



ANNUAL REPORT 2017  
**BLUE SKIES**  
**GER VILLAGE MONGOLIA**

*"No child should be subjected to any form of abuse. Every child has a right to sleep on their pillow at night, with peace in their hearts, and surrounded by love, security and protection."*

*Childhood is the very foundation of life, please help us make it a good one."*

*Christina Noble OBE*



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## ABBREVIATIONS

**CNCF** Christina Noble Children's Foundation

# 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.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) was established in 1989 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, by Irishwoman Christina Noble.

In 1997 Christina extended the work of her Foundation into Mongolia after an investigative visit to its capital city Ulaanbaatar, where she was shocked to discover thousands of sick and destitute street children living in horrendous conditions throughout the city sewers and manholes, many of who were struggling to survive.

The winter in Mongolia is one of the harshest imaginable, making Ulaanbaatar the coldest capital city in the world. Temperatures regularly remain at  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  for weeks, and  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  is not considered unusual.

For these children living on the streets, the sewers and manholes warm wastewater flowing through the pipes – was their only refuge.

Christina Noble Children's Foundation established its flagship project in Mongolia Blue Skies Ger Village for abandoned, and neglected children in need of protection, shelter, rehabilitative care, education, and the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. Without Christina and her Foundation, there is little doubt that many of these children would not have survived.

Since 1997

## 833 CHILDREN

have received life-saving services at our Blue Skies Ger Village

\*This number represents the cumulative number of children who have lived at our Ger Village since the programme's inception. Please note that many of these children live in the Ger Village for many years. If not through most of their childhood years

In 2017, the Blue Skies Ger Village continued to provide a safe and caring environment for boys and girls up to the age of eighteen who are orphaned, living on the streets, or are otherwise unable to stay at home due to being at high risk of neglect, abuse, or exploitation. Ger Village residents received holistic care including psychological counselling, healthcare, education, life skills training, and access to a rich and varied range of extracurricular activities.

This year, **72 children (42 girls and 30 boys)** benefited from the Blue Skies Ger Village: **67 were permanent residents** and **5 were temporary. 21 children were rehomed to the village** and **21 children left the village**. At the end of 2017, **51 children resided at the Blue Skies Ger Village**.

A major development this year was the construction of our new children's community centre that houses a kitchen, dining room, main hall, classroom, bathrooms, reception area, and storage facilities. This will be ready to open in January 2018.

In 2018, we will continue to help some of Mongolia's most disadvantaged children lead happy, healthy, and emotionally rich lives. Moving forward, we plan to place an even greater focus on our children's academic performance. With the recent hire of a dedicated, full-time human resources manager, we will continue to improve our internal communications and update policies and procedures to ensure the Ger Village children continue to receive the highest quality of care.

**Since 1997 the Blue Skies Ger Village has saved and enhanced the lives of 503 long-term and 330 short term residential children.**



# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

## LOCATION

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Songino Khairkhan, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

## OBJECTIVES

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To provide a safe and caring environment for boys and girls up to age eighteen who are orphaned, living on the streets, or are otherwise unable to stay at home due to being at high risk of neglect, abuse, or exploitation. To provide a community of healing where the children are cared for and nurtured in a safe and secure environment surrounded by friends, supportive adults, and love, so they can successfully break the cycle of poverty and live independently as emotionally secure and fulfilled adults.

## PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

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Residential care, healthcare, psychological rehabilitation, and education; personal, vocational, and life skills development; sports, arts, and music.

## LOCAL PARTNERS

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National Authority for Children, Authority for Family and Child Development, Songino Khairkhan District Authority, Children's Police Precinct of Songino Khairkhan District, Social Welfare Department of Songino Khairkhan District, and the 7th Micro-district Authority of Songino Khairkhan District.

## CNCF INVOLVEMENT

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Entirely responsible for funding, financial management, and management of all programme components including provision of healthcare, educational support, and emotional development and rehabilitation. CNCF is directly responsible for the protection and development of all child residents at the Ger Village.

## CNCF MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

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Helenita Noble, CEO; Thomas Minter, Director of Operations; Urnaa Makhburiad, Ger Village Manager; Myagmarsuren, Ger Village Director; and 31 other staff.

# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Director of Operations conducts regular meetings to the Ger Village and meets with the management team, staff, and children. All children meet regularly with both the Foundation psychotherapist and Ger Village medical team. The National Authority for Children and the National Inspection Agency carry out regular government inspections and the local district authorities conduct health and fire safety inspections. Written monthly reports are submitted to the Director of Operations and an annual report is sent to all stakeholders. Weekly internal meetings are conducted for CNCF staff to discuss programme-related issues and updates.

