

CSPE Guide for Teachers

Christina Noble Children's Foundation

Development in Action

WHO ARE WE?

Christina Noble Children's Foundation was established in 1991 by Christina Noble, an Irish mother who had had a dream about going to work with the street children of Vietnam some years earlier. Christina arrived in Vietnam alone in 1989, motivated by this dream and spent the next two years in working with the street children, and fundraising for the set up a Centre of Social Assistance for Disadvantaged Children. In 1991, the Christina Noble Children's Foundation was formally established and today has over 100 projects in Educational, Health and Community Development in both Vietnam and Mongolia, supporting street children and those who are suffering from extreme poverty. Our schools, Health Centres, Shelters, Community, Educational, Art & Music & Sports Programmes offer much needed assistance to the most vulnerable members of society

From its simple beginnings, motivated by the dream of one exceptional woman, Christina Noble Children's Foundation has grown to support over 1 million children in the last 25 years.

Vietnam

Christina Noble Children's Foundation has established dozens of invaluable projects in Vietnam, working with street children and their families. These projects encompass Education, Healthcare, Community Development, Sports, Art and Music and are aimed at improving the lives of some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Vietnam.

Christina Noble's first project – the Centre of Social Assistance for Disadvantaged Children (CSADC) in Ho Chi Minh City, remains the centre of the Foundation's operations in Vietnam, with a number of our Programmes running from this location. Amongst the Programmes running out of this Centre is the Outpatients Clinic – the only clinic of its kind which offers free medical care to children whose families would not be able to afford treatment otherwise. This service has proven to be a real lifeline for vulnerable families in Vietnam, for whom medical care had previously been out of reach.

All of the projects are run by a dedicated team of staff and volunteers in Vietnam, and our Foundation relies heavily on donations from the public in order to keep these projects up and running.

Mongolia

The work of the Christina Noble Children's Foundation was extended to Mongolia in 1997, after Christina visited the country and saw the conditions in which vulnerable children were living. Christina visited state prisons where she found young people living in squalor in sub-zero temperatures. She also visited the man-holes of the city - where street children have been forced to seek refuge to escape the blisteringly cold conditions, which can drop as low as -30 degrees.

Our Foundation has initiated a number Healthcare, Educational and Community Development projects in response to the abject poverty that Christina witnessed in Mongolia and continues to work with street children and their families in Ulaanbataar.

The work done by Christina Noble Children's Foundation allows the cycle of poverty to be broken and supports the children in realising their full potential. All projects are long-term, sustainable initiatives established and fully maintained by CNCF staff.

Who are the Street children?

Street Children are among the poorest and most vulnerable members of society in both Vietnam and Mongolia, and indeed in many other countries around the world. Unicef has described a street child as being "any boy or girl... for whom the street in the widest sense of the word (including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc) has become her or his habitual abode and/or source of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised, or directed by responsible adults". In other words, for street children, the street has become their real home on which they rely completely for survival, nourishment and protection. Street children are often viewed as being on the bottom of the social ladder and many of them struggle to survive – being forced in to crime, begging and child labour to stay alive. In Vietnam, the term for street children is Bui Doi, which, when translated means 'Dust of Life' and these children are often forgotten or disregarded by their own society. Many street children struggle with illness, addiction and malnourishment as a result of the hardship they face on the streets.

Causes of the Street Children Phenomenon

The causes of children living on the streets are numerous. In each country, there are an array of societal, political, socio-economic and cultural reasons why children might end up living on the streets. While there is no one cause of this phenomenon, some of the reasons below can be causal factors in children choosing or being forced to live on the streets;

- Poverty
- Abuse
- Neglect
- Addiction or violence in the home
- Gender prejudice
- Urbanization
- Diminishment of farming/land
- Children sold into labour
- Poor and large families
- Unemployment/Underemployment
- Poor housing facilities
- Poor law enforcement/exploitation by law enforcers
- Children born on the street
- Low educational attainment of parents/children
- Family conflicts
- Congestion in Slum areas

If you are interested in finding out more about street children and the work that Christina Noble Children's Foundation does to work with these vulnerable children and their families, there are a number of ways which we can help you to learn more. A speaker from the Foundation can come in to your school to speak to the students about our work and the wider issues of poverty and development as part of the CSPE and SPHE curriculum.

