



TAY NINH RESIDENTIAL CENTRE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN VIETNAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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ABBREVIATIONS

CNCF	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
DOLISA	Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs HCMC
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City



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OUR VISION, MISSION, VALUES

Vision: A united world where children are free from suffering, poverty, exploitation, fear, and oppression. Where children are aware of their fundamental human rights.

Mission: The Christina Noble Children's Foundation is dedicated to serving the physical, medical, educational and emotional needs of vulnerable children. We believe that every child deserves love, respect and freedom from all forms of exploitation.

Values: Our values represent our beliefs and guide how we behave. They are: Love, Compassion, Respect, Honesty, and Integrity.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

By supporting our Tay Ninh Centre for Visually Impaired Children, you help give some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children in Vietnam a brighter future.

Thank you to our following generous donors who helped to keep this project operating in 2018.

Argon Masking, USA

Anonymous Foundation, USA

Berwin Leighton Paisner, Hong Kong

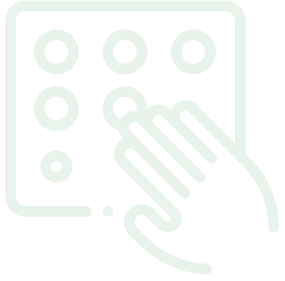
Birthday Party -Two Presents Platform, Hong Kong

The Australian International School, Hong Kong

Tim & Donna Parrish, USA

Christine Cameron & Friends, Hong Kong

We also thank our local government partner, the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) of Tay Ninh Province, who makes it possible for us to implement the programme successfully.



“

My philosophy isn't just about mending bodies. It's about restoring people's independence, giving them a life, not just an existence. It's about respect and love and dignity. Those are the things we owe our children. Children are the ones who need them most of all.

- Christina Noble OBE -



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PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

LOCATION	Tay Ninh province, Vietnam
OBJECTIVES	To provide visually impaired children with shelter, food, healthcare, education, rehabilitation, and vocational and life skills training so they can become self-sufficient and successfully integrate into the community.
PROGRAMME COMPONENTS	Residential Care, Healthcare, Rehabilitation, Education, Vocational and Life Skills Training.
BENEFICIARIES	Children and young adults with visual impairments who come from underprivileged families.
LOCAL PARTNERS	Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) of Tay Ninh province.
CNCF INVOLVEMENT	Directly responsible for funding and financial management, provide management and technical support for project implementation, and facilitate extra-curricular activities and life skills training.
CNCF MANAGEMENT	Helenita Noble, CEO; Son Thu Trinh, Director of Operations, Vietnam; Nguyen Huu Nghia, Vice Director of Operations, Vietnam; Hoang Tu Uyen, Vice Director, Project Management, Vietnam; Nguyen Ngoc Minh Ngan, Programme Manager of Tay Ninh Centre.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Because CNCF is directly responsible for financial management and funding, as well as provision of technical support, the CNCF Programme Manager conducts official monitoring visits to the Tay Ninh Centre at least once every two months. Information and updates about the children are collected through project visits (scheduled and unscheduled) and timely support in different areas is provided where necessary. Meetings with the local partners and/or Tay Ninh Centre staff are held for project updates and to resolve any issues. Weekly internal meetings are conducted for CNCF staff to discuss programme related issues and updates. Monthly, quarterly, and semi-annual reports are sent by CNCF staff to the Board of Management. An end of year evaluation is conducted by DOLISA and CNCF to assess results of the project and an Annual Report is distributed to all stakeholders.

2018 ACTUAL COSTS

USD \$46,311.42

FUTURE PLANS

In 2019, our aim is to maintain the quality of existing services and facilities, provide additional support where needed, and continue building capacity of local staff.

REPORTING PERIOD

January – December 2018

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2018, the Tay Ninh Centre for Visually Impaired Children in Vietnam continued to provide children with shelter, food, healthcare, education, rehabilitation, and vocational and life skills training so they can become self-sufficient and successfully integrate into the community.

