



**CHRISTINA  
NOBLE**



# CHRISTINA NOBLE OBE



**Christina Noble OBE**, is an exceptional, inspiring person. She has, by her own effort, example and with an unselfish willingness to serve, shown the world that street children are a vital part of humanity - that the abuse and maltreatment suffered by children can be stopped. By providing love, and by giving back dignity to over 800,000 of these special children and their families in Mongolia and Vietnam, she has shown us that they can be empowered to fulfill their proper role in society. They can, and will be their countries' future. Since 1991, Christina Noble and her Foundation have established over 150 projects/programmes in Vietnam & Mongolia. Today, the work of the Foundation impacts the lives of over 20,000 children and their families annually.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, on December 23rd 1944; daughter of Thomas & Anne Byrne,

Christina Noble is a child of the impoverished Liberties of Dublin during the 1940's - 1950's. Christina endured a childhood of loss, isolation and tragedy. After the early death of her mother, Christina was separated from her five siblings and committed to an abusive state institution. Christina escaped several times and later in 1962, she fled to England only to find herself trapped in a violent and destructive marriage.

In 2003, Christina was Listed by Time Magazine (Europe) as one of the True Heroes of Our World (April 2003 Issue) and was Bestowed by His Royal Highness The Prince Of Wales with the Honour of Most Excellent Officer of The Order Of the British Empire (OBE) for Services to Children.

Today, Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) is an international partnership of people with offices located in nine countries, dedicated to fulfilling a promise to protect and help impoverished, vulnerable children and those at risk of exploitation.

The operational centres in Vietnam and Mongolia provide shelter to underprivileged, orphaned or abandoned children whilst ensuring they all have direct access to a good education, a high standard of healthcare, and other social and employment opportunities.

CNCF also engages in sustainable development initiatives that benefit the families and wider communities of the children. To date, over 800,000 children and collectively 1,000,000 individuals have been helped by Christina and her Foundation.

While CNCF has attained sustainability into the future due to its good standing in the international NGO community and relevant Government departments in Vietnam and Mongolia, the Foundation continues to be inspired and guided by Christina.

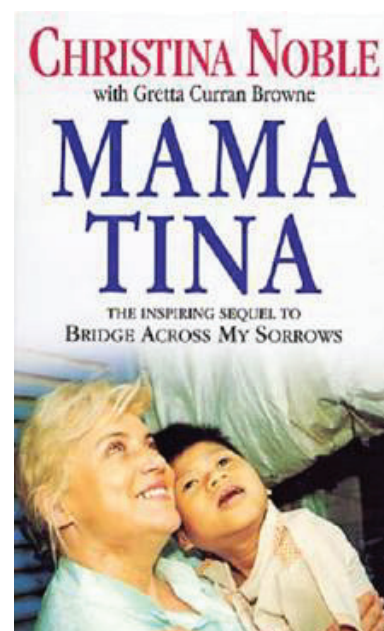
Despite her exhaustive schedule, Christina remains involved in the day-to-day management of the organisation through regular conference calls, meetings, reporting etc.

As the driving force behind the Foundation, she is constantly travelling to the operational centres in Mongolia and Vietnam to oversee strategic direction, government relations and recruitment of senior staff amongst her respective Board of Management.

Asked recently about the activities of the Foundation she founded over 28 years ago, Christina replied, "We just do our best with what little we have to help people to change their own lives." But there is little doubt that whilst doing so, Christina has inspired thousands of supporters in Europe and around the world, join together and offer a hand of friendship that has been founded on the very basis of helping others in need.



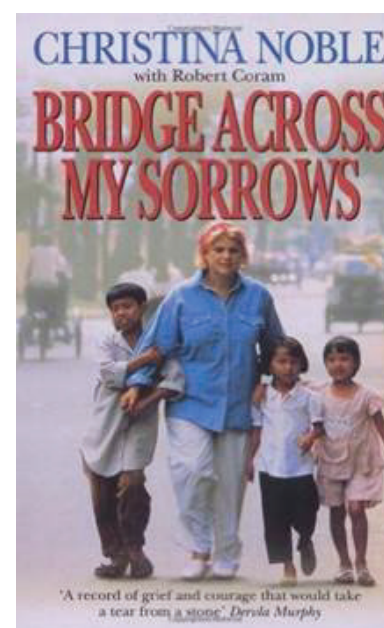




Christina and CNCF have received over one hundred humanitarian and achievement awards for their work on behalf of children's rights.

For example, Christina was recognised by Time magazine as one of the **"Most Inspiring Heroes of our World"**, received the Order of the British Empire and was awarded the prestigious Albert Schweitzer Award. In recognition of her service to the children and poor communities of Vietnam, Christina was only the third person to receive the **"Order of Friendship Medal"** from the Vietnamese Government in 2012. This award is the highest honour given to foreigners by the President and the people of Vietnam.

Christina is the author of two international best-selling autobiographies, ***Bridge Across My Sorrows*** (1994) and ***Mama Tina*** (1997). Christina was also the subject of two award-winning documentaries, ***Mama Tina*** (1997) and ***In A House That Ceased To Be*** (2014) and the feature film ***NOBLE*** (2014) which won seven international film awards.





