CNCF provides crucial holistic grass roots humanitarian services to populations in Vietnam and Mongolia that have been profoundly affected by years of poverty and lasting effects of war. Our Foundation’s programs help vulnerable underprivileged children and their communities by giving them access to education, healthcare and community development programmes.

In 2018, CNCF continued to serve the most vulnerable members of society by offering them an international standard of life-enhancing and life-saving care. Most importantly we remain committed to focusing on long term sustainability by enabling the children and their communities to become self-sufficient with long term objectives to help lift them out of poverty permanently and thus breaking the cycle for future generations – and CNCF have been very successful over the years in achieving this.

However, there remains a great continuing need for Foundation’s such as ours, as too many children continue to live in desperate circumstances, and for some, barely surviving in the most appalling and inhuman living conditions that no human being let alone a child should be subjected to.

The countries that we work in continue to need our help, however we can only do this with the support of our friends and partners around the globe. CNCF is for many, their only life-line, and without our collective efforts, it remains unimaginable what would and could happen to what are some of our most vulnerable members of society in our world today.

Thank you to our board directors, donors, supporters, volunteers, partner offices and especially our teams in the field who work tirelessly for the children and their communities and at times in situations where their own well-being is compromised. I salute your courage and commitment to those that need it most.

It’s only as a collective can we be the light for the Children and restore the Childhood that they are entitled to and which they deserve.

I am pleased to present our 2018 report which I hope you will find inspiring and will encourage you to support our still critically needed work with the children and their communities that we serve.

Helenita Nobile - CEO of Christina Noble Children’s Foundation
ABOUT CHRISTINA NOBLE

Christina Noble established the Christina Noble Children’s Foundation (CNCF) in 1991 in Ho Chi Minh City after visiting Vietnam in 1989 and seeing first-hand the challenges faced by local children living in poverty. Born into the slums of Dublin, Ireland, Christina overcame the death of her mother at an early age and spent her childhood in dire circumstances—ultimately surviving years spent in orphanages and a period of homelessness on the streets of Dublin. Her difficult beginnings fuelled her passion for children’s rights, to which she has dedicated her life.

In 1997, Christina travelled to Mongolia and saw first-hand the deprivation and poverty left behind after the withdrawal of the Soviet Union and the socio-economic collapse of the country. Christina expanded CNCF’s operations to help the thousands of children forced to live in the dilapidated, freezing streets of Ulaanbaatar.

Christina and CNCF have received over one hundred awards for their work on behalf of children’s rights. For example, Christina was recognised by Time magazine as one of the “Most Inspiring Heroes of our World,” received the Order of the British Empire, and was awarded the prestigious Albert Schweitzer Award. In recognition of her service to the children and poor communities of Vietnam, Christina was only the third person to receive the Order of Friendship Medal from the Vietnamese Government in 2012. This award is the highest honour given to foreigners by the President and the people of Vietnam (www.cnf.org/our-awards).

Christina is the author of two international best-selling autobiographies, Bridge Across My Sorrows (1994) and Mama Tina (1997). She was also the subject of two award-winning documentaries, Mama Tina (1997) and In A House That Ceased To Be (2014) and the biopic feature film NOBLE (2014), which won seven international film awards.
169 PROJECTS
PROVIDING SERVICES TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

929,424 CHILDREN HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY CNCF

CNCF
The Christina Noble Children’s Foundation (CNCF) is dedicated to serving vulnerable children in need and those at risk of commercial, criminal and sexual exploitation and trafficking, by providing emergency and long term shelter, medical care, nutritional rehabilitation, educational opportunities, vocational training, and job placement. CNCF seeks to maximise the potential of each child. This is accomplished within the context of the family and the community whenever possible and always with love and respect for the dignity of each child as an individual. CNCF also empowers poor communities with sustainable futures through community development projects. Our programmes address poverty at a grassroots level with a long term focus on providing a nurturing environment for personal development.

SINCE INCEPTION, CNCF HAS ESTABLISHED

CNCF is one of the longest serving NGOs in Vietnam and Mongolia. Christina and her Foundation’s efforts to highlight the plight of the children globally, has assisted in motivating social change and reform in Vietnam and Mongolia and has in turn promoted the need for cross cultural understanding, communication and shifts in individual attitudes from government representatives to street and working children.

OUR HISTORY
CNCF is one of the longest serving NGOs in Vietnam and Mongolia. Christina and her Foundation’s efforts to highlight the plight of the children globally, has assisted in motivating social change and reform in Vietnam and Mongolia and has in turn promoted the need for cross cultural understanding, communication and shifts in individual attitudes from government representatives to street and working children.

GRASS-ROOTS
CNCF’s programmes address poverty at a grassroots level with a long term focus on providing a nurturing and stimulating environment for all round personal development.
CNCF works at the core, engulfed in the extreme and dire circumstances the vulnerable children and families in our care experience. We remain on the ground to ensure they all have access to critical, high quality care by providing residential and outreach support to all those in need.

