ANNUAL REPORT 2017 BLUE SKIES DAY CARE MONGOLIA

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ABBREVIATIONS

CNCF	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
BSDA	Blue Skies Day Care

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 emotional, physical, medical and educational needs of vulnerable children. We believe that every child deserves love, respect and freedom from all forms of exploitation. We establish long-term relationships with the children we support and empower them to live happy, emotionally rich, and independent lives.

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



"I understand the depth of pain that a child feels, the breaking heart of a child, and I understand how precious childhood is. Childhood is the very foundation of the beginning of life, and that is why I called this a foundation as oppose to a charity."

Christina Noble OBE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) was established in 1989 in Vietnam, by Christina Noble. In 1997 Christina extended the work of her Foundation into Mongolia following an investigative visit she made to Mongolia's capital city Ulaanbaatar, where she was shocked to discover thousands of forgotten sick and destitute children and families living in horrendous and squalid conditions throughout the city, many of whom were struggling to survive in winter temperatures as low as -30 and -40 degrees. CNCF is now one of the longest serving and respected NGO's in both countries.

The Blue Skies Day Care was established in 2000 to support the educational and emotional development of preschool children (ages 1 to 6) living at the Foundation's Blue Skies Ger Village due to abandonment and childhood trauma, and also impoverished children in the surrounding areas of the Village

In 2017, the Blue Skies Day Care continued to provide a secure and happy environment where children and families developed socially and emotionally while learning basic literacy and numeracy skills to prepare them for primary school.

Our education programme based on Erik Erikson's psychosocial development theory, which describes eight developmental stages through which a healthily developing human should pass from infancy to late adulthood.

This year, the Blue Skies Day Care provided 90 children with high-quality care, education, and holistic support. Of these, 82 were full-time students during at least part of the year and 8 were children of CNCF staff members who attended during summer holidays. The maximum class size during each term was 56 children.

In 2018, we will continue to provide the vital services that support the educational, social, physical, and psychological development of the children in our care and empower their families to lead more fulfilled, healthy, and productive lives. We plan to begin instituting the Montessori Education.

This year, Day Care teachers attended a course led by a professional American Montessori trainer and they will continue to develop their knowledge in 2018. Furthermore, we plan to work more closely with the children's parents and primary caregivers to emphasise the importance of early education and teach them how to provide the best support for their children.

Since its inception in 2000, the Blue Skies Day Care has assisted over **1,000 young children** from impoverished backgrounds with high quality care, protection and holistic pre-school education.

2017 Actual Cost: USD \$26,782.52.



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

ESTABLISHED

2000

LOCATION

Blue Skies Ger Village, Songino Khairkhan district, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

OBJECTIVES

To create a secure and happy environment where disadvantaged children can develop socially and emotionally while learning basic literacy and numeracy skills to prepare them for primary school and cultivate healthy habits, confidence, selfesteem, and the ability to think creatively

BENEFICIARIES

Children under primary school age who are residents of the Blue Skies Ger Village and children living in poverty in the Songino Khairkhan district area

LOCAL PARTNERS

Family, Child and Youth Development Agency; Songino Khairkhan District 7th khoroo; Family, Child and Youth Development Agency of Songino Khairkhan District

CNCF INVOLVEMENT

Responsible for funding and programme management, monitoring, and evaluation

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

Provision of holistic education, healthcare, emotional support, nutrition, and essential items such as warm clothes and educational supplies

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

CNCF MANAGEMENT

CEO, Helenita Noble; Director of Operations, Thomas Minter; Head Teacher, Davaasuren Tserennorov; Assistant Teacher, Ayushjav Purev

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Day Care staff and Ger Village management and psychosocial teams hold regular meetings. The Director of Operations conducts regular monitoring visits during programme activities. All children meet regularly with the Foundation's doctor. The National Authority conducts government inspections for the Children and the National Inspection Agency and local district authorities conduct health and fire safety inspections. The programme leader completes a monthly report and an annual report is sent to all stakeholders.

2017 ACTUAL COST

USD \$26,782.52

FUTURE PLANS

We will continue to provide the vital services that support the educational, social, physical, and psychological development of the children in our care and empower their families to lead more fulfilled, healthy, and productive lives. In addition to maintaining our current level of care, we always strive to improve our services and strengthen our ability to create lasting change in the lives of those we support. In 2018, we plan to begin instituting the Montessori Method of Education. This year, Day Care teachers attended a day course led by a professional American Montessori trainer and they will continue to develop their knowledge in 2018. Furthermore, we plan to work more closely with the children's parents and primary caregivers to emphasise the importance of early education and teach them how to provide the best support for their children.