## 2017 ACTUAL COST

USD \$175,281.45

## FUTURE PLANS

We will continue to provide the love and support that allows some of Mongolia's most disadvantaged children to lead happy, healthy, and emotionally rich 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 place an even greater focus on our children's academic performance. With the recent hire of a dedicated, full-time human resources manager, we will continue to improve our internal communications and update policies and procedures to ensure the Ger Village children continue to receive the highest quality of care.

## REPORTING PERIOD

January - December 2017



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 the best children's homes and charitable organisations in the whole country.

**- Songino Khaikhan District: Family, Children and Youth Development Department, Director, N.Uranchimeg**



# PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

The Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) expanded its work into Mongolia in 1997 and established the Blue Skies Ger Village. When Christina arrived thousands of children were living in manholes and sewers for shelter from the harsh winter temperatures. Since then, the Blue Skies Ger Village has helped over 500 long-term residential children and over 300 short-term residents, who had been forgotten, abandoned, and neglected children by providing them with shelter, rehabilitative care, education, and the opportunity to break their cycle of poverty.

The Blue Skies Ger Village sits on 1.23 hectares of land and consists of many traditional Mongolian gers and several brick structures. A ger is a traditional Mongolian home made from wood and felt and bound together with horsehair. Extra layers of wool are added in the autumn to prepare for the cold winter and removed in the spring.

The Ger Village serves as both a temporary shelter and a permanent home. Temporary places are provided for children in special situations, such as when local authorities find a child wandering the streets without supervision or when a child needs to be removed immediately from an abusive environment. The Ger Village provides food, clothing, healthcare, safety, and psychological support for these children while working to locate their parents or find them permanent housing.

The Ger Village has grown and changed over the past twenty years, but its mission remains the same. The **31 dedicated staff** members continue to provide high-quality residential care to children who have experienced a childhood shaped by poverty, abuse, and extreme neglect. The Ger Village provides a safe, happy, and supportive home for these children, one where they are surrounded by unconditional love and respect. The Ger Village is a loving community where the children receive nutritious meals, positive guidance from caring adults, and opportunities to develop their character and pursue their dreams.

Resident children receive healthcare, counselling, and attend local schools. They also receive age-appropriate vocational and life skills training and are encouraged to cultivate a wide range of hobbies and interests through the CNCF Arts & Music and Sports Programmes.

The Ger Village can currently support up to 60 children with a maximum of 6 children sleeping in each of the ten residential gers. Gers typically contain a mix of older and younger children who all contribute to the upkeep and maintenance of their homes. One of our goals at the Ger Village is to mirror traditional Mongolian family life whenever possible.

Since 1997,  
**\*503** long term **330** temporary  
residential children in the Ger Village

\*This number represents the cumulative number of children who have lived at our Ger Village since the programme's inception. Please note that many of these children live in the Ger Village for many years. If not through most of their childhood years

Photo: Children were living in manholes  
and sewers for shelter.  
[www.cncf.org](http://www.cncf.org)



# BLUE SKIES GER VILLAGE FEATURES

| 10 RESIDENTIAL GERS

| COMMUNITY GER

| OFFICE GER

| PSYCHOLOGIST'S GER

| 2 CLASSROOMS

1 ger and 1 cabin

The classroom ger was converted into a residential ger late in the year because of increased numbers of children. The classroom is now in the new community centre.

| KITCHEN & DINING  
GER COMPLEX

Constructed in 2016

| BLUE SKIES DAY CARE

| BAKERY

Fully renovated in 2014

| MUSIC ROOM

Fully renovated in 2014

| INFIRMARY

| BATHROOM BLOCK

Including showers and laundry room

| COMMUNITY CENTRE

Including kitchen, dining room, main hall, classroom, toilets, reception area, and storage facilities.

Under construction 2017. Open January 2018

| LIBRARY  
& COMPUTER BUILDING

Constructed in 2017

| 3 GREENHOUSES

2 outdoor and 1 indoor

| INDOOR GARAGE

| MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP

| 4 OUTDOOR TOILETS

| GUARDS' HUT

| COAL SHEDS  
& STORAGE CONTAINERS

| BASKETBALL  
& FOOTBALL SURFACE



# OUR YEAR

## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

This year, seventy-two children (forty-two girls and thirty boys) benefited from the Blue Skies Ger Village. Sixty-seven were permanent residents and five were temporary. **21 children** were rehomed to the village and twenty-one children left the village.

Of the twenty-one children who left the village, sixteen were permanent residents. Eleven were successfully reunited with family members after their living conditions had improved, including four older girls who left the village to pursue higher education; two were transferred to a different shelter more suited to their individual needs; two went to live with relatives, but later returned due to challenges; and one went to study at college. The departing children will remain in the Child Sponsorship Programme, if needed, and we will continue to monitor their progress and provide support.