HOLISTIC
CNCF’s holistic approach to childhood development is at the core of our work and inspires a depth of care that goes beyond fulfilment of basic physical needs. Our programmes are designed to nurture all of our incredible young people in a way that recognises them as individuals with different needs, both physical and emotional, and values their very special human spirit.

CNCF ANNUAL REPORT 2018
In Vietnam, in 2018, we worked in Ho Chi Minh City and the following provinces:

- Ho Chi Minh City
- Lam Dong
- Dong Nai
- Tay Ninh
- Kien Giang
- Dong Thap
- Ben Tre
- Ca Mau
- Vinh Long
- Long An

In Mongolia, we work in nine districts in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar and other cities including Erdenet, Darkhan, Nalaikh and Baganuur.

We also work in the following provinces and districts:

- Bulgan province (Bulgan, Orkhon, Khishig Undur, Gurvanbulag and Dashinchilen soums)
- Tuv province (Bayanchandmani, Erdene and Argalant soums)
- Selenge province (Khotul and Zuunkharaa soums)

In addition to our operational centres in Vietnam and Mongolia, our administration head office is located in Hong Kong and we have partner fundraising and child sponsorship administration offices in Australia, France, Ireland, New Zealand (managed by our Australia office), United Arab Emirates, the United States and the United Kingdom.
56,664 CHILDREN AND ADULTS
BENEFITTED FROM OUR EDUCATION, HEALTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

1,684 CHILDREN
RECEIVED AN EDUCATION OR EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT THROUGH OUR PROGRAMMES

918 CHILDREN WERE ENROLLED IN OUR CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

114 CHILDREN RECEIVED ASSISTANCE THROUGH OUR EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

200+ CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN OUR ARTS AND MUSIC PROGRAMME

9,618 TOTAL IMPACTS BY OUR HEALTHCARE PROGRAMMES

8,572 PATIENT CONTACTS AT OUTPATIENT CLINICS

72 CHILDREN AT OUR SUNSHINE CENTRE RECEIVED RESIDENTIAL MEDICAL, NUTRITIONAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE

2,163 CHILDREN BY OUR NEW CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

112 RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN AT OUR SUNSHINE HOMES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AND OUR TAY NHIN CENTRE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN

45 CHILDREN RECEIVED BICYCLES THROUGH OUR BICYCLE SUPPORT PROGRAMME

93 CHILDREN CHILDREN HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY OUR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND MEDICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

147 CHILDREN ATTENDED THE SUNSHINE SCHOOL

68 CHILDREN ATTENDED THE KINDERGARTEN AT OUR SUNSHINE SOCIAL AND MEDICAL CENTRE

2,320 NEW BENEFICIARIES

45,362 CHILDREN AND ADULTS
BENEFITTED FROM OUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

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45,362 CHILDREN AND ADULTS
BENEFITTED FROM OUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

2,320 CHILDREN HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY OUR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND MEDICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES
3,024 children and adults benefitted from our education, health and community development programmes.

1,282 children received an education or educational support through our programmes.

88 children attended our blue skies kindergarten.

1,007 children were enrolled in our child sponsorship programme.

392 children participated in our arts and music programme.

70 children participated in our sports programme.

47 students received scholarships through our education scholarship programme.

130 boys studied at our boys’ prison education programme.

1,403 children received healthcare and/or medical assistance through our healthcare programme.

54 children in the blue skies kindergarten.

61 children in the blue skies ger village.

46 CNCF staff.

168 parents and adult relatives of children on our programmes.

1,007 CNCF staff were enrolled in our child sponsorship programme.

53 people benefited from our give-a-ger programme.

339 children and adults benefitted from our community development programmes.

61 boys from our boys’ prison education programme.

1,282 children received an education or educational support through our programmes.

63 boys form our boys’ prison education programme.

61 children living at our blue skies ger village received healthcare, education, life-skills training and access to extra-curricular activities.

339 children and adults benefitted from our community development programmes.

11 families received homes through our give-a-ger programme.

11 families.

854 children in the child sponsorship programme.

168 parents and adult relatives of children on our programmes.

53 people benefited from our give-a-ger programme.

339 children and adults benefitted from our community development programmes.

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339 children and adults benefitted from our community development programmes.
2018 was a productive and positive year for our programmes in Vietnam.

Recent economic growth has allowed Vietnam to move from low income to lower middle income, but economic disparities persist. The rural poor are most affected by increasing inequality. Rural and ethnic minority populations are emerging from poverty at a much slower pace than their urban counterparts and they continue to experience high rates of poverty, limited access to healthcare, high infant mortality, and poor access to education. In addition, children with disabilities have not been fully integrated into the community and do not have adequate access to healthcare, education, and opportunity.

Such disparities underscore a broader concern in Vietnam, that despite strong aggregate economic growth, indicators that measure holistic human development suggest that the country’s progress has faltered in recent years.

Our work at CNCF over the past quarter century has sought to reduce inequalities and expand the capabilities of the children of Vietnam by providing high-quality educational, healthcare, and community development solutions. We are proud of the part we have played in helping to make a difference for some of the poorest and most vulnerable children.