REPORTING PERIOD

January - December 2017

PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

CNCF extended its work into Mongolia in 1997 with the establishment of the Blue Skies Ger Village, a residential care facility for children who come from backgrounds marred by poverty, abuse, and neglect.

The Blue Skies Day Care was subsequently established in 2000 to support the educational and emotional development of preschool children (ages **1 to 6**) living at the Foundation's Ger Village. When the Day Care first opened, two teachers and one British volunteer taught thirteen children in two adjacent gers. Because the population of the surrounding area rapidly grew due to a large influx of migrants from the countryside, it soon became apparent that the programme needed to expand its reach; a new building was constructed in 2002 and expanded in 2005. In this larger and more efficient space, the Day Care has supported vulnerable and disadvantaged children living in the Blue Skies Ger Village and surrounding areas.

Most children who attend the Day Care live in the 7th sub-district of Songino Khairkhan where unemployment rates are high and living conditions are extremely poor. Most children are from singleparent homes that are struggling to survive in desperate circumstances without any financial or social support. In addition to permanent Ger Village residents and children from surrounding communities, children temporarily staying at the village attend the Day Care while they wait to be relocated to another children's shelter or reunited with their family. To date, the project has nurtured and educated nearly eight hundred children, helping them build a strong and happy base for future learning.

The Day Care is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday and is the only free day care in the local district. Therefore, the Day Care is an indispensable lifeline for the children and their families. Without the Foundation's support, many parents would have no choice but to go to work and leave their young children at home on their own, often locked inside their gers in unsafe and unstimulating conditions for hours at a time. Because of the Blue Skies Day Care, struggling parents can go to work confident in the knowledge that their children are eating nutritious meals and are receiving love, encouragement, and care that gives them the best possible start to life.

The Day Care follows the national preschool curriculum and children are assigned to one of two age-specific groups, each with their own educational programme. The children also participate in extracurricular activities and classes such as aerobics, trips to the countryside, concerts, parties, and Kindermusik, an English language music and movement programme.

The Foundation also provides personal development and life skills training to the children's parents and guardians, helping them improve their quality of life and create a more positive home environment. We also distribute items such as food, clothing, stationery, and heating supplies throughout the year, providing crucial support for families most in need.

Website: www.cncf.org



OUR YEAR

In 2017, the Blue Skies Day Care provided **90 children** with high-quality care, education, and holistic support. Of these, **82** were **full-time students** during at least part of the year and 8 were children of CNCF staff members who attended during summer holidays. The maximum class size during each term was 56 children.

EDUCATION

90 CHILDREN received Care

46 BOYS

44 GIRLS received Care

16 RESIDENTS enrolled in Blue Sky Ger Village

57 CHILDREN enrolled in the spring term

46 CHILDREN enrolled in the fall term

GG

We have been working closely with the Christina Noble Children's Foundation since they began their operations in Mongolia in 1997. Over the past twenty years the Foundation has truly been the sunshine for the marginalised and most in need people of our district. I am honored to write this testimonial for one of the best children's homes and charitable organisations in the whole country. - Songino Khairkhan District: Family, Children and Youth

Development Department, Director, N.Uranchimeg

SS





It has been a very busy and successful year for our Day Care programme. We have completed all our goals and visions for the year. One of our main aims was to further our communication and collaboration with local government and district authorities which has been achieved with great success and will benefit our work for many years to come.

We have also made the registration process for children in urgent need of our services much quicker and easier. This means that no time is wasted in getting children living in vulnerable and often dangerous circumstances into the safety of our centre, where they can receive nutritious meals, health care, love, encouragement, and mental stimulation.

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who supports our work. I am privileged enough to see firsthand the difference your care is making to some of Mongolia's most disadvantaged and in need children and families."