In 1971, Christina had a dream that eighteen years later would lead her to Vietnam, to begin her work amongst the forgotten street children (Bui Doi - Dust of Life) of Vietnam..

“I came to Vietnam because of a dream I had almost twenty years ago. The dream told me to work with the street children of this poor, jangled war-torn and disease ridden country. You might laugh at that. You might say it was nothing but a dream and that only someone who is Irish would act on a dream as if it were a message from God. And you could be right. After all, my coming here was not anything I could explain then or anything I can explain today. I had a dream - or a vision if you will- that ordered me to Vietnam”

- Christina Noble -

Christina arrived in Vietnam in 1989 without any financial backing and/or support, shocked by the appalling poverty and conditions experienced by the street children. She struggled against usual apathy that said one person cannot make a difference, and against official suspicion of interference in Vietnam's domestic affairs. Christina refused to give up, she did not stop working and later in 1991, with official recognition from the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, The Christina Noble Foundation, Children's Social and Medical Centre was established in Ho Chi Minh City.

Providing free medical care to over 6,000 street and abandoned children per year, the centre was the first foreign entity of its kind to be approved by the Vietnamese authorities. 1991 also saw the establishment of Christina's first free school for over 300 street

children, providing education and reintegration opportunities into Vietnamese mainstream Education. In 1992, Christina attended the UNESCO conference on Street Children in Paris as key speaker and was awarded the Medal for Peace & Humanity by the Mayor of Nimes, France.

Recognising the dangers that existed on the streets of Ho Chi Minh City and the need to encourage the children to change their attitudes towards gangs, prostitution, drugs and violence, Christina built and equipped a purpose-built emergency residential shelter for young boys in 1994. Christina's work for the children proved to be dangerous and violent, exposing her to the criminal and organised crime industry profiting from the exploitation of children and in 1995, Christina was invited as a key speaker at the Vietnamese Conference addressing Children's Rights organised by The European Union.

Later in 1995, she was presented with the Paul Harris Fellowship Award by Rotary International and The Hearts Of Gold Award by The British Broadcasting Corporation. Returning to Vietnam, Christina lived, worked and travelled throughout Vietnam identifying and grasping the true situation experienced by numerous poverty stricken communities, learning their traditional; customs and learning Vietnamese.

In 1996, Christina established the Child Sponsorship Programme providing life saving financial support and child social services to over 2000 families and their children annually. The programme has proved successful in keeping the family unit together and contributing towards the decrease of child migration to cities where the children become trapped within the dangers and vices that exist.







In Vietnam, the cooperative partnership established with the Vietnamese Government strengthened and Christina worked diligently to reduce discrimination against ethnic minorities with regards to access to education opportunities and enrolment into mainstream education curriculum.

Recognising her determination and efforts, Christina received numerous accolades including, Medal from Ministry Of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs for her humanitarian contribution to Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City Medal, Ho Chi Minh City Red Cross Award to the Council Of Ministers, presented by the Prime Minister of Vietnam, Honorary Certificate for her contribution towards saving children.

Schools, kindergartens, medical clinics have been built and equipped throughout the country providing access to learning for children of ethnic minority families and accessible medical services. Reduction in child related accidents due to being left alone at home whilst parents work is apparent. Increase in family income is recorded due to both parents having access to employment opportunities as a result of day care facilities and reduction in sickness and medical fees.



In 2000, Christina tackled the issue of the high number of visually impaired and blind children of Tay Ninh Province, once a politically sensitive region in Vietnam. Many children were born blind as a result of the defoliants dropped and spread during war. Christina undertook cooperation with UNESCO, built and equipped a purpose-built residential and training facility designed to meet the needs of visually impaired children.

Christina took over the project completely in 2003 entering into a long term agreement with the Vietnamese Government. Vietnamese President Tran Duc Long bestowed Christina with Honorary Recognition for her unswerving dedication to children. The year 2000 also saw Christina receiving awards for People Of The Year Award Ireland, Belevdere Justice Award, Ireland, The Gold Insignia Medal of Ho Chi Minh City and The Honorary Title of Friends of Children - a true charity organisation presented by the Governor of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Christina has continued to advocate human rights and speaks regularly at various Universities, England and Ireland, including Trinity College. In 2002, Christina was invited to attend World Conference on Child Abuse in New Zealand as key speaker. The Education Assistance Programme was also established in 2002 to support underprivileged children from poor families who are at risk of dropping out of school due to financial difficulties.





In 1997, Christina was voted one of the “20 Most Inspiring Women In The World” by Harpers and Queen UK, awarded a medal from The Ministry Of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, honoured as one of the “People of the Year UK” and presented with the “Outstanding Self-Sacrifice Award” by the Rotary Charity Foundation, Malaysia. 1997 also saw Christina launch her Micro-finance Loan Programme (Revolving Loan), providing small capital loans to poverty stricken communities with the opportunity to generate income and develop self sustainable small businesses, contributing significantly to Vietnam’s National policy for the Alleviation of Poverty and Eradication of Starvation and thus reducing child social migration into the city.

