



# CNCF UK Newsletter

Volume 8  
October 2009

## Eco House: CNCF's First Irish Project



Through the generosity of South Dublin County Council and a number of major sponsors, a new state of the art ecologically designed house located in Tallaght, a deprived area of Dublin, has been donated to The Christina Noble Children's Foundation. Christina was determined that this house be used for the education and assistance of disadvantaged children in Tallaght and became aware of the great work the charity An Cosán (the Irish word for path) was already doing in the area. With a joint ambition to help make a difference to the children of Tallaght CNCF and An Cosan have joined in a partnership to run this project.

The house, known as The Christina Noble House, opened to local children on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2009. 20 children began on this date, with 20 more starting in the weeks that follow. The day went very well, all the children were very intrigued by the house and spent a long time exploring and trying out all the toys. In keeping with Christina's philosophy that children from poor backgrounds be given the same opportunity as more fortunate ones, the children will receive 22 hours a week of high quality early years education and the parents will receive home/school liaison, a parent education programme as well as dental and nutrition advice. The cost is kept at a minimum for families at just 5 Euro a week per child.

## Sponsorship increase:

Just a little reminder that child sponsorship has increased to £20 per month. We would ask those people who haven't yet adjusted their standing orders to please do

so as any shortfall has to come out of our emergency fund.

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## Mid Autumn Festival: Vietnam



Children from the CNCF projects had an extra treat this Mid Autumn Festival with the surprise presence of Christina Noble at the event. Christina has been busy visiting all the Vietnamese projects over the last few weeks. She is now back in Ireland and preparing for a trip to Mongolia in the coming weeks. Her visit to Vietnam coincided with the celebrations held each Autumn in Vietnam. The Mid Autumn Festival is



celebrated when the moon is felt to be at its brightest and roundest, a time of natural harmony. It is also a National Children's Day and a time for celebration and it is traditional for families to come together. For many of the children involved in the projects, CNCF is their family and the Foundation makes sure that every child feels very special on this day. All the children receive paper lanterns and get dressed up in their best outfits. They take part in and watch a wonderful performance organized by the Social and Medical Centre with traditional lion dancers, singing and a lantern parade. Traditional food of Moon cakes are eaten and given as gifts.

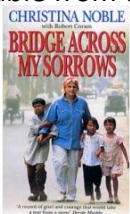
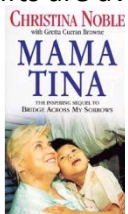
## Christmas Gift ideas from CNCF



CNCF has a few Christmas ideas for you and your family this year. We have some beautiful Christmas cards designed by children from our Blue Skies Ger Village. There are ten designs in total costing £3.99 (plus 60p Postage). Please contact the UK office for details.

We also have CNCF canvas bags, 35cm x 35 cm costing £3.50, CNCF bone china mugs at £5 and 2GB memory sticks for £5.99. (Please allow between 50p and £2 p/p depending on the item.)

Why not buy a book for a friend or family member. Not only is this a great read but also a fantastic way to help the Foundation get its message out. £7.99. + p/p. All gifts are available from the CNCF UK office.



Pure Collection Cashmere continue to be a supporter of CNCF.

They are currently donating £10 to the Foundation for every ultimate Cashmere wrap they sell.

[www.purecollectioncashmere.com](http://www.purecollectioncashmere.com)

The Charity Shopping Site is an internet shopping site that can

make money for CNCF every time you buy something from your favorite shops on line at no extra expense to you! There are loads of shops that have signed up, such as M&S, Tesco, Spec Savers and many more. When you shop at The Charity Shopping Site stores pay us a commission for every purchase that is made. Have a look at the site to learn more:

[www.thecharityshoppingsite.org](http://www.thecharityshoppingsite.org) Alternatively you can get to it via the CNCF web page under Sunshine Shopping and the page takes you through to the site, with CNCF already loaded as your chosen charity.

## Volunteers Photographic Exhibition



Tara Cronin, UK Board Member and Collette Mackin, Artistic Director Irish Cultural Centre

The opening of our photographic exhibition, "Today's Children Tomorrow's Future" held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September at The London Irish Cultural Centre, in Hammersmith, was hailed a great success by the guests who attended and we have had a very positive feedback from the people who have since visited the exhibition. Apart from the wonderfully framed photographs of some of our children in Vietnam and Mongolia, the individual story boards written by past volunteers and staff were both impressive and moving and a tribute to the role they have played on behalf of CNCF. The Exhibition will next be travelling to the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, opening on 16<sup>th</sup> November and further dates in the UK are planned.

## A Song and Dance in the name of Charity

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, over 250 people sang and danced to two well known Irish bands, Hungry Grass and The Bible Code Sundays, in aid of CNCF. The event was held at the London Irish Cultural Centre, Hammersmith. CNCF staff and volunteers sold raffle tickets on the night, raising extra funds. Big thanks to all who donated prizes, and to





everyone who supported us. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and one which we hope to repeat next year.