- Davaasuren Tserennorov, Head Teacher, Blue Skies Day Care



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

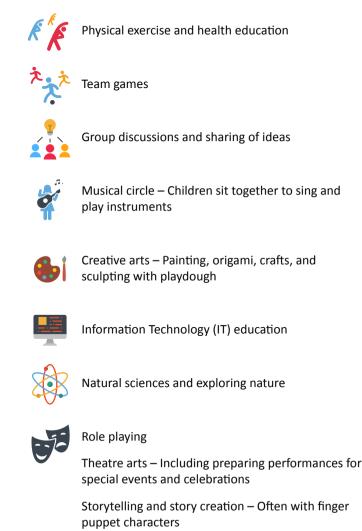
EDUCATION

For children living in extreme poverty or coming from backgrounds shaped by neglect and abuse, attending a high-quality day care is crucial because it can help them develop self-esteem and excitement for learning.

The Blue Skies Day Care follows the national preschool curriculum and children are assigned to one of two age-specific groups. Each group has its own education programme based on Erik Erikson's psychosocial development theory, which describes eight developmental stages through which a healthily developing human should pass from infancy to late adulthood. Our everyday work focuses on developmental stages two and three. First, children learn to develop autonomy from their primary caregivers through a variety of activities that help develop a sense of self and encourage independence. Later, children learn to set goals and work to achieve them. This is accomplished through continuous positive reinforcement and discussion about the children's capabilities, which in turn builds a strong sense of self-worth and cultivates intrinsic motivation.

The curriculum focuses on specific topics including Family, Seasons, National Holidays, Tradition, Transportation, Animals, and Nature, and incorporates activities in art, music, sport, play, and group discussion. Furthermore, our curriculum is designed to develop the children's language, listening, teamwork, memory, and creative skills. Physical activity is also an essential part of the programme and the children regularly participate in outdoor play and fun exercise classes.

Day Care Activities



KINDERMUSIK

In 2016, we were excited to introduce the English language music and movement programme Kindermusik. This year, the dynamic and engaging learning experience was available to all students enrolled from January to May.

The fun sessions titled ABC English & Me were led by Khulan Tsogbayar, who is the only internationallytrained and certified Kindermusik educator in Mongolia. The classes were held once a week with each class lasting forty-five minutes. The music and movement activities, which include playing instruments, singing, dancing, and telling stories, are carefully and creatively designed to improve the children's cognitive, English language, physical, creative, and social-emotional skills.

The curriculum also introduces a range of musical concepts, genres, and styles to help foster a lifelong appreciation for music. The children loved the fun and upbeat lessons that helped them learn English words and develop confidence, patience, rhythm, and self-esteem.

Khulan is currently starting her own centre, and therefore, lessons at our Day Care have been suspended. Part of her initiative is to grow Kindermusik throughout Mongolia by training more teachers to deliver the curriculum. Once the new teachers have qualified, we plan to reintroduce this valuable programme back into our curriculum.



HEALTHCARE

Upon enrolling in the Day Care, all children are examined by our Foundation's doctor. Their details are recorded for future monitoring and treatments are provided for any existing medical conditions. If a condition cannot be resolved on site, the child is referred to a specialist or hospital. In addition, the children receive check-ups from a variety of doctors who visit the village regularly throughout the year. In 2017, this included full physical preventive care examinations; ear, nose and throat screenings; ophthalmic exams; dermatology assessments; dental examinations; and tuberculosis screenings. All children were also checked for ring worm.

Because most of the day care children come from extreme poverty, many are malnourished, which often results in stunted growth. Thus, providing wholesome and nutritious meals is a priority at our Blue Skies Day Care; the children receive three healthy meals a day and snacks. These include lots of fresh fruits and vegetables, which are grown in our Ger Village greenhouses whenever possible to ensure the best quality.

Children who are severely deficient in vitamins are provided with supplements year-round by our doctor, and every child receives a three-month supply of multivitamins in the cold winter months to help strengthen their immune systems. In October of this year, 58 children also benefited from a Vitamin A distribution, which was carried out in cooperation with the district's family clinic. Day care children living at home with their parents in gers often experience respiratory problems because of the ger district's poor air quality. Air quality in Ulaanbaatar is typically 3 times worse than the World Health Organization standard and on bad days can climb to 12 times the recommended limit. To reduce some of the discomfort experienced by our children, we introduced massage therapy at the Day Care. This programme had numerous health benefits and helped improve the children's breathing and overall health by enhancing blood flow in the regions surrounding the lungs and other vital organs.