In 2019, our aim is to maintain the quality of existing services and facilities, provide additional support where needed, and continue to build capacity of local staff.

2018

59 CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

received care at the centre. Three children left the centre during the year and three joined during the year.

56 CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

lived at the centre at the end of the year.

29 PARTIALLY BLIND

lived at the centre the year.

26 TOTALLY BLIND

lived at the centre the year.

MORE THAN

1/3 CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

face additional challenges such as mental health problems, hearing impairment, or other physical disabilities.



1,291

RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN
have been supported by the Tay Ninh Centre.



PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

Tay Ninh is a province in the Southeast region of Vietnam located approximately 100 kilometres from Ho Chi Minh City. It was the scene of one of the fiercest battles during the American-Vietnam War where a large amount of defoliants was scattered. After the war, many children were born with serious eye deformities and blindness. The high incidence of visual impairment in the community has been attributed to several factors including the use of defoliants such as Agent Orange, inadequate health education and monitoring, inadequate access to medical care, and malnutrition.

Established in 1999, the Tay Ninh Centre for Visually Impaired Children functions as both a residential and educational centre, providing children with long-term residential care, food, healthcare, education (including formal education, rehabilitation, and life skills training), recreational activities, and vocational training. The Tay Ninh Centre is the only facility offering services and support to visually impaired children and young adults in the province of Tay Ninh.

The centre can accommodate up to **65 visually impaired children and young adults**. In its nearly twenty years of operation, the centre has gained the respect of the local authorities and people because of the incredible impact it has made in the community and the opportunities it offers the children. To date, the Tay Ninh Centre has supported **over 1,200 children**.

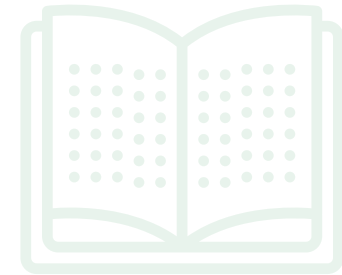




REPORT 2018

OUR YEAR

At all CNCF residential facilities, children receive a holistic range of care designed to facilitate their development and equip them to live independent lives as adults.



DURING 2018

36 CHILDREN
attended different levels and
types of schooling.

29 CHILDREN
attended rehabilitation classes.

28 CHILDREN
went to school (and attended
vocational classes at the centre).

11 CHILDREN
received tutoring at the centre to
prepare them to attend school.

AT THE END OF 2018

29 Children
Partially Blind

26 Children
Totally blind

LIVED AT THE CENTRE

All resident children are **29 Children Partially Blind and 26 Children Totally blind**. In addition, **more than one-third of the children** face additional challenges such as mental health problems, hearing impairment, or other physical disabilities.

TESTIMONIALS

“

Since the day I went into the Centre, I saw magic and interesting things. I had friends and new family. I can play music, I can sing, and I can go to school. Life was like a dream, a dream that I had never dared to dream.

- Tay Ninh Centre Child -

“

I was broken when the doctor announced that my daughter's vision would become worse and worse and one day she could not see anything. At first, I was afraid the Centre could not take care of her well and asked for a place to sleep with my daughter at night which they allowed. However, I soon saw how much care and love the Centre staff put into their work. I am very happy now, and I know that my daughter feels the same.

- Parent of Tay Ninh Centre Child -

“

When I first came to the Centre I was very nervous, I had only ever known my own family and I always stayed at home. Living at the Centre has opened up a whole new world to me I never knew existed. I am with people who have the same challenges as I do and understand me. My life is bright and full of light and promise now. Thank you CNCF for caring about children like me.

- Tay Ninh Centre Child -

“

Because of premature birth, my son suffered from retinal detachment and is totally blind. I love him and wanted to provide him with many things I thought he needed, but I was unable to. My decision to send him to the Tay Ninh Centre is the best thing I could have ever done for him. Thanks to the Centre staff, he has made good progress every day and great opportunities are open for him.