## Mongol Rally Teams arrive at the CNCF Blue Skies Ger Village



After travelling over 4,000 miles from Goodwood to Ulaanbaatar, Mongol Rally teams began arriving in the capital. All teams who chose CNCF as their charity help support The Blue Skies Ger Village, so what better place to visit with their cars. As you can see from the photographs the children were delighted to meet the teams.

The Adventurists, organisers of the Mongol Rally, put on a concert in the main square of Ulaanbaatar to celebrate the arrival of the teams. Children from the Blue Skies Ger Village and sponsorship programme were invited to take part and gave a spectacular show of dancing, singing and traditional music. The new addition to the Blue Skies Ger Village of a theatre and studio has enabled the children's talents to flourish.



The Concert held in the main square: Ulaanbaatar.

Not only have the Mongol Rally teams raised more money for CNCF this year than ever before, a couple of the teams also donated the ambulances they had driven all that way and they are in surprisingly good condition. One will be used by the mobile night clinic staff, thus easing the strain on the existing Unimog which has been in use since the project began. In an average year, the clinic can see up to 4000 children, offering free health care, advice, warm clothes and hot food. This particular ambulance was driven from Germany by Martin Nicolas Nolting and Paul-Philip Kregel and travelled 14,000 kms. Their man sponsor was Artotel. The second ambulance will be converted into a mini-bus to transport some of the Ger village children and was donated by Hannah, Caroline and Christopher. They called their team "Driving Dotty" and raised sponsorship by selling different sized dots on the van.



Emonn (general manager in Mongolia) receiving the Ambulances.

## German supporters in action



At the Frankfurt Wine Festival selling on behalf of CNCF.

Loyal CNCF supporters in Germany, Erdmute Renzel, Anita Wähler, Helga Nützmann and Maria-Luise Kleiner at the Frankfurt Wine Festival in September, selling our felt slippers from Mongolia, together with handknitted dolls and home made jam from Hampshire. All proceeds to go towards the support of children in Mongolia.

## Fundraiser trip to Mongolia

Busy fundraiser Jackie Preis, has just returned from a two week field trip to Mongolia, accompanied by her niece Margaret. Whilst there, they were able to witness first hand how the money they raise each year is benefitting the children of poor families. They accompanied the sponsorship team on a trip up country as far as Erdenet



where they visited many sponsored families and gave out blankets and warm clothing, which had been sent from supporters all over the world, together with winter food supplies and sponsorship funds. Jackie has some harrowing stories about children and families in desperate need and there were quite a few children who particularly touched her one of whom was Otgonjargaal, a little girl who was very badly scalded when she fell backwards into a huge pot of soup. Her parents sold everything in order to pay for the skin graft she needed but she will need many more grafts until she stops growing. Otgonjargaal and her parents were living in a shack which had many gaping holes in it and her mother was worried about what they would do when winter arrived. There and then Jackie decided to use some of the money her husband had raised on ebay selling photographic equipment to provide the family with a Ger of their own. Otgonjargaal's mother just broke down when she was told they were getting a Ger and a good friend has allowed them to erect it on their land.



Jackie with Otgonjargaal receiving her Ger.

Jackie returned to England with many photographs and stories to illustrate just what an amazing job our Manager and the CNCF staff do in Mongolia, and not always in the easiest of circumstances.

## Project Overview:

### Medical Assistance Project: Vietnam

The Medical Assistance Project was established in Vietnam in 1999. It provides medical support on a case-by-case basis for needy children requiring vital medical treatment. Organized on a referral basis and in cooperation with local specialists and other medical facilities, cases range from severe malnutrition to major heart surgery. The programme provides medical support to over 150 children throughout the year on average and allows many disadvantaged children to eventually return to school and live a normal life. It offers free treatment for families who would otherwise have no access to medical help. Each year a team of Irish doctors travel to

Vietnam and volunteer their services and expertise training local doctors in several paediatric medical

centres on surgical procedures. This year the team, headed by Dr. Martin went out in August and performed a variety of operations on children referred to hospital by CNCF. We are very grateful to Dr Martin and his team.

### Help keep our postage costs low.

CNCF is committed to keeping the cost of administration low. With the ever increasing cost of postage, we would prefer, where possible, to send receipts for extra gifts of money from child sponsors via email. We eagerly ask that all supporters who have not already passed on their e-mail addresses to us to please do so. Send us a quick e-mail to [uk@cncf.org](mailto:uk@cncf.org). stating that you are happy to receive receipts in this manner. Clearly, if you do not have an email address, then we shall continue to send receipts via the postal system.

### Christina writes the Forward for Sonas



Christina Noble was invited to write the Forward for the book: "Sonas, Celtic Thoughts of Happiness" in which a host of Irish people express what happiness means to them. The book will be available in all bookshops from November and it's also available on Amazon: ISBN 978-0-340-99317-0.

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

The Foundation in Vietnam has implemented an 'extra gift' limit of US\$100 per child per year. Any extra money sent to a single child will be placed in a special 'gift fund' to be used for the purpose of school supplies and Tet gifts and birthday cards for all children in the programme.

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