In addition to receiving medical care, our children are taught the importance of regular exercise and personal hygiene. The children learn to sanitise their hands before eating and after using the bathroom, brush their teeth correctly, wash and dry their face, blow their nose, and use the toilet. Learning personal hygiene habits plays an important role in development of positive character traits such as personal pride and discipline and lays a strong foundation for the children's transition to school and young adulthood.

Typically X3 WORSE AIR QUALITY compare to World Health Organization standard

compare to world realth of gamzation standard

Peaks at X12 WORSE AIR QUALITY compare to World Health Organization recommended limit



Retretation: Edwards, T. (2015) Mongolia's Booming Ulan Bator, World's Coldest Capital, Is Choking On Smoke, Los Angeles Times, 15 May 2015, Is Choking On Smoke, Los Angeles Times, 15 May 2015

OTHER PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Internal Staff Training

Day care teachers attended training sessions delivered by our psychosocial team. The courses were designed to develop the team's understanding of basic psychology, improve their communication skills with the children, help them manage workplace stress, and improve safety at the village. Titles of topics covered included 21 Habits of Successful People, Stress Management, Child Safety, Work Safety, 5S Basic Training, Methods for Communicating with Children, and Respectful Interactions.



21 habits of successful people

stress management

child safety

work safety

 $5S^{\,\text{basic}}_{\,\text{training}}$

★ communicating ↓ − ↓ with children

respectful interactions

Photo: Ger Village Education Manager

External Training Sessions

To learn the most current and effective methods of support for our children, our team attended a variety of external development programmes throughout the year. Most of the sessions were organised by the Teacher's Development Centre of Mongolia and were aimed at expanding our teachers' knowledge of childcare and preschool education. Teachers also learned how to support parents and educate them on child protection policies.

The team also participated in five art therapy training workshops organised by one of our partner organisations.

Finally, our teaching assistant—who is also a ger mother in our village—with the support of CNCF has began her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education at Ulaanbaatar State University. She is currently working hard to balance her responsibilities at the village with her studies. She will graduate in 2020, which will be a fantastic personal achievement considering her painful past before arriving at CNCF, and which will also greatly benefit our work with the children.

> Photo: Teaching assistant and ger mother in our village — began her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education at Ulaanbaatar State University.



Academic Festival

An academic festival was organised at the end of the 2016–17 academic year. The children showcased what they learned during the year to their parents and relatives. The children put on a heartwarming show of songs, poems, and dances.

Beginning of Term Celebration

At the beginning of the 2017 academic year, a special celebration was held to kick off the new school year. Parents, relatives, friends, and CNCF staff members attended the event, which included performances from the children and encouraging speeches from our head day care teacher, Director of Operations, and CEO Helenita Noble, who was in Mongolia for our 20th anniversary celebration.

Maintenance and Repair Work

To maintain an attractive and conducive learning environment, maintenance and upgrades in 2017 included painting the brickwork on the front of the Day Care with bright colours, touching up the corridor walls and ceiling, fixing the plumbing, and renovating the bathroom.

City Tour

Exposing our children to different environments plays an essential role in their healthy development and helps them feel comfortable in social spaces outside the ger district. This year, our teachers led the children around the city centre, teaching them about the different sites, modes of transportation, and road safety.

Photo: Academic Festival



Hairt Haan Tourist Camp

In October, **45 children** and **4 teachers** visited Hairt Tourist Camp. During their day-long visit, the children enjoyed exploring and learning about nature, feeding and caring for the animals, and horseback riding.

Winter Clothing Distribution

Warm winter garments such as **boots**, **gloves**, **hats**, **scarves**, **coats**, and **jumpers** were distributed to forty-seven of the children. This additional support is vital for those who cannot afford these essential items.

Food Distribution

This Spring, our team visited thirty households of children enrolled in the Day Care to deliver essential food supplies such as **flour**, **rice**, **butter**, and **oil**. In total, **215 people** benefited from this distribution.

School Supplies Distribution

Day care children entering primary school received rucksacks, stationery, and books. The items were chosen with special care and attention to the individual character of each child to help them feel confident and excited about going to school.

Toy Distribution

Low-income families are often unable to afford nonessential items like toys. Thanks to the generosity of our Foundation's supporters, this year we gave toys to 39 of our children.



Summer Holiday Activities

This year, the Day Care was open during the school summer holiday for a relaxed timetable filled with fun outdoor activities, creative activities, storytelling, and play. This was an incredibly valuable service for many of our families who struggle to find childcare during the summer holidays.