Of the twenty-one new arrivals, sixteen remained as permanent residents. The children came to the village for various reasons, but their stories all share common themes of difficult family lives and their parents' inability to take care of them. Five children stayed temporarily at the village at the request of the Family, Children and Youth Development Agencies of Ulaanbaatar and the Songino Khaikhan District. Temporary places were provided for very young children who had been found wandering the streets without supervision.

At the end of 2017, fifty-one children reside at the Blue Skies Ger Village. Of these, four are orphans, sixteen have one deceased parent, eleven have parents who are separated or divorced, four were abandoned, and sixteen have parents who are negligent and unable to care for them.

## 2017 BY NUMBERS

**42 GIRLS**

served

**30 BOYS**

served

**67 PERMANENT  
5 TEMPORARY**

number of children in 2017

**21 CHILDREN**

rehomed to the village

**21 CHILDREN**

left the village

**51 PERMANENT**

residents

at the end of the year

**4 GIRLS**

enrolled in University

**2 BOYS**

enrolled in College

**1 BOY**

enrolled in Art College

**16 CHILDREN**

attended middle school

**17 CHILDREN**

attended elementary school

**16 CHILDREN**

attended Day Care

**105 MEDALS**

Won in Taekwondo

25 Gold, 30 Silver, 50 Bronze

**2 Girls**

Black Belt Masters Honoured as State Champions

**3 GIRLS**

selected to represent Mongolia at two International tournaments held in Korea; The Korea Open G2 and Jeonju Open

**1 GIRL**

Art work chosen for exhibition at Mongolia National Art Gallery



ТАЕКВОНДОГИЙН АРС

АРСЛАН ТА

ӨЛ ХОТ  
Н ТАЕКВОНДО  
ГИЙН ТӨВ

ИЙН  
ЫН

Photo: 105 Taekwondo Medals in 2017



“

2017 has been a year of change and many successes at our village. We have worked hard to improve our internal operations to improve our efficiency and be able to support our children with the highest level of care possible. We are currently building a new community centre where the children can study in a peaceful environment, practice their dance and taekwondo, put on performances and celebrations, and most importantly, share time together as a family. We also now have a library and computer building, which gives our children the much-needed space to spend quiet time, developing their knowledge and imaginations.

Creative highlights of our year was 3 of our girls going to Korea to compete in Taekwondo International Tournaments and coming home with medals. Another wonderful highlight was our 20th anniversary of CNCF in Mongolia, the children and all our visitors from far and wide had a wonderful celebration.

On behalf of all the Mongolian people, we thank Christina Noble and her family for everything they have done for our children over the last 20 years, especially in areas of children's human rights in Mongolia. It has been an honour to work alongside you over these last 11 years.”

- **Urnaa Makhburiad, Ger Village Manager**

”

Photo: Our Ger Village Manager Urnaa



## ***Children's Community Centre***

A major development this year is the construction of a new community centre that houses a kitchen, dining room, main hall, classroom, bathrooms, reception area, and storage facilities. The centre will increase efficiency at the Ger Village and provide much-needed space for activities such as taekwondo and dance, meals, celebrations, performances, and most importantly, for the children and staff to come together to spend quality time as a family.

We believe that by combining traditional Mongolian gers with more contemporary structures at our village, we help prepare the children to live in a modernising Mongolian society while maintaining their connection to Mongolia's rich cultural heritage.

Thank you very much to our generous donors who funded this project, Leonard and Georgene Bernhardt and our Anonymous Australian donor.

A very special thank you to Douglas Dickie our Project Manager who came from the UK to kindly give his expertise and management of the project on a pro-bono basis.

**The Blue Skies Children's Community Centre is due to open in January 2018.**



Photo: Douglas Dickie (right) with Community Centre Project Manager

# PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

## EDUCATION

In addition to attending local schools, Ger Village children receive support from a full-time teacher who works at the village. The teacher helps the children with their school work, monitors progress and performance, and provides additional support to children struggling academically. Because many of the children arriving at the Ger Village have missed out on prolonged periods of schooling due to their previous living conditions, this extra support is particularly important. The Ger Village doctor also helps the children prepare for exams and provides tutoring in math.

Regular English lessons are provided to all the resident children. We believe English language proficiency plays an important role in opening up future opportunities for our young people. Four to five classes are held each weekday with an average of six children in each class. Individual lessons are provided to those in need of additional support or those who have shown a keen interest in furthering their English language skills.

In August, we welcomed a new Manager of Education, Munkhbaatar Baatar, to our team to oversee the academic and personal development of the children. The Manager of Education communicates with the children's teachers, helps the children set goals and make plans to achieve them, organises activities for learning, and supervises the education team at the village.