As we move forward into 2019, our important work continues.

We will continue to provide free medical care at our Sunshine Centre in Ho Chi Minh City and outpatient services to marginalised communities.

We will also continue to provide educational support, healthcare and life skills training to visually impaired children at our Tay Ninh Centre.

Our Child Sponsorship Programme and Education Scholarship Programme will continue to provide hundreds of children with access to all levels of the educational system so that they can learn and grow as individuals and be prepared to enter the workforce in the future.

To ensure that the children in our care develop all aspects of their mind and body, our Sports, Arts and Music Programmes will continue to provide children the chance to express themselves through motion and creativity.

Because children are products of their community, we will continue to support communities and families in need by providing multi-faceted support. For example, our capital projects will continue to provide clean water solutions to impoverished families living in rural areas.

In 2018, thanks to the help of committed supporters like you, we helped more than 50,000 children and adults in Vietnam by providing access to medical care, offering safe havens to at-risk children, and providing financial support to children who otherwise would have been unable to attend school.

While many challenges remain, we enter 2019 confident that we will continue to make a difference in the lives of children most in need.

On behalf of Vietnam’s children, thank you for making a difference in their lives.

Ms Trinh Son,
Director of Operations CNCF Vietnam
CNCF believes that education is essential to breaking the cycle of poverty and that every child has the right to attend school. While Vietnam’s educational system has made great strides in the past several decades, quality of education remains uneven and hidden costs for transportation, uniforms and school supplies make school practically unaffordable for the poorest families. Our educational programmes seek to help children who have been excluded from the educational system.

The Sunshine School is our central educational facility located at our flagship centre in Ho Chi Minh City. The school provides primary education to children from underprivileged families, orphans, and street children in grades one through five. We believe that education is more than just basic academics and our programmes ensure that children receive a holistic education, which includes arts, music, and sports.

We also support the children’s families, helping them understand the importance of educating their children and ensuring that they remain in school to attain the knowledge and skills they need to escape the poverty trap. Our aim is to prepare children for success in higher grades and beyond. We provide continuing support to many of our Sunshine School graduates through the Education Scholarship Programme to help them pursue higher education or vocational training.

In addition to the Sunshine School, we also operate a kindergarten and day care (called Son Ca) for underprivileged children that is housed in CNCF’s flagship Sunshine Social and Medical Centre. At the Son Ca, children receive care and early childhood education in a safe and loving environment where their nutrition and health needs are monitored daily.

Without CNCF’s support, many parents would have no choice but to take their children to work or leave them home alone. Classes follow the Vietnam National Curriculum for early school education and we modify teaching methods to meet our children’s learning needs. In 2018, 68 children were nurtured at our Son Ca kindergarten.
The first aim of our education programmes is to provide children who are typically excluded from the educational system access to high-quality early childhood education.

Children who attend our Sunshine School are often over the maximum school age or otherwise excluded from mainstream schools because they lack the required legal documents to enrol. Most of the children are from extremely under-privileged families and migrant families who moved to Ho Chi Minh City for work. Many are street children who are exposed to crime and abuse. The Sunshine School prepares these children to integrate into the mainstream school system and pursue higher education. Sunshine School teachers and staff participate in regular training and continuous education activities provided by the local education department to ensure that the school’s high standards for instruction are maintained.

To maximise academic performance, we hold tutoring classes three times each week. These extra lessons for children experiencing difficulties help prevent them from dropping out of school.

Students also participated in sports, music, art activities and fun excursions. CNCF is committed to providing all the children in our care access to a range of activities and learning opportunities that allow them to enjoy their childhood and develop into well-rounded adults.
In Vietnam, financial and geographic barriers continue to prevent many children and young adults from getting the education they need to compete for jobs in a rapidly modernising economy. Our Child Sponsorship and Education Scholarship Programmes afford children access to all levels of the educational system.

Education Scholarship Programme supports continuing education by providing scholarships to students pursuing secondary, vocational, or university education.

Through the Child Sponsorship Programme, individual sponsors support children at the primary, secondary, and vocational levels who need financial assistance to stay in school.

In 2018, 1,032 children and young adults received financial support through the Child Sponsorship and Education Scholarship Programmes.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF CSP CHILDREN**

- **204** Ho Chi Minh City
- **284** Long An
- **147** Dong Nai
- **34** Can Gio
- **11%** Ben Tre
- **70%** Long An
- **3%** Ca Mau – U Minh Project
- **3%** Ca Mau – An Luc Long Project
- **2%** Long An – Thanh Hoa Project
- **2%** Long An – Long Tri Project
- **4%** Dong Nai

**EDUCATION LEVEL OF CSP STUDENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th>High School</th>
<th>College and University</th>
<th>Special Assistance</th>
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<td>08</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>204</td>
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HELPING A FAMILY IN NEED

Kim’s family lives in a slum area of Cà Mau Province—the southernmost point of Vietnam. In 2013, when Kim was eight years old, her parents separated. Her father left and less than a year later, her mother abandoned her and her three siblings. Kim’s grandparents took in the four children (ranging in ages from three to ten) into their very small rented house.