- Parent of Tay Ninh Centre Child -







REPORT 2018

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES



HEALTHCARE

All centre residents receive healthcare including:

- Annual health check-ups.
 - Regular monitoring of health and hygiene.
 - Timely medical assistance.
 - General health and hygiene training.
- 
- 
- 
- 

Annual Medical Check-Ups and Medical Conditions

IN 2018

46 CHILDREN

received general medical check-ups
at the Le Ngoc Tung Hospital.

48 CHILDREN

were dewormed.

37 CHILDREN

were vaccinated against hepatitis
B in accordance with doctor's
recommendation.

In addition, all residents received
general health check-ups at the
centre conducted by An Binh Doctors
(a non-profit medical group).

05 CHILDREN

were referred to the hospital for
follow-ups to treat a missing lacrimal
gland, epilepsy, digestive disorder,
minor injuries from a fall, and
schizophrenia.



Monitoring

A full-time nurse oversees the infirmary room and is responsible for monitoring the children's health and personal hygiene. **In 2018, the infirmary treated 109 cases.** In addition, one staff member oversees cleaning and two staff members oversee cooking. Collectively, these staff members ensure that all children living at the centre receive nutritious meals and live in a well-maintained, clean environment.

The children receive worming tablets every six months. We also check food and water sources carefully. Moreover, consumption of raw and uncooked vegetables is kept to a minimum.

The condition of each child's eyes is closely monitored. Staff remind children to keep their eyes clean, teach them how to use eyewash, and ensure medicines are used every day to protect and stabilize eye conditions. This is particularly important for children who are partially blind and face the risk of gradually losing their vision.

Children with physical challenges regularly attend physiotherapy sessions conducted by centre staff. There they practice simple movements such as holding objects in their hands and stretching and bending to improve flexibility. All residents also participate in morning exercise sessions and children who are obese or deficient in specific nutrients are placed on specialised diet and nutritional supplement plans.

Health and Hygiene Awareness and Training

In 2018, centre staff conducted nine sharing sessions on various health topics. Topics covered included prevention of influenza/tonsillitis/sore throat, hepatitis, dental care, and personal hygiene. As a part of their life skills training, children are assigned daily tasks and encouraged to clean their living spaces.



EDUCATION



Formal Academic Education

Education is central to the development of every child and is even more vital for children with physical and mental limitations. For these children, education is often the key to an independent life. Most of the children entering the Tay Ninh Centre have had little or no education because their abilities were underestimated. Moreover, the families of these children are often overburdened with financial challenges and are unable to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills necessary to care for and educate their visually impaired children.

Our greatest responsibility is to prepare children and young adults to integrate into their communities; helping them prepare to enrol in mainstream schools is an important step. After graduating from the primary school for children with special needs, most of the children living at the centre attend the local secondary schools where they receive the same education as all other children. This is a great opportunity for the children, but also a challenge for the staff at the centre because they must convince the Department of Education in Tay Ninh province and the schools on a case-by-case basis that the children are able to study in a mainstream school. We commit to converting lessons and examinations into Braille text and to provide children with poor performance extra tutoring.

In 2018, 36 children enrolled in school at different levels depending on their abilities. For the 2017/18 academic year, 17 children were graded as good/excellent students, while only 1 child had below average results.



Academic Success

Two Tay Ninh Centre residents graduated from university in 2018 and one resident graduated from college. The university graduates majored in special education and are currently awaiting their graduation certificates and searching for employments. The college graduate majored in the food industry and was hired by the Orient Commercial Joint Stock Bank as an officer.

Academic Update **IN 2018**

36 CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS
enrolled in formal education

17 CHILDREN
graded excellent

18 CHILDREN
graded good/satisfactory

01 CHILD
graded below satisfactory

02 UNIVERSITY
GRADUATES

01 COLLEGE
GRADUATE

Vocational Training

The vocational training programme includes computer, music, handicraft, bamboo reed curtain making, rattan weaving, and massage classes.