New Year's Celebration

The New Year's party is an annual tradition. The children put on a special concert for their parents, other Ger Village children, and CNCF staff. This is always a valuable opportunity for the children's parents and relatives to see what they have learned and develop relationships with our teachers.

International Children's Day

The children enjoyed a fun-filled day of games, food, and gifts. They also performed songs and poems for their parents, who watched with happiness and pride.

Visitors

This year the children had fun playing with visitors from the Chinese International School, Love in Lights Korea, the Volunteer Leadership Program NGO Mongolia, Mahrberg Family Office, and Jinhak Co. These visits are always very beneficial for our children because they learn about different nationalities and develop confidence interacting with new people.





OUR STORIES

Overcoming Hardship and Deprivation

Oogii* came to live at our Ger Village with her older brother in 2014 when she was four years old. Her mother died of tuberculosis and Oogii and her brother had been left in the care of their father. Broken by his wife's death, their father turned to alcohol, lost his home, and went with his children to live with his two brothers and mother in a dilapidated ger on one of Ulaanbaatar's biggest landfills. The children were severely neglected and often had no choice but to eat the old, decaying food they found on the dumpsite.

When the local authorities found out about the children's living conditions, they immediately took steps to rehome them at our Ger Village. When they arrived, it was obvious by their filthy clothes, malnourished bodies, and joyless expressions that they had been left to fend for themselves without any love, care, or guidance.

Due to her poor diet, Oogii's muscles had not developed properly. She was very weak and underweight. She was also clearly traumatised by the loss of her mother and her father's subsequent decline. She quickly became angry and frustrated and often cried hysterically over seemingly small things. In addition, she lacked language skills and found it difficult to communicate.

For the first two years at the village, Oogii attended the Blue Skies Day Care. This played a vital role in helping her feel part of the Ger Village community and heal from the trauma of her past.

As with all our children, the day care team and full-time psychotherapist provided Oogii with the individualised support she needed. Because Oogii had lost her mother at such a young age and, in effect, the father she knew and relied upon, our staff worked with Oogii to develop a sense of security and continuity in her life through routine activities, unconditional love, and positive reinforcement.

With this deepened understanding and trust in the stability of her new environment and caregivers, Oogii's previously challenging behaviour began to change. She stopped having tantrums and started to feel more at peace. Her anger toward the other children and staff abated and she began to engage happily.

*Names changed for child protection.

In addition to supporting Oogii's emotional and social development, our team worked closely with her to build her language skills so that she could express herself more freely. Oogii's physical health has also significantly improved and, as a result of receiving a wholesome, balanced diet, vitamins, and participating in lots of exercise, she is now a strong and fit child, developing at the same pace as other healthy children her age.

During the three years that we have known Oogii, we have watched her blossom into a happy, well-adjusted child with strong will and character. The Blue Skies Day Care has played an essential role in this process, giving her the mental stimulation, love, encouragement, and dependable routine she needed. Oogii is now doing well in her first year at primary school. She has made many new friends and is enjoying the independence of attending a school outside the village grounds.





Holistic Support Lifts an Entire Family

We first met Batu* in 2016 when he was three years old after his case was referred to us by the district's local social worker. Batu lives in a small hut with his large family of ten people. Batu's living conditions were extremely poor, and the family struggled to survive on a limited income made up of the children's government allowance, grandmother's pension, and a small salary from his mother's part-time work at the market. Batu's father has liver disease, which means that he is unable to find steady employment.

After hearing about Batu's concerning situation, our team visited his home and immediately took steps to enrol him in the Blue Skies Day Care and our Child Sponsorship Programme.

Prior to enrolling in the Day Care, Batu was often left at home with his elderly grandmother while his parents went to work. Due to her poor health, Batu's grandmother was unable to care for him properly. Batu had two prominent scars from self-inflicted burns.

Batu often had no food, heating, or mental stimulation and, as a result, the little boy that initially came into our care was malnourished, lacked basic cognitive and social skills, and often got angry and upset.

Since Batu started attending the Day Care, our team has worked closely with him, providing the love, care, and stimulation that he needs to grow into a happy, healthy, and self-assured person.