Kim’s grandparents do odd jobs to get by, but they struggle just to survive.

When Kim was first accepted into the Child Sponsorship Programme, she was on the verge of dropping out after fifth grade and it seemed her 3-year-old brother would never attend school. However, financial and emotional support provided by the CSP for the past four years has helped the family get back on its feet and kept Kim in school.

In fact, while they continue to face daily struggles and deprivations, all the children go to school. This year, Kim will complete her secondary education, which is a great first step toward a brighter future.

*Name changed to protect privacy.

SPONSOR A CHILD

For a little more than $1 USD a day, a sponsor changes a child’s world by giving them access to nutrition, healthcare and education. Our Child Sponsorship Programme connects children and their families with people from around the world who are eager to create lasting change in the lives of those most in need.

International Project Costs
- Int running cost
- Exchange contingency

CSP & Vietnam Programme Costs
- Enrichment programme
- Emergency fund
- Vietnam and CSP programme costs

International Project Costs
$27
Child receives

CSP & Vietnam Programme Costs
$7
Child sponsorship fee

$38
CNCF Annual Report 2018
SPORTS AND FITNESS

CNCF believes that sports and fitness activities are vitally important for children because they promote a healthy lifestyle and allow kids to be kids. In addition, sports afford children the opportunity to build self-esteem and develop into happy, fulfilled young adults. This year, we continued to provide our children the opportunity to learn taekwondo and how to swim. We also added Judo to our Sports Programme in August.

76 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN THE SPORTS PROGRAMME

ARTS AND MUSIC

Music and art play a crucial role in the growth and development of all children, allowing them to express themselves more freely and helping develop important social skills, self-confidence and self-awareness. Children from the Sunshine School, Sunshine Homes, Child Sponsorship Programme and local community attend classes and workshops in music (instruments and choir), dance and visual arts. We are grateful to the Sovereign Art Foundation for their continued sponsorship and support of this programme.

All Sunshine School children attend weekly general art and music classes that serve as an introduction to the arts. The curriculum is based on the National Arts and Music Programme. In addition, we offer extracurricular courses to students who are interested in specific types of art, music and dance.

200 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN MUSIC, ART, AND DANCE CLASSES

143 GENERAL ART & MUSIC CLASSES
25 CHOIR
25 GUITAR
03 PIANO
02 KEYBOARD
13 DANCE
17

12 SSMC AEROBIC DANCE
16 AFTER-SCHOOL ART
14 BOYS’ HOME ART
15 GIRLS’ HOME ART
10 GIRLS’ HOME DANCE

250 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN MUSIC, ART, AND DANCE CLASSES

All Sunshine School children attend weekly general art and music classes that serve as an introduction to the arts. The curriculum is based on the National Arts and Music Programme. In addition, we offer extracurricular courses to students who are interested in specific types of art, music and dance.
CNCF recognises the importance of health and wellness for individuals overall wellbeing and community development. Ensuring that more children have access to quality healthcare is critically important because giving children a healthy start in life lays the foundation for healthy growth and development. Conversely, children who are excluded from the healthcare system often find it difficult to catch up, placing unbearable burdens on families and communities.

Despite nationwide progress, medical care in Vietnam remains uneven and the healthcare system is riddled with disparities. Many of the poorest citizens are effectively excluded because they do not have the means to access care. To help fight these persistent health care inequalities, CNCF provides multi-faceted health care at no cost to children and families most in need. Thanks to our generous supporters, our healthcare programmes continue to provide medical care, nutritional care, physiotherapy, psychosocial care and public health solutions to the people of Ho Chi Minh City and surrounding provinces.
The Sunshine Social and Medical Centre in Ho Chi Minh City is CNCF’s flagship facility. Operated in partnership with Vietnam’s Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) since 1991, the centre has provided full-time residential care for more than 3,000 orphans and children and almost 300,000 people have received free health examinations and treatment at the outpatient clinic. The centre has been recognised for excellence in service and care and for providing an integrated programme of services for abandoned babies, street children, sick and malnourished infants and their parents.

RESIDENTIAL CARE

The Sunshine Social And Medical Center provides medical care to children who live in the Centre’s Intensive Monitoring Unit (ages 0 to 2 years) and Residential Care Unit (ages 2 to 8 years). Most residential children have significant medical conditions - ranging from extreme malnutrition to Cerebral Palsy and Down syndrome - for which they receive on going treatment.

Binh*, her parents and two siblings hail from Ben Tre Province. Binh was born with cerebral palsy and is unable to walk. She requires a lot of support from her family day to day but they are unable to look after her. Binh’s mother moved from her hometown in Ben Thuan province to HCMC at the age of twelve to find a job to support her family. Seven years later, Binh’s parents got married and moved to Ben Tre. Binh's father’s income as a hired labourer was unstable and her mom stayed home to take care of Binh and her sister. Binh’s older brother lives with their paternal grandparents in District 12. Their grandfather is a security guard for an international school nearby and their grandmother suffered a stroke two years ago and is too ill to maintain employment. Binh suffered from cerebral palsy at birth and was unable to walk due to muscular rigidity in her limbs.