In 2018, students continued to utilise the centre's new computer room (built in 2017 with grant funds provide by the Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation). The computer room features fourteen computers with special software designed for the visually impaired and students are taught using a specialised curriculum for visually impaired students.

Students also participated in classes in handicrafts (the making of small beaded items such as handbags, vases, and bracelets), massage therapy, bamboo reed curtain making, rattan weaving, and music.

22
children

Handicraft

learn how to make beaded vases, handbags, key rings, and bracelets.

16
children

Massage

divided into 2 classes: advanced and intermediate.

12
children

Music

attended the vocals class, **7 children learned keyboard, and 6 children learned guitar.** Children also learned additional instruments at music club.

15
children

Computing

attended two different levels: beginner and advanced.

23
children

Bamboo reed curtain

30
children

Rattan knitting



PERSONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Personal and social skills are foundational skills upon which other skills and proficiencies build. This is particularly true for children with disabilities who may be isolated if they lack the necessary competencies to integrate into their communities.

Rehabilitation Tuition Programme

This programme teaches daily living skills, mobility skills (e.g., road safety awareness), and social skills. Children learn to orient their bodies and complete daily activities in these basic to advanced level classes.

To help children learn and practice daily tasks in the home such as folding blankets, washing clothes, cooking, and using electrical outlets, an area in the centre is set up as a model house. The model area has a living room, one bedroom, and a corner kitchen and is equipped with basic household facilities.

This year, 29 students attended the rehabilitation classes and 100% passed their lessons.

Life Skills Training

Life skills education is an essential part of preparing the children to meet the challenges of everyday life.

We organise sharing sessions on issues related to behavioural development, positive attitude, and modern social problems. Students also learn about success stories of disabled people and updated policies and specific solutions to difficulties faced by the visually impaired.







CNCF UK board directors visit the children and learn how to bead with their eyes closed

Social Skills Development

Children at the Centre have many opportunities to interact socially with local and international visitors. Most social interaction occurs during play times and organised activities in which the children can establish a sense of self and learn what others expect from them. In addition to improving their social behaviour, the children also improve their communication, cognitive, and motor skills and learn about other cultures.

In 2018, the centre welcomed 80 local community visitors and 38 international visitors. Visitors organised interesting activities and shared their stories with the children. The children enjoyed the opportunity to showcase their talents and always insisted on treating guests to music recitals and dance performances. In addition, as part of our efforts to help the children integrate into the community, we seek out opportunities for the children to participate in music performances, storytelling, or competitions organised by local groups outside the centre.

Recreational Activities

The centre has a library with books published in Braille, audio books on cassette tapes and CDs, tactile books, and normal books. These books are provided by CNCF and other organisations including Audio Library for People with Visual Impairments through the Ho Chi Minh City General Library. The General Library sends an audio books car for the children at the centre every quarter. Each teenage girl and boy has a mobile phone or radio, which they use to listen to favourite programmes, such as radio music channels and storytelling.

In addition, thanks to the computer room funded by the Ross Foundation, centre residents now have access to computers for school work and recreation.



UPS employee community engagement day

Activities and Excursions

TIENG HAT VANH KHUYEN CONTEST

Organised by local government. Children participated in a singing performance.

3 MINI EVENTS

Organised by local groups to celebrate the Tet holidays. Children received Tet gifts and interacted with many people.

NHOM NHAY HIEN DAI (Modern dance) Contest

Organised by Nguyen Chi Thanh High School. Children participated in a dance performance.

HOI NGHI BIEU DUONG NGUOI KHUYET TAT 2018.

Meeting to celebrate people with disabilities. Some children attended and performed beautiful songs.

SANG TAO KHOA HOC KY THUAT (Creativity in Science and Technology Contest) organised by local government.

1 boy successfully passed the contest's final round in Tay Ninh province and his work was chosen for display.