CSPE Action Project

Guest Speaker

Your class will cover the concepts of Rights and Responsibilities, Human Dignity and Development and then a member of staff from the Christina Noble Children's Foundation can help you to find out about the specific work and the street children in Vietnam and Mongolia.

Rights and Responsibilities

Every person has the right to shelter, nutrition, education, healthcare and the right to develop in a safe and loving environment. Christina Noble Children's Foundation aims to provide this. Every human has the responsibility to care for themselves and others to the best of his/her ability. An objective of CNCF is to make the more fortunate aware of their responsibilities to others less fortunate.

Human Dignity

If people's basic human needs are not met, then there is a loss in their human dignity. We must value and respect every human being. This means treating all people equally. Christina Noble Children's Foundation is committed to upholding the dignity of every child whom we work with.

Development

Developing countries such as Vietnam or Mongolia have many problems such as malnutrition, illiteracy and a lack of medical care. CNCF organises Healthcare, Educational and Community Development projects to benefit those in need.

If you are interested in any of the above topics, we would be delighted to come in to your school and discuss them further with your students. This will give your class a unique insight in to the work of Christina Noble Children's Foundation and, we hope, inspire Irish students to action on behalf of the street children of Vietnam and Mongolia. After we speak to your class, we would be happy to support you to take action – be it fundraising for our Foundation, writing to a Politian or linking your class to our Centre in Vietnam.

Please contact us at ireland@cncf.ie or phone Cathy on (01) 645 5555 if you would like to discuss this further, we would be delighted to hear from you.

5 Steps to CSPE Action Project for inviting a guest speaker to your school

Step 1: Set up Class Committees

1. After choosing your topic, divide the class up into committees. These are a few suggestions, depending on the size of your class.

The permission committee organise permission from the principal for the various project activities.

The research committee-to gather the information you need.

The contact committee- to invite the guest speaker and arrange a suitable time, to greet the speaker, introduce him/her and to thank him/her on behalf of the class.

The room committee-to organise a suitable room and lay out the chairs accordingly.

The questions committee-to collect and organise questions from the class for the speaker.

The fundraising committee-to organise a suitable fundraising event

The finance committee- to manage any money raised.

The awareness committee- to raise awareness of the topic being researched through posters etc, to decorate the room for the speaker and to visually record the occasion.

Step 2. Research the topic

(The research committee are needed here)

Surf the net at www.cncf.ie Email Christina Noble foundation at ireland@cncf.org

Write to us :

22 South Frederick Street

Dublin 2.

Ireland.

Step 3: Invite a guest speaker

(The permission committee, the contact committee, the room committee, the questions committee and the awareness committee are needed here)

A representative of Christina Noble Childrens Foundation is available to come and visit your school. They can give a talk to the pupils, show a short documentary and answer any questions you may have about the work of CNCF. Just contact us and we will be more than happy to accomodate you.

Step 4: Take Action

(The permission committee ,the awareness committee, the fundraising committee and the finance committee are needed here)

Decide on your activity. Here are some suggestions for your class:

- Organise a fundraising day
- Start a petition in your school against child prostitution

- Organise debates in your school about development issues
- Write a letter to the President of Ireland outlining your concerns about street children in Vietnam and Mongolia and development issues
- Contact the media to create awareness about issues surrounding the street children of Mongolia and Vietnam and their plight.

Step 5- Analysis and Evaluation

Ask yourself these important questions:

What were the main tasks/activities undertaken

What did I do to help in this action project?

What 2 skills did I apply e.g. negotiation, creativity, decision making, public speaking, research, computer skills etc

What 5 facts did I learn about my chosen topic?

Do I feel any differently about the topic after the project was completed?

What are my thoughts on my experiences now?

"When I was a child, I needed only one person to understand my suffering and my pain, one person to love me. One is very important. There are many ones, and they add up"

Christina Noble (Founder of the Christina Noble Children's Foundation)