During our outreach trip to Ben Tre in June 2018, Sunshine Social and Medical Centre (SSMC) doctors examined Binh and referred her family to the SSMC for physiotherapy support. Binh arrived at SSMC in September to receive treatment for cerebral palsy to build her strength her limbs, her ability to stand steadily on her own and walk. When she arrived at the SSMC, Binh, age four, could only crawl with the use of her arms; her hip joints were closed, her knees folded when sitting, her fingers were folded and her psychomotor developmental level was that of a 12-month-old child.

Since her arrival, physiotherapists have provided Binh with tailored physical therapy aimed at preventing malformation, correcting posture, stretching (with leg braces), and strengthening limbs. Binh was also referred to the 1A Hospital (Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation Hospital) where she was fitted with leg braces.

During her time at SSMC, Binh has also received an energy-rich diet, which has decreased her level of malnutrition from second to first degree. The diet and physical therapy have produced remarkable results in just a short time. Binh can now stand on her own and walk several steps without assistance. Binh’s resilience and rapid progress is inspiring.

With the safety and security of Binh’s family knowing she is well taken care of at SSMC, her mother has had time to work and earn an extra income, which will greatly improve the family’s long-term prospects. As is often the case, the SSMC’s work changes lives. Lives of the children and their families.

*Names changed to protect privacy.
NUTRITIONAL CARE

Combatting malnutrition is often the first intervention our medical staff prescribes when children arrive in our care. We provide children with well-balanced meals, nutritional supplements (including Vitamin A), and intensive monitoring to ensure they are gaining weight in accordance with their age and height.

OUTPATIENT CARE

The Outpatient Clinic located at the Sunshine Social and Medical Centre provides children and their families high-quality paediatric consultancy, treatment and social support. The clinic is located on the first floor of the centre and is open three mornings per week. In addition to health examinations, medicines, and nutritional supplements, we also provided consultations to parents focusing on topics such as malnutrition and physiotherapy.

Because many parents were forced to travel long distances from outlying districts and other provinces to bring their children to our clinic and travel costs have increased remarkably in recent years, we have extended our services to the community via our Community Outreach Programme.

Outreach to the Mekong Delta insures we reach the Poorest communities that have very little access to public health care, especially for infants and children. Malnutrition rates among the children we reached are extremely high compared to the national average.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

The Sunshine Social and Medical Centre provides physiotherapy at an international standard and is well-known among Vietnamese orphanages and other social and medical centres as one of the leading physiotherapy-based rehabilitation centres in Ho Chi Minh City. The centre has two full-time physiotherapists who work closely with our medical staff and are included in all case discussions.
Because the direct medical services we provide cannot bring about all the improvements to children’s health we wish to achieve, the second focus of our public health strategy is health education. The topics of the workshops were “How to ensure food safety during the Tet holiday”, “How to ensure daily food safety”, “How to provide balanced nutritional care to children” and “How to support children to understand the importance of following school rules”. The goal of these informal sessions was to support attendees to be comfortable with and receptive to new ideas and give them the opportunity to ask questions.

The Medical Exchange Programme was established in 2003 in partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The programme brings world-class medical expertise to Vietnam in the form of medical delegations that train Vietnamese medical staff, assess difficult medical cases, and perform surgeries otherwise unavailable in Vietnam. The programme also brings key local Vietnamese medical staff to Ireland for intensive surgical training that they can apply in their home hospitals. The investments made by the Medical Exchange Programme have supported the development of Vietnamese surgeons and medical teams to improve the quality of care provided to Vietnamese people.

Through the support of the Medical Exchange Programme, one Vietnamese paediatric surgeon from the General Surgery Department, Children’s Hospital No. 2, travelled to Ireland for a 5-week training in Paediatric Cardiac Surgery.
Our Medical Assistance Programme (MAP) provides financial assistance to children (up to age 16) who cannot afford urgent medical care. Examples of services financed by MAP include life-saving surgeries, post-operative care and hospitalisation. Since its inception in 1999, the MAP has afforded more than 2,000 children access to much needed medical care.

**Duong**, seven months old, is the youngest of four children in a family from Dong Nai province. A few weeks after Duong was born in 2017, he was unable to breastfeed and was referred to Children’s Hospital No. 2 (CH2) by a private clinician. On the way to the hospital, Duong’s skin turned pale and his breathing became labored, so he was driven to Dong Nai General Hospital. Diagnosed with congenital heart disease, Duong was treated at the hospital for nine days. Because he did not show any signs of improvement, he was transferred to CH2 where he was admitted with a diagnosis of ventricular septal defect, atrial septal defect and aortic stenosis.

Duong’s large family is currently living in a tiny, deteriorating house. His sisters are in ninth, seventh and second grade and tuition fees for the family are VND 2,800,000 (USD 124) per year. Both Duong’s father and mother have worked at schools for many years, as a guard, a kindergarten and primary school teacher but employment was not consistent due to needing to be home to take care of Duong.