STORY TELLING CONTEST

Organised by Tay Ninh, Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Tay Ninh Television, and the local library. 2 girls participated.

THAP SANG UOC MO TUOI TRE HOANG VAN THU (Dreams of Youth)

Organised by Hoang Van Thu High School 2 Tay Ninh residents were invited to speak about overcoming difficulties.

MID-AUTUMN CELEBRATION WITH MAY NGAN SHELTER AT CAM PHONG PAGODA

23 children went to Cam Phong Pagoda to enjoy performances and a party with children in the May Ngan shelter.

VE TRANH THEO SACH (Drawing and Illustrating Children's Books) contest

Organised by Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism, and Department of Education and Training of Tay Ninh. 3 children participated, and they passed the semifinal and are preparing for the finals.

GIAI CO VUA DANH CHO NGUOI MU (Chess Contest for the Blind)

Organised by General Sciences Library of HCMC 11 children studied hard in preparation for the contest.

FESTIVAL HON TAM, DIEM TUA CUA NHUNG VANG TRANG KHUYET AT NHA TRANG

15 children were excited to perform and experience the performances of others.

THIEN TAM – NHAN AI FESTIVAL AT SUOI TIEN PARK TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN DECEMBER

Children enjoyed games and interesting activities.

1-DAY EXCURSION AT LONG HAI BEACH

Organised by a local charity group 45 children and 16 staff went on this trip.

OUR STORIES

The Tay Ninh Centre Provides Opportunities



Thoa* and her family have faced many difficulties. Her parents worked in a rubber factory before her father died suddenly from a stroke. Thoa and her sister both suffer with Crouzon syndrome, a genetic disorder that causes vision impairment among other symptoms.

Thoa and her sister both moved into the Tay Ninh Centre in 2003. At first, Thoa was shy and lacked confidence. She spent most of her free time alone, sitting on a bench, thinking about her medical challenges and her parents. After private talks with the Centre staff and life skills trainings organized by CNCF and the Centre, she became more confident and spent more time with friends.

Thanks to support provided by the Centre staff, Thoa found a good job with an attractive salary after she graduated from high school. She works for a footwear manufacturer in Tay Ninh province and has become a breadwinner for the family. She also attended a Chinese language course, which will allow her to advance in her job. Despite a rough start in life, Thoa and her family's future is bright.

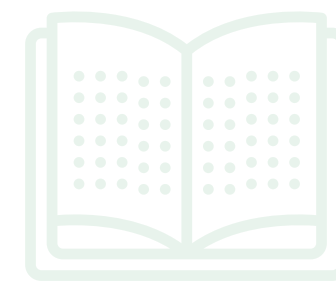


Helping a Family Toward a Better Future

Phong* and his older brother Tai* grew up on a subsistence farm with their parents. Their mother had mental health problems and his father was a disabled veteran. Despite losing a hand from an old battle wound, their father never stopped working on his small rice field to provide for his family.

Phong and Tai moved to the Centre in 2007. They both suffered from developmental delays and poor vision. At first, the boys were practically unapproachable. They were stubborn and did not want to listen to anyone because they were suspicious of strangers and did not know how to communicate. However, their poor behavior masked their fear.

Thanks to the support of the Centre's patient staff, Phong and Tai eventually became more comfortable with their new home. While their academic performance was subpar, they showed great potential in vocational classes such as massage and rattan knitting. Unfortunately, Tai was diagnosed with mental health problems last year and had to stop his schooling to undergo treatment. However, Phong graduated from the Centre and got a good job with the same footwear manufacturer as Thoa. Although he just started work at the end of last year, he already receives a good salary and has been praised for his effort and efficiency.



Tay Ninh Centre Helps Break the Cycle of Poverty

Trang* came from a poor and unhappy family. Her parents divorced when she was four and her father left. To make a living, Trang's mother worked as a hired labourer, earning a small and unreliable income. To make matters worse, Trang's mom developed intestinal cancer and her health began to deteriorate.