The Manager of Education also introduced a house system in which the children are assigned to one of four houses and are awarded points for good academic and community contributions and achievements. At the end of each term, the house with the most points receives a special prize such as a trip to the cinema or park. The children have responded well to this system and things are now running even more smoothly at the village.

The development of our educational team has already produced results; the children's average academic performance and attendance increased in 2017. We have also noticed a growing interest in reading in large part because of the beautiful new library that was generously funded by the Mahrberg Family Office. The children now carry library cards and receive awards based on the variety and number of books they have read.

Furthermore, we are delighted that thanks to the Foundation's Education Scholarship Programme and the children's hard work, seven students this year pursued higher education. Four of our older girls who left the village this year are now at university, two of our boys are studying Food Technology at college (one was awarded the title 'Best Student'), and one boy is at a school specialising in art.

**4 GIRLS**  
started university

**1 BOY**  
started art college

**2 BOYS**  
started college

Photo: Our Ger Village Manager of Education





Photo: CEO Helenita Noble getting the children excited on their first day of a new school term

## HEALTHCARE

Fundamental to our Foundation's philosophy is the belief that all children are entitled to quality healthcare. Helping our children build strong healthy bodies is central to giving them the best possible start to life.

Most children who come into our care have grown up in unsanitary and often squalid conditions. It is therefore crucial that they all receive a full health check upon arrival and have their details recorded for future monitoring.

Our caring and sensitive medical team — which this year included nurse Dagvaa and doctor Anujin — carry out these examinations, ensuring that our children always feel safe and comfortable. If they encounter any health issues that cannot be resolved on site, they refer the child to a paediatric specialist for further diagnosis and treatment. Some of the most common problems we see in our new arrivals are malnutrition, rickets, growth retardation, and severe dental issues.

In addition to receiving healthcare from our Foundation's medical team, a variety of doctors and medical students visit our village to perform specialist screenings and examinations. This year, these check-ups included two full physical preventive care examinations; two ear, nose, and throat screenings; an ophthalmic exam; a dermatology assessment; a dental examination; and a tuberculosis screening.

Common Problems upon arrival at the Ger Village:



Malnutrition



Rickets



Growth Retardation



Severe Dental Issues



Burns



Infections



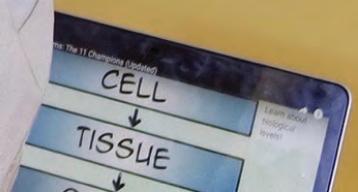
Lice Infestation

### ***Personal Hygiene***

In addition to medical assessments, diagnoses, and treatments, the Ger Village healthcare programme educates the children about healthy lifestyle choices, personal hygiene, first aid, and how to love and respect their bodies. The medical team organises regular workshops and seminars to teach the children how they can maintain good physical health. This year the topics covered included how to brush your teeth, keeping your body clean, and the benefits of exercise and a healthy diet. Individual sessions and group workshops are also held with pre-pubescent and pubescent girls and boys to talk about hormonal changes and management of related challenges such as acne, body odour, and menstruation.



Photo: All children upon admission to our Ger Village receive a full health check



## PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Three full-time professionals comprise the Ger Village psychosocial team: one senior psychotherapist, one social worker, and one junior psychologist who is a former Ger Village child. This year, the psychosocial team added an intern who is shadowing the full-time staff and assisting where possible. All four members of the psychosocial department work to mitigate the emotional trauma that affects all the village children to varying degrees.

Our psychotherapist, Nomin-Erdene (Nomin), conducts individual and group sessions with all the children, using art therapy as one of her main therapeutic techniques. Each child has at least one session a month and those needing more attention meet one to five times a week depending on their specific needs. This year, fifty-eight children living at the Ger Village on either a permanent or temporary basis received therapy sessions; fifteen of these children needed special attention.

In addition to individual meetings, our psychosocial team carries out regular group work with the children. In group sessions, children are encouraged to share their thoughts and experiences and discuss how they can be more supportive of themselves, each other, and the Ger Village community. We continue to see substantial improvement in the children's attitudes, behaviour, and overall outlook on life thanks to the professional psychosocial care they receive.

In May, Nomin went on maternity leave; she will return early in 2018. To maintain quality of care during her absence, we hired a Renjmaa, a highly qualified psychologist. Renjmaa worked at the Ger Village twice a week, conducting training sessions with our staff and one-on-one meetings with twenty-five children most in need of extra support. She will remain in contact with our children when Nomin returns and continue to be a reliable and positive adult influence in their lives.

In 2017, seventy-one children living at the Ger Village were assessed by the psychosocial team and all of them received individual counseling to help them process and overcome trauma in their pasts. It is largely thanks to our psychosocial team that the Ger Village is home to so many happy young people who are enjoying their childhoods free from much of the emotional pain that could have affected their lives forever.