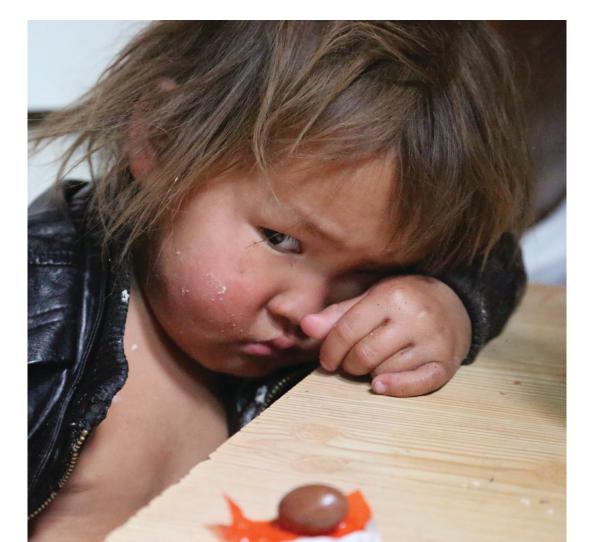
Batu has shown significant improvements in a very short time. He is very bright and engaged and now takes part in activities and conversations with great interest and confidence. Through our programme, Batu has developed a strong, independent, and well-adjusted character. He has come a long way from the withdrawn and nervous little boy we first met.

Because of our day care and sponsorship programmes, Batu's living conditions have also improved. Our social workers monitor the family and provide support and advice to help them improve their situation. The additional financial support provided by the sponsorship has also greatly benefited the family, allowing them to afford school supplies and living essentials.

*Names changed for child protection.

Safe in the knowledge that Batu is now well looked after at the Day Care, his mother has utilized her sewing skills to procure regular work mending clothes at the Children of the Sun Day Care. She said to our team, "I never knew that my life could be so much easier when you know the day of your next salary...I was always worried about Batu, and was torn between going to work and looking after him; I could never get anything consistent. Thanks to CNCF's day care and the support I have received from their kind staff, I now have a job doing something I enjoy. I never thought that this could happen. I am so thankful."

*Names changed to protect privacy.



Андигийнок шино байшинд орокоор болжээ. Аан и суух дуртай түшлэгтэй сандлаа нимбайкан энни харагдана. Ээж нь гэр бүгийнөзэ цонгийг көнжигэ боож, эгч нь хайртай муураа тэвэрчинсэн житэж Муураа орхино гэж байкгүй л дээ.

Andy's family was moving to a new house. Andy watched as Papa carefully carried the favorite armchair. Mama wrapped a blanket. Andy's sister held arms. She would ne





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

CNCF is committed to donors' rights and transparency. That is why we make our financial statements, administrative costs and funding available for your review online. CNCF has a proven track record of using donations efficiently and effectively. From school children who send their allowance to the philanthropic donors, we cherish all of our supporters. You can be assured that CNCF uses the valuable resources donors have provided in the most cost-effective ways possible.

By donating to the Blue Skies Day Care, you help create a safe, caring, and educational environment for young children from extremely disadvantaged backgrounds.

Thanks to the Blue Skies Day Care, the children's parents can go to work happy and confident in the knowledge that their children are receiving an excellent preschool education, are eating nutritious meals, have access to proper healthcare, and are being loved, encouraged, and looked after in a way that gives them the best possible start in life.

It is with our most heartfelt appreciation that we thank all our supporters for allowing us to give the children in our care the happy, fulfilled, and emotionally rich childhood they need and deserve. Primary Donors

Linda Kuczka (USA) CNCF France Brian Greeves (HK) Hugo Barrett (HK)

Gift And Time In-Kind

Chinese International School Love in Lights Korea Jinhak Co. Mahrberg Family Office Volunteer Leadership Program NGO Mongolia



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Items	FY2017 in USD
Repairs and Maintenance	316.40
Entertaiment	1,155.00
Garbage & tank	304.21
Children's Club	1,078.69
Staff Training	185.13
Food	4,164.91
Clothes	1,323.06
Sanitations	420.61
Coal	1,153.03
Supplies	546.19
Stationery	339.59
Electricity	968.37
Miscellaneous	42.97
Day Care children's supplies	976.28
Salaries and contributions	13,808.07
TOTAL COST	26,782.52

Thank you to all those who donated gifts and time in-kind throughout the year enabling us to keep our annual operating costs to a minimum.

*2017 Audit available upon request or online www.cncf.org



If you are interested in supporting our humanitarian efforts please contact us:

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