Before receiving help from MAP, Duong’s parents depended on donated meals while they took care of him in the hospital. Although some of Duong’s medical care was covered by national insurance, the family was still struggling to keep their heads above water. Money provided by MAP helped fill the financial gaps for Duong’s family. With CNCF support they could continue living their lives while Duong got the care he needed.

We talked to Duong’s mother in April and she happily informed us that Duong is fully recovered and doing well. He is taking medication to help strengthen his heart muscles. Since his discharge in March, he has gained more than two kilograms. Duong’s mom expressed her sincerest thanks to CNCF and the donors who helped her child get the treatment he needed. She is extremely grateful for Duong’s recovery.

* Name changed to protect privacy.
2,320 PEOPLE
BENEFITTED FROM OUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

53 CHILDREN
RESIDED AT OUR SUNSHINE HOMES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

59 CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS
RESIDED AT OUR TAY NINH CENTRE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN

45 CHILDREN
RECEIVED BICYCLES

34 RECIPIENTS
RECEIVED LOANS DURING THE MOST RECENT LOAN CYCLE, WHICH BEGAN IN 2015 AND CONCLUDED IN 2018

02 KINDERGARTEN UPGRADE PROJECTS

573 WATER TANKS WERE INSTALLED

2018 BENEFITTING FROM OUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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2018
In 2018, our Capital Projects continued to provide communities in poor and remote rural areas of southern Vietnam with fully-equipped kindergartens and water supply solutions.

CNCF is committed to empowering poor children and their families. Over the past two decades, our generous donors, sponsors, and partners have helped create a sustainable future for thousands of families and their children.

Capital Projects instituted in 2018 benefitted 2,163 children and adults, bringing the total project beneficiaries to more than 54,000 since 1997.

In 2018, two kindergarten upgrade projects were completed: installation of a kitchen and appliances at the Dinh An Kindergarten and installation of playground equipment at the Tan Nghia Commune Kindergarten. The new kitchen at Dinh An allows the school to meet the students’ needs for the entire school day and eliminates the need for parents to pick up their children at lunch time.

The Tan Nghia kindergarten was built in 2014 thanks to the support of teachers and students from the Australian International School Hong Kong (AISHK). It has provided early education for up to 60 students per year.

Students from AISHK visit each year and decided to launch a campaign to raise funds to purchase outdoor play equipment for the kindergarten. In July, the kindergarten was equipped with fun equipment including a slide and swings. The kindergarten and its new playground are symbols of the commune’s growth and development and of CNCF’s successful cooperation with our donors. We are all working together to build a brighter future for children in need.

Contaminated water and poor sanitation are linked to transmission of diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, hepatitis A, typhoid and polio. Vietnam has made progress in recent years in improving its water supply. However, due in large part to climate change, Vietnam has been severely impacted by reduced rainfall and high salinity in freshwater. Our Rural Clean Water Programme was established with the goal of eradicating waterborne diseases.

Water tanks and wells provided by CNCF in previous years continued to benefit more than 5,000 people.
BICYCLE SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The Bicycle Support Programme provides bicycle kits, safety helmets and road safety training to children from extremely poor families. Bicycles provide children, particularly those living in rural areas, a means of transportation to and from school. Thus, providing children bicycles can result in improved educational outcomes by increasing school attendance and reducing dropout rates.

2018

CHILDREN RECEIVED BICYCLES

CHILDREN

45

SUNSHINE HOMES

VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

WERE CARED FOR AT THE SUNSHINE HOMES

53

30 23

Children are often disproportionately affected by the multi-dimensional burdens of poverty, including malnutrition, insufficient health care, domestic violence and diminished access to education. Despite attempts by the Vietnamese government to curtail domestic violence; violence against children remains widespread.

Our Sunshine Home for Boys opened in 1994 to provide a safe and caring environment for young street boys who were at risk of starvation, exploitation and violence. The Sunshine Home for Girls opened in 1997.

The Sunshine Homes provide a haven where children and young adults (ages 5 to 20) are cared for in a nurturing and loving environment. All the Homes’ residents receive health insurance and regular health check-ups. Our staff closely monitor their health and personal hygiene, arrange medical assistance when necessary and conduct health education sessions. To help the children process past traumas, we arrange sessions with trained counsellors and social workers.

All children attend local schools and/or receive vocational training, depending on their age and ability. To support their education, we provide transportation to and from school, school supplies, and extracurricular support in the form of tutoring and study groups. In addition to their academic studies, children are encouraged to develop their athletic and artistic abilities in our Sunshine Arts & Music Programme and Sunshine Sports Programme. We also provide life skills training and personal and social skills development.
Families stricken by poverty in Vietnam often lack the collateral necessary to qualify for bank loans. In addition, commercial banks are reluctant to lend to poor families involved in farming because of the high risks associated with crops and livestock. Consequently, these communities have no means to develop their small business activities to improve their living conditions.