### 3 PSYCHOSOCIAL

Ger Village Team

### 71 CHILDREN

received individual counselling to process and overcome trauma

### 58 CHILDREN

received specialised therapy sessions

### 15 CHILDREN

required intensive long-term therapy



Photo: Art Therapy is one of our Ger Village therapeutic techniques

## SPORTS

We provide children with a range of sports and fitness activities. The objective of our Sports Programme is to provide the children within our care with opportunities to cultivate new interests and hobbies in activities that will help their physical, psychological, and social development. Initially, this was achieved by introducing taekwondo classes at our village: a popular sport in Mongolia which has proven benefits in improving fitness, focus, discipline, self-confidence, and respect for oneself and others. It is also a fun, team activity whereby our children can release built up emotions in a controlled and therapeutic way.

All of our young people come from extremely traumatic backgrounds, they often exhibit challenging behaviour and symptoms of emotional distress, including feelings of anger, sadness, and frustration. Through taking part in taekwondo and other sports, our children learn how to take ownership of their feelings in a controlled and healing way. They become better at understanding and managing their mental state, leading to a greater sense of peace, happiness, and fulfilment.

During 2017 our programme included lessons in taekwondo, cricket, archery, basket ball and general fitness, as well as incorporating a variety of fun, team-building sports days and competitions. The programme benefited all seventy-two children living at our Ger Village.

In 2017 our Taekwondo Ger Village team competed in national and international Taekwondo Tournaments winning 105 medals in Gold, Silver, Bronze. 2 of our Girls are now eligible for the Mongolian Taekwondo Association's selection process for the Mongolian National Team, who will be representing the country in the 2018 Asian World Championship in Vietnam, the Youth World Championship Tournament, the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, and the Paris 2024 Olympics.

These are incredible achievements for our young people and a testament to the potential that lies within all children if given the right encouragement, support, and opportunities.

[For more details please see the Sports Programme Annual Report 2017.](#)

### Medals 2017



25 Gold



30 Silver



50 Bronze

## 16 TOURNAMENTS

International and National

## 2 GIRLS

Black Belt Masters and Trainee Olympians eligible for selection process of:

- 2018 Asian World Championship
- Youth World Championship Tournament
- Tokyo 2020 Olympics
- Paris 2024 Olympics

## 3 GIRLS

selected to represent Mongolia at two international tournaments held in Korea; Korea Open G2 and Jeonju Open



Photo: The practise of Archery is an inseparable part of Mongolian culture. World Champion Archer Simon de Wrangel teaching our Ger Village children



## ARTS & MUSIC

We provide children with access to a variety of artistic activities to complement their traditional education.

For many of our young people, who have come to us from exceptionally disadvantaged and traumatic backgrounds, the arts can facilitate healing and give them a tool to communicate their emotions in a healthy and positive way. We believe that encouraging our children to explore their imaginations and express themselves creatively in a safe and supportive environment is fundamental to their happy and healthy development.

Poverty in childhood is often the platform for a lifetime of difficulties. Children raised in poverty are faced daily with overwhelming challenges that many other young people never have to confront. They experience significantly more stress often due to loneliness, family aggression, neglect, and dysfunctional peer relationships. In many cases, this inhibits healthy brain function and development which often leads to significant challenges in their later life and relationships. Exposure to an arts education can play a crucial role in addressing some of these imbalances, helping to support the social, intellectual, cognitive and emotional growth of all children.

At the Blue Skies Ger Village our professional music teacher, works three days a week helping our children to learn a variety of instruments including the drums, guitar, and piano. He also leads regular group singing lessons with all of our children in preparation for special events such as concerts and special events. Our little ones love their singing lessons and always attend with great excitement and enthusiasm. The lessons have helped the children to grow in confidence and feel part of the Ger Village community; this is especially important for any of our new younger arrivals who at first can sometimes feel unsettled.

**For more details please see the Arts & Music Programme Annual Report 2017.**

Photo: Visually impaired child playing Mongolia's national instrument the Morin Khuur





Б. Төгсөлтүл  
1970  
"Хөгжөл"

М. Хуучин  
2010  
"Хөгжөл"



М. Хуучин  
2010  
"Хөгжөл"



М. Хуучин  
2010  
"Хөгжөл"

Photo: Our children's art work chosen for exhibition at Mongolia National Art Gallery

## OTHER ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

### ***Horticulture***

One goal of the Blue Skies Ger Village is to create a healthy and sustainable community where children can learn the importance of protecting the environment. Growing fruits and vegetables is one activity that helps children connect with the natural world, build healthy bodies through an organic, nutrient-rich diet, and increase the community's self-sufficiency.

