wonderful and very important way of allowing children and young people to express themselves. CNCF Vietnam started the Music and Art



programme in 1998 and since then hundreds of children who would not normally have access to this facility have been able to take part and express themselves creatively and freely. In 2007 when Mongolia celebrated its 10th anniversary, visitors and staff were struck by the enormous talent of the children from the Blue Skies Ger Village and Sponsorship project. A proposal was put together for a building to work as a theatre, library, music and dance studio and with funding through CNCF Australia the Ger village now has its very own centre to house its Art and Music program. The new building has prove to be far more successful than we ever imagined at the planning stage and the children gather there every day. It's a hive of activity and has transformed life for them.

Spreading Sunshine with their talent



Sunshine Children bring a bit of sunshine to the National Arts Museum in Ho Chi Minh City. After many weeks of working diligently in their weekend workshops the children from the Art and Music Project Advanced Art Class were proud to have their beautiful oil paintings on display at the Ho Chi Minh City Fine Art Museum. This was a huge success for the children and their hard work and love for painting really showed on the opening night.



TAILOR-MADE JOURNEYS FOR THE DISCERNING TRAVELLER

CNCF UK are very happy to be working with Audley Travel, winner of the "Tour Operator of the Year" Award by readers of the Observer and Guardian newspapers.

Audley Travel have developed a passion for the countries they visit and the need to be more socially and environmentally responsible. They approached us

last year with an interest in supporting our work in Mongolia and made a very generous donation which was used to purchase a Ger for a family on the waiting list of our "Give a Ger" programme.

In May this year we visited Audley at their offices in Witney, Oxfordshire, and did a presentation on the work of the Foundation. As a result, Audley are keen to continue to support our work and they are now sponsoring a child in Mongolia. They have also organised a collection of toiletries from Audley staff as well as friends and family which we are hoping to include in our next shipment to Mongolia.

Audley are also promoting the Christina Noble Children's Foundation to clients who are travelling to Mongolia, and are planning to include an optional visit to the Blue Skies Ger Village at the end of their tour itinerary. We are already mentioned on their website and in their country information booklet.

More fundraising events are planned and we extend our thanks to Audley and all of their staff for their ongoing support.

Vietnam Sponsorship Project



At the end of 2008, 29 sponsored children had passed their university entrance examinations. Nine of them even entered the most prestigious universities of Ho Chi Minh City such as Medical University and Economic University. Without the kind and continued support of their sponsors this would have been an unimaginable dream to these young people. Congratulations to all of



them and thank you to all our sponsors for giving such opportunities.

Buy A Bike Project Update



Country: Vietnam.

Cost Per Bike: \$60: For most poor children in Vietnam, a new bicycle is a distant dream but owning one makes such a difference to their lives especially if they live a long way from their school and it is unsafe or too far for them to walk. Owning a bicycle makes a difference to their daily life and enables them to continue with their schooling and not have to drop out because of being unable to get there. In 2008, the Bicycle Support Programme distributed 204 bicycles, 27 of these to children from rural communities of Ben Tre Province. Most of their parents work as hired labourers in the surrounding fields. Their jobs are unsteady and many of the families must survive on less than \$2 USD per day. Depending on the size of the family, this amount is barely enough to cover the daily expenses let alone buy a bike. Despite their family circumstances, all these children work hard in school and generally have good school results. Some live far from their school and often walk in the blistering sun or torrential rains to get to there. With the kind donations given to the CNCF **Buy A Bike** project these children now have a safe quick way to get to school and a boost in their confidence in overcoming difficulties their families face. Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Buy a Bike project.

A touch of Summer



Fundraiser Eleanor Gledhill has been raising funds for Mongolia with the help of friends and family. The group from Forfar, Scotland organised a sale of strawberry teas for people in their local area. This was followed by having a stall at the Annual Forfar Gala Day where they tempted people with

strawberries and ice cream and other delicious treats! Eleanor has successfully been selling plants and seeds on Ebay in aid of the Foundation and she was able to sell more plants on her stall at Forfar Gala Day. Judging from the amounts raised there are obviously a lot of keen gardeners and strawberry lovers in Forfar! Thanks to Eleanor and Martin and everyone who helped out on the day.

Down in Hampshire, Jackie and Rainer Preis have been having equal success with sales of their home made jams and marmalade to students from Germany who visit the Bournemouth area each year. Rainer does a wonderful job as tour guide and when the students return to Germany, the coach boot is loaded with jam and marmalade, not only for themselves, but to sell at their charity stand at the Frankfurt Wine Festival together with our Mongolian slippers, and beautiful dolls handknitted by local lady Sue Brittain. All proceeds raised go to support our projects in Mongolia and each Christmas Jackie and Rainer travel to Germany to show the students how their money has been spent and tell them more about our work. Well done Jackie and Rainer in Barton on Sea and Annelie, Yilmaz and Marianne in Frankfurt.

If you have any ideas for fundraising please let us know:

CNCF UK,
11-15 Lillie Road,
West Brompton,
LONDON SW6 1TX
Ph: 44 20 7381 8550
fax: 44 20 7385 9228
email: uk@cncf.org