CNCF established the Microfinance Loan Programme in 1997 to support impoverished communities by providing access to financing for small businesses. The programme’s aim is to help people who are experiencing hardship to help themselves. Recipients use the loans to start, maintain and expand micro- enterprises such as rice farming, cash crop farming, livestock breeding and retail businesses. At the end of the three-year loan cycle, the loan is recovered and recycled to help other disadvantage people in the community.

To date, loans provided have helped increase the income of impoverished households, empowered women and ensured that children from recipient families remain in school, which is one of the criteria for receiving a loan.

Recipients used loans (USD $227 to $455) to raise livestock, maintain small businesses (e.g., coffee shops, bake shops, motorbike repair shops) and cultivate rice. Loan recipients and our local partners reported the programme has met the community’s needs, enabling entrepreneurs living in poverty to establish and expand their businesses so they can better support their families.

The Women’s Union of Son Kien Commune successfully collected all repayments in February and transferred funds to the National Policy Bank of Hon Dat District. Loan recipients and local partners expressed interest in beginning a new loan cycle, and in January 2019, CNCF Project management team conducted a field visit and met with Kien Giang DOLISA and Women’s Union. A new three-year loan cycle was scheduled to begin in February 2019.

Lan and her husband used to operate a small coffee shop that ultimately failed. With the loan provided by CNCF’s Microfinance Loan Programme, they began selling pumpkins and other vegetables, which resulted in a more reliable monthly income. Thanks to their improved financial circumstances, the family can now cover their living expenses, including tuition for their two children. Recently, they moved out of their parents’ home to live in their newly built house, paid for with their savings. Lan hopes to extend her loan for one or two more cycles, so she can expand her business and lift her and her family out of poverty.
TAY NINH CENTRE
FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN

Our Tay Ninh Centre for Visually Impaired Children provides housing, healthcare, education, rehabilitation and vocational training. In addition, children learn life skills that allow them to integrate into the community.

Tay Ninh, a rural province in the Mekong Delta, was the scene of extensive military action during the American-Vietnam War. The use of defoliants such as Agent Orange and inadequate access to medical care contributed to high levels of visual impairment, which persist within the province today. Many children who are born with these impairments come from families that are already facing serious economic hardships. We built the Tay Ninh Centre in 1999 to serve this vulnerable population.

Our residential centre, which is run in partnership with the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Tay Ninh, is the only facility in the province that offers holistic services to visually impaired children and young adults.

One of CNCF’s core values is that education is fundamental to breaking the cycle of poverty. This is particularly true when children face physical and mental challenges. Thus, we fully support and advocate integration of children with disabilities into mainstream education. In addition, the centre provides supplementary educational support to all children. Furthermore, all children participate in extracurricular activities including art and sports and have access to the centre’s in-house library and the speaking library in Ho Chi Minh City.

Approximately one-third of the children have physical or mental disabilities in addition to visual impairment. In addition, more than one-third of the children and young adults face additional challenges such as mental health problems, hearing impairment, or other physical disabilities.

2018

55

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS
RECEIVED CARE AT THE CENTRE

26
TOTA LLY BL IN D

29
PAR TIALL Y BL IN D

Trang* came from a poor family. Her parents divorced when she was four and soon after her father left. To make a living, Trang’s mother worked as a hired laborer, earning a small and unreliable income. Trang’s mom became seriously ill. She was diagnosed with intestinal cancer and her health began to deteriorate.

To help the family survive, Trang’s sister went to work after finishing secondary school, but struggled to find decent 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 Tay Ninh Centre where she received high quality 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 confidence. Her academic performance also improved remarkably. She completed high school and continued her studies at Food Industry College, majoring in Food Industry. After graduating, she secured a good job in the Orient Commercial Joint Stock Bank as an officer. This job will allow her to support herself and help her family as well.

*Name changed to protect privacy.
The Christina Noble Children’s Foundation provides crucial and often life-saving support to thousands of vulnerable children and families each year; in my role as the Director of Operations for CNCF Mongolia I am fortunate enough to see firsthand the impact of this support. The light of Christina’s philosophy and the hard work of the global CNCF team shines clearly through all eleven of our community development programmes here in Mongolia – lives are transformed every day because of the care and generosity of our supporters worldwide. When I visit the children at our Blue Skies Ger Village, for example, and am greeted by joyful smiles, laughter, and the innocent sight of childhood play, I am always filled with a deep sense of gratitude and pride for what the Foundation has achieved.

As we walk around the village I see many children practicing taekwondo in our new community centre – their little faces energised and eyes beaming with fierce determination, strength, and pride. I look into our classrooms, where the children are discussing ideas, engaged in learning and inspired by life. I hear the strumming of guitars and the melodic notes of piano ringing out from our music rooms, and I have the opportunity to admire many captivating paintings hanging on the walls; if I’m staying for lunch I’ll be eating some fresh salad and vegetables that the children have grown in our greenhouses. There is no doubt that the children are thriving. They are cultivating their characters, developing essential life-skills, and growing into adults with the platforms they will need in order to lead fulfilling and productive lives.