At the beginning of spring 2015, we expanded our horticulture project by renovating our three greenhouses (two outdoor and one indoor). We hired a professional horticulturalist in 2016 to help maximise our yield and make the most of the increased space and new facilities. In 2017, we grew more nutritious fruits and vegetables than ever before including turnips, beetroots, cabbages, spring onions, cucumbers, lettuces, peppers, chilis, and cauliflower.



### ***Children's Board***

This year, a board of six children was established to represent the young people. The group meets each week to discuss Ger Village issues, activities, and ways to improve their home. Each child on the board has an area of responsibility such as cleaning, homework, and maintenance.

By giving our children a bigger voice in the decision-making process at our village and increasing their responsibilities, our young people are developing important life skills and character traits.

### ***Boys and Girls Club***

The Boys and Girls Club was established at the Ger Village to help the children develop key life skills such as decision making, problem solving, assertiveness, social skills, critical and creative thinking, and personal care. The children are divided into four groups based on gender, age, and academic schedules, and sessions are held once a week.

Boys Club is led by the Junior Psychologist and Girls Club is led by the Ger Village Social Worker.

Activities this year included watching and discussing inspirational movies and documentaries; DIY projects such as painting and fixing broken furniture; recycling old materials to make pieces of art, a replica of our village, and functional items like chairs and tables; and a variety of craft activities.

Photo: Planting vegetables in our village greenhouse





Photo: Fresh Vegetables from our Green Houses

### ***Home Visits to Families***

To assess living conditions and offer support to families of children living at the Ger Village, our Psychotherapist, Junior Psychologist, and Ger Village Manager carried out home visits throughout the year. Our nurse also worked with these families, providing medical check-ups, basic treatments, and healthcare advice. It is essential that we work to improve the lives of the children's families to increase the likelihood that one day they can be reunited full-time, which is the ultimate objective of our programme.

### ***Focus Group Meetings with the Children***

This year, our psychosocial team held sixteen focus group meetings with our children. During each meeting, the children addressed a specific issue together, working through different ideas, experiences, and emotions in a supportive and controlled environment. Compared to individual consultations, this form of therapy allows the children to learn that others are facing similar challenges and gain valuable insights into alternative perspectives and experiences. Group meeting topics included career goals, planning to achieve aspirations, the importance of friendship, and overcoming challenges.

### ***Creative Writing***

Various creative writing activities were organised by our team to allow the children to write about their lives, ambitions, emotions, and daily experiences. Expressing their thoughts and feelings in this private and non-threatening way offered a valuable opportunity for self-reflection and processing ideas and events.



Photo: Home Visits to Families

## Staff Training

Our psychosocial team delivered training workshops to all members of the Ger Village staff. The sessions were designed to develop our team's understanding of basic psychology, improve their communication skills with the children, help them manage workplace stress, and improve safety at the village. In addition, to ensure our children continue to receive the best care possible, the psychosocial, management, and education teams attended a variety of external trainings throughout the year.

 Environment of Children in Orphanages and Care Centres

 Case Management

 Emotional Regulation

 Child Trafficking

 Quality of Service in Quality of Life

 Online Registration Training

 Managerial Roles and Responsibilities

 Common Behaviour Among Different Age Groups

21  of successful people habits

 stress management

 child safety

 work safety

5S  basic training

 communicating with children

 respectful interactions



Photo: Internal Staff Training Session

## ***New Library and Computer Facility***

In 2017 Love in Lights Korea and the Volunteer Leadership Program NGO Mongolia collaborated with the Mahrberg Family Office from Switzerland and Jinhak Co., LTD from South Korea. Through their combined funding efforts, a beautiful new library and computer facility was built at our village, where our children can now go to spend quiet time among a wealth of learning resources to educate and inspire their young minds.

Love in Lights, who work to develop sustainable communities through appropriate technology, also donated solar panels to our village.

Prior to the buildings official opening, young people from each of the organisation's respective countries visited the village to put on activities for our children and helped out with jobs such as repainting our playground and basketball court. During their week-long visit our children had lots of fun playing games, learning new skills. The trip culminated in representatives from each organisation visiting our village for an official hand over ceremony.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to all four organisations; for the building and equipping of our new library and computer rooms, and to the young people who volunteered their time, for helping to improve the quality of life for our children and creating happy childhood memories of kindness, laughter and lots of fun.

Photo: Our new Computer room





Photo: Our new Library Room

### **CNCF Mongolia 20th Anniversary Celebration**

In August, CNCF celebrated its twentieth anniversary in Mongolia. The event was attended by supporters of the Foundation, local partners, and both past and present employees. The day featured collaborative art, dance, music, and taekwondo performances with our children; a traditional Mongolian buffet prepared by our Ger Village cooks; speeches from the Director of Operations, Foundation CEO, former Ger Village children, and local partners; and all performances by our talented children.