To help the family survive, Trang's sister went to work after finishing secondary school. However, because she was an unskilled labourer, she could not find good-paying work.

Trang lost one eye shortly after birth due to a health condition. The vision in her remaining eye was very poor. In 2001, she was sent to the Centre to receive better care. She was able to go to school, attend vocational classes, and participate in recreational activities. While living at the Centre, she was introduced to a local charity group who provided her with a prosthetic eye, which greatly increased her comfort and confidence. Her school performance also improved remarkably. She completed high school and continued her studies at Food Industry College, majoring in Food Industry. After graduating, she found a good job in Orient Commercial Joint Stock Bank as an officer. This job will allow her to support herself and help her family as well.

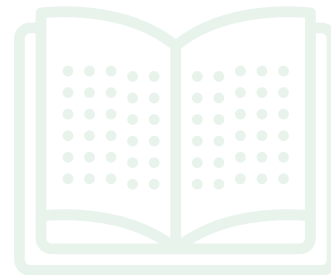
A New Start

Hanh and her older sister both suffer with the same eye condition. They are not totally blind but can only see silhouettes.

Hanh's family makes a living from farming and selling vegetables and flowers, but they do not make enough money to cover basic living expenses, let alone specialized care for their children.

Hanh's sister lived at the Tay Ninh Centre from 2002 to 2014 and now works at a massage facility in HCMC. After completing her secondary education, Hanh continued her studies at university. She graduated this year from Pedagogy University in HCMC, majoring in Special Education. She hopes to use her talents to bring light to other children with disabilities.

*Names changed to protect privacy.



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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The operational cost of the Tay Ninh Centre for Visually Impaired Children was

USD \$46,311.42

The direct costs included cost of food and nutrition supplements, healthcare, education, rehabilitation, provision of vocational and life skills training, and the actual costs of running the centre including repairs and maintenance.

The indirect costs included salaries of project staff, stationery, communication, transportation and accommodation, security fees, and electricity and water allocated to the project.

Heartfelt thanks to our kind donors who enable CNCF to keep this project operating and also to those who generously support with gift and time in-kind which enables us to keep our costs down.

Our 2018 audits are available on line
<https://www.cncf.org/finance.html>



TAY NINH RESIDENTIAL CENTER FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN EXPENDITURES IN 2018

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET 2018 USD \$	ACTUALS IN 2018 including advance made in Q4 2017* USD \$	VARIANCE ACTUAL VS BUDGET 2018 USD \$
CHILD CARE	37,855.56	28,109.16	(9,746.41)
Food items	25,600.00	17,446.28	(8,153.72)
Clothes	871.11	804.73	(66.38)
Medical care	2,231.11	1,513.58	(717.53)
Recreational activities	577.78	172.22	(405.56)
Personal toiletries	871.11	1,582.68	711.57
Educational expenses	7,704.44	6,589.66	(1,114.78)
SALARY & ALLOWANCES	7,466.67	7,210.02	(256.65)
Allowances & benefits	7,466.67	7,210.02	(256.65)

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET 2018 USD \$	ACTUALS IN 2018 including advance made in Q4 2017* USD \$	VARIANCE ACTUAL VS BUDGET 2018 USD \$
RUNNING COSTS	2,266.67	3,572.27	1,305.61
Utilities (Water, electricity, gas)	888.89	679.53	(209.36)
Sleeping Kits	133.33	265.63	132.30
Repair , maintenance & equipments	666.67	2,279.11	1,612.44
Miscellaneous	577.78	348.01	(229.77)
PROJECT MANAGEMENT	9,737.00	7,419.97	(2,317.03)
Project staff salary	5,843.00	4,875.00	(968.00)
MGT fee+ Others	3,894.00	2,544.97	(1,349.03)
TOTAL COST	57,325.89	46,311.42	(11,014.47)



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