In 1997, Christina visited Mongolia and discovered a country struggling to come to terms with the transition to a market economy and parliamentary democracy. The fracturing of the Mongolian economy was reflected in the absolute breakdown of family values; Children roamed the streets in thousands, seeking food and shelter from the bitterly cold winters of -30 degrees and below, down manholes, below the city streets. Christina established The Christina Noble Children’s Foundation as a Non Governmental organisation in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and later in 1997, the Blue Skies Ger Village was founded.

Based on the Mongolian nomadic culture, these tents like structures (Gers), provide loving homes to street children offering safe and secure environments and educational facilities. Christina held a press conference, bringing to the attention of the Mongolian Government the infringement of human rights and abuse of children. She was attacked and severely beaten on the streets of Ulaanbaatar to deter her from taking further action, but she continued to work tirelessly - arranging televised exposure of physical and mental abuse committed against children in state detention centres. She went on to set a precedent by winning a court battle against a Government official accused of physically beating children within a state detention centre.

Partly as a result of Christina's campaigning in this area, the Mongolian Government introduced Proper Policing Policies for Children, and a Children's Police Force to be introduced in 2003.

Christina travelled back to Vietnam to rescue young girls at risk from sexual exploitation, trafficking and developed a new residential and vocational training centre for girls in Ho Chi Minh City. In 1998, Christina received Medal from Red Cross Central Committee of Vietnam for her contribution towards the alleviation of poverty and provision of care for children. Christina worked tirelessly with prison authorities and launched the first Prison Education Project in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia providing child residents with education, job training and rehabilitation programmes for their impending release from Prison.



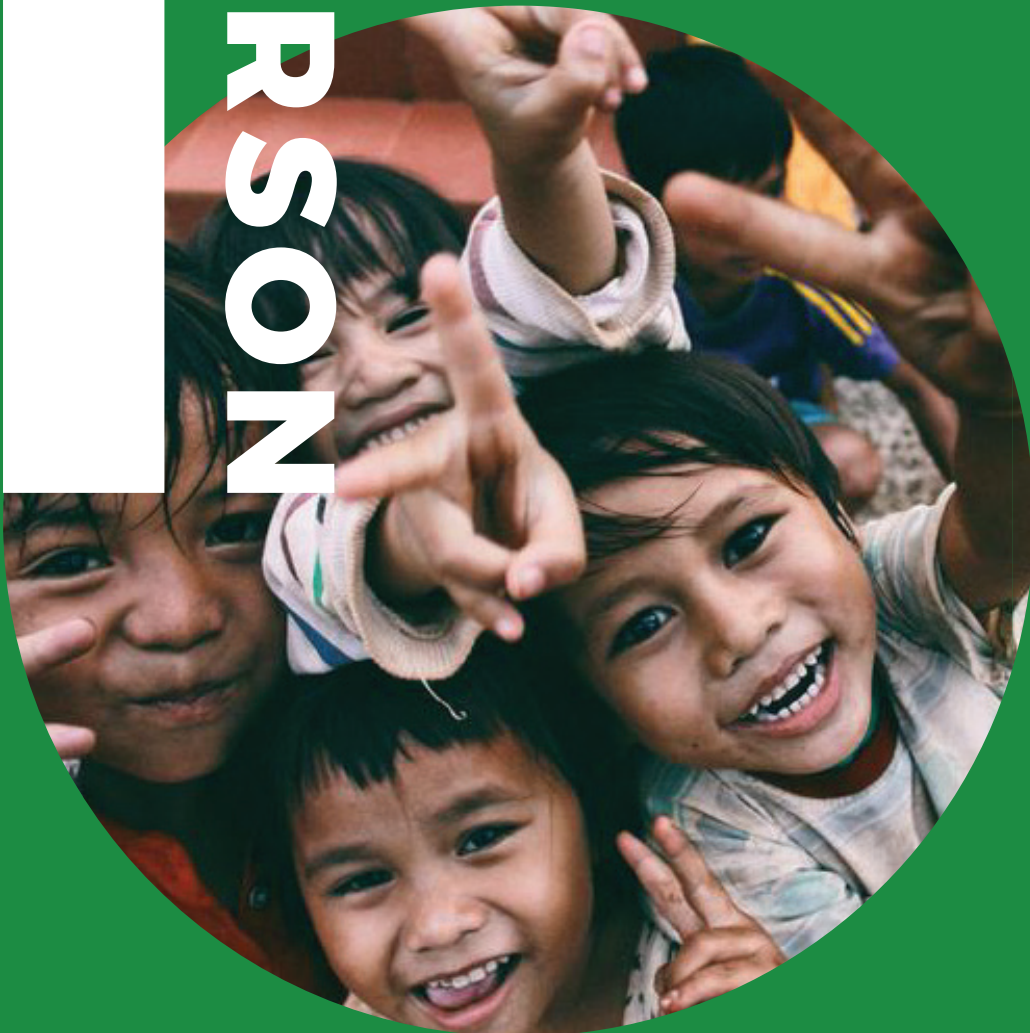


# 1 PERSON


“

Each one of us is only one person.  
But joining all the ones together,  
we can accomplish greatness.”

• Christina Noble



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