Thank you to those who donated to our anniversary fund to make it a day to remember.

“

*Once you feed a child's stomach, you must feed their spirit. Let the children laugh, sing, dance and play"*

**- Christina Noble**

”



Photo: Traditional Mongolian Opening Ceremony  
Dance by one of our children



CHRISTINA NOBLE CHILDREN'S  
FOUNDATION MONGOLIA  
20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, 1997-2017  
Кристина Ноблийн Хүүхдийн Сан  
20 жилийн ойг баяр, 1997-2017



Photo: Traditional Mongolian Music by our children

CHRISTINA NOBLE CHILDREN'S  
FOUNDATION MONGOLIA  
20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, 1997-2017  
Христину Ноблийн Хүүхдийн Сан  
20 жилийн ойгоор 1997-2017



Photo: Mongolian contortionists are world-renowned as the best in their field. Performance by our Ger Village and Child Sponsorship Children



CHRISTINA NOBLE CHILDREN'S  
FOUNDATION MONGOLIA  
20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY, 1997-2017  
Кристина Ноблийн 20 жилийн ойн баяр, 1997-2017



# OUR STORIES

## *Overcoming Trauma*

Zolboo, Altan and Miigaa's Story

Before arriving at our Ger Village in January 2017, Nine-year-old Zolboo, five-year-old Altan, and three-year-old Miigaa had been living in deplorable squalid conditions. In the most precious and vulnerable years of their lives, they had known nothing but alcoholism, violence and abuse, and had been subjected to treatment that no human being should ever have to face.

When our social workers became aware of the family they immediately became concerned for the younger children's safety. Following procedure, our team contacted the district's local social worker to raise their awareness and arrange for them to carry out home visits to monitor the family's situation.

When the district social worker conducted an unplanned visit to the family he was shocked to find Zolboo being sexually abused by her heavily intoxicated stepfather. He immediately contacted the local authorities and the three children were removed from their home.

Arrangements were put in place for the siblings to be rehomed at our Blue Skies Ger Village. Prior to their arrival our experienced Psychosocial, Management and Medical teams were informed about the details of their case, and a plan had been put in place to best support the children and help them to feel comfortable in their new home.

For these children, like the many other young people who come to live at our village, this will be their first experience of a world where they have rights. A world where they can smile, laugh and play like children in a place where the adults are there to protect them.

Upon a full medical examination by our healthcare team the true extent of the children's neglect and maltreatment became clear. Under their clothes, their bodies were covered in scars and burns, and the youngest boy's foot was badly disfigured and infected from burns.

\*Names changed for child protection.

Since arriving at our village, Miigaa has undergone urgent skin graft surgery to reconstruct his foot. The doctor informed us that due to the severity of the infection Miigaa would have lost the feeling in his foot and would not have been able to walk if it had been left any longer. In addition to receiving surgery, all of the children have been on a special diet to rebuild their strength and have been taking vitamins to treat their nutritional deficiencies.

Our psychosocial team have been working closely with the siblings, especially Zolboo, helping to minimise the impact of her ongoing sexual abuse and rebuilding her trust in adults that has been so severely undermined by her stepfather's abuse and her mother's betrayal.

We are happy to say that all three children are now thriving at the village. Zolboo is attending a local school and has also developed a range of interests, especially in taekwondo, and has already won one gold, two silver and ten bronze medals in tournaments throughout the year.

It is always inspiring for us to see how quickly some children can adjust to their new environment and begin to lead the secure and happy childhoods that were robbed from them. From looking at the children's big smiles and loving and affectionate behaviour, you would never know the suffering and cruelty that they have been through – it is remarkable, and a powerful reminder of the strength and courage that lies within our world's children.



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**BA Degree in Geology**

*I was ten-years-old when I came to Ger Village because of family abuse and neglect. When I first arrived I felt scared and unsure about where I had come to but nothing could have been worse than where I had come from. Over the years my life and my childhood has become all about my family at the village, who were there for me for more years than I spent with my own family.*

*My life was very different at the village than what it had been and could have been, it was full of happiness because of the people who shared their love with me. I am the person that I am today because of the Foundation. I can play instruments, dance, and speak with full confidence because of what I was taught at the village. I am a better person who will lead a good life thanks to CNCF.*

*I am now a happy, young adult who is passionate about leading a positive life and impacting the lives of others. With the continuing support of CNCF I am now studying my BA degree in Geology at the Mongolian University of Science and Technology, which is the top university for training engineers. I am going to study in China for my second year, so I am practicing my Chinese language in preparation. I am excited for my life ahead, and will make everyone who has supported me proud by working hard and pursuing my dreams.*

*Thank you Mama Tina and all of my family in the Ger Village for giving me a life to be proud of.*

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### **Studying at the Mongolian National University of Education**

*It has been such an amazing experience to live at the village over the past fifteen years; I have so many friends, siblings and parents here.*

*One of the most beautiful things about being at the village is all of my friends and the staff who love us, care for us, and whose heart is always there for us. At the village I had the parents that me and my siblings never had before.*

*The Foundation has supported us in many different ways and given us every single opportunity to succeed in life and become a better person. My social skills really developed since I began dancing and doing sports. Through these activities I discovered new capabilities and realised what I could achieve in life. I am now one of the most outspoken girls in my class and I am socially very active, because it is in my blood from my life at the village. I have realised that the things I have done at the village have shaped me and enabled me to be an active person in society.*

*I grew up seeing humanitarians, humanitarians who work hard for others, who have a passion to change and impact their lives. This has led me to want to become a Social Worker. I wanted to do the same as my CNCF family; I want to help others just like they had helped me. Therefore, with the support of CNCF's Education Scholarship Programme, I am now studying Social Work at the Mongolian National University of Education.*

*Thank you Mama Tina and our Ger village family, you are such inspiring and loving people.*

*We all love you!*





*"When children are educated they possess something which cannot be lost or taken away from them and which offers them some protection from exploitation and abuse. They will have more power in the employment market; they will be better equipped to provide for themselves in a way which protects their integrity and their dignity and where they are finally free from the poverty they were born in to."*

*Our children are our future, our mothers and fathers our leaders of tomorrow..... and childhood is the very beginning of the foundations of life."*

*- Christina Noble OBE*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Blue Skies Ger Village donors help provide a safe and caring environment for young boys and girls who are orphaned, from families living in extreme poverty, or homeless and at risk of commercial and sexual exploitation, trafficking and violence.

Thanks to the generous support of donors like you, these children now can enjoy a happy childhood in a safe and secure environment surrounded by love while also receiving psychological counselling, healthcare, education, life skills training, and access to a rich and varied range of extracurricular activities.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to the Ananda Foundation and Pure Collection for their love, care, and vital funding of our village. Without them, we would not have been able to provide the life-changing support that these children needed and deserved in 2017.

We also acknowledge all our local and government partners who make it possible for us to implement the programme successfully. Thank you to the National Authority for Children, Authority for Family and Child Development, Songino Khairkhan District Authority, Children's Police Precinct of Songino Khairkhan District, Social Welfare Department of Songino Khairkhan District, and the 7th Micro-district Authority of Songino Khairkhan District.

## **Primary Donors**

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Ananda Foundation (Switzerland)

Pure Collection (UK)

## **Additional Funding Library & Computer Room**

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Jinhak Co., LTD (South Korea)

Mahrberg Family Office (Switzerland)

## **Classrooms Tables**

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Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi-UFJ

## **Community Centre Donors**

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Douglas Dickie (UK)-Volunteer Project Manager

### **Primary Donors**

Anonymous (Australia)

Leonard and Georgene Bernhardt (USA)

*Thank you to the many who contributed to the building of our Children's Community Centre.*

## **Gifts And Time In Kind**

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Ben Wright (USA)

Chinese International School (HK)

Chris Hurd (UK/Mongolia)

Doug Dickie (UK)

Jackie Pries (UK)

Judith Baars (UK)

Jinhak Co., LTD (South Korea)

Love in Lights (South Korea)

Mahrberg Family Office (Switzerland)

Michèle Massina (Belgium)

Mongolian National Art Gallery

Mongolia Cricket Association (Mongolia)

Noble Challengers

Simon de Wrangel (Belgium)

Tiffany Pinkstone & Tanya Bennett (Sovereign Art Foundation HK)

Volunteer Leadership Program NGO (Mongolia)

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

<b>Items</b>	<b>FY2017 in USD</b>
Food	15,312.32
Clothes	5,166.43
Village Supplies	4,560.03
Sanitations	2,554.15
Entertainment expense /children's day & summer camp	4,699.84
Petty cash /bus & pocket money	8,080.17
Horticulture	775.13
Furniture & Equipment	8,974.95
Repairs and Maintenance	5,742.45
Garbage & tank	1,235.49
Rentals	288.67
Coal	2,882.58
Electricity	2,420.93
Transportation	4,041.53
Travel	242.48
Communications	1,928.96
Stationery	1,302.87
Staff Training	2,468.67
Additional fee for Psychologist	96.84
Salaries and contributions Ger Village local Staff	102,506.97
<b><u>TOTAL COST</u></b>	<b><u>175,281.45</u></b>

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](http://www.cncf.org)



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