It is a heartbreaking matter-of-fact that if it were not for the work of Christina and her Foundation, this would not be the case. Many of these beautiful innocent children – with their wealth of beauty and potential – would be suffering in situations that no human being should ever have to face: abused, abandoned, neglected, alone, hungry, and vulnerable. Without the Foundation’s Blue Skies Ger Village, these extraordinary young souls would be growing up in very different life conditions.

If you were to ever visit us here in Ulaanbaatar you would see many happy faces. It can be easy to forget sometimes that behind every joyful smile, every innocent laugh, and every determined taekwondo kick is always a story that is incredibly difficult at best, is often heartbreaking and painful, and at worst can be truly horrific.

Thanks for the Foundation’s work across all eleven of our community development programmes in Mongolia, over 4,400 young people and their family members have this year received crucial financial, educational, and psychosocial support that significantly increases their chances of breaking the cycle of poverty.

This year, many of our children have gone on to achieve incredible things: six of our boys’ prison students successfully passed their university entrance exams and are now studying at university – four of whom received CNCF Educational Scholarships; thirty-two students on our Child Sponsorship Programme graduated from university and are now in skilled employment, and countless numbers of social recognitions and medals have been awarded to our children of all ages for their educational, sporting, and creative achievements. These are many everyday “small victories” that, over time and with consistency, build up to create real-lasting change in the lives of the children and families that the Foundation supports.

Our team work tirelessly in challenging conditions; the work is not easy. Yet we can only continue to achieve the results we do because we’re backed by a strong team of supporters all around the world who share in the same dream: to give our beautiful little people the start to life that they deserve.

Your support is the backbone of our Foundation’s work, and it is only through your ongoing contributions that we can continue in our fundamentally important mission of giving children back their childhoods, and also – most importantly – giving them the tools that they will need in life in order to cultivate a bright and successful future.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all.

Best wishes,

Tom Minter, Director of Operations, CNCF Mongolia
Mongolia’s educational system has made great strides in recent years. Attendance and completion rates continue to climb and although significant inequalities in access to education persist, Mongolia has made substantial progress in closing the rural/urban divide and increasing access across most income levels. Despite excellent progress in many areas, educational access for children with disabilities still lags. In addition, the quality of education is uneven and inadequate and children from the most vulnerable and disadvantaged families face challenges in accessing the educational system.

To fill these lingering gaps and serve children who are still marginalised, CNCF’s education programmes in Mongolia focus on early childhood education (Blue Skies Kindergarten), primary and secondary education (Blue Skies Ger Village and Child Sponsorship Programmes), higher education (Education Scholarship Programme), and holistic education (Arts, Music, Sports Programmes and other activities). We also provide boys in Ulaanbaatar’s Juvenile Detention Centre with a rehabilitation and education programme that enables them to receive the same education and qualifications as any other child in the city (Boys’ Prison Education Programme).
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Blue Skies Kindergarten was established in 2000 to support the educational, physical and emotional development of children (ages 2 to 7) living in the Blue Skies Ger Village. The kindergarten has since expanded to serve more disadvantaged and vulnerable children in the local area.

The Blue Skies Kindergarten is the only free-of-charge early learning centre in the local district. Without it many parents would have no choice but to go to work and leave their young children at home. These children are often locked inside their ger in unsafe, un-stimulating and deprived conditions for hours at a time.

Kindergarten children are assigned to one of three age groups, each with their own education programme. The preschool follows the national preschool curriculum.

88 CHILDREN
82 FULL-TIME
06 PART-TIME
ATTENDED THE BLUE SKIES KINDERGARTEN
THE MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE DURING EACH TERM WAS 68 CHILDREN

PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND HOLISTIC EDUCATION

All children residing at our Blue Skies Ger Village attend school full-time. Children study at either the CNCF Blue Skies Kindergarten or the local public schools in Songino Khairkhan district. In addition to formal schooling, the children receive extra support from our education team, which this year expanded to include an education officer, primary school teacher, and maths teacher. Our three new staff members work alongside our Mongolian language teacher and English teacher, to provide a full range of educational support for the children at the village.

Our teachers work with the children individually and in groups, giving special attention to those who struggle academically. As many of the children have missed school for prolonged periods because of their previous living conditions, this additional help is important.

Our new Education Officer oversees the academic and personal development of our children. This involves regular communication with the students’ teachers, helping the children set goals and create plans to achieve them, organising activities for learning, and supervising the teachers at the village.

With the development of our education team, our children’s school grades, average attendance, and enthusiasm for learning have risen. They love going to their classes, and it is clear to see that they are not only growing in ability but also in confidence and self-esteem.

Furthermore, we are delighted that as a result of their hard work, 6 of our young people completed compulsory education this year. Of these children, 3 now attend vocational training centres, 1 attends high school/college, 1 has begun university, and 1 will start university in 2019 due to health issues.

In addition to the formal education children receive at local schools, our extracurricular programmes (Arts & Music and Sports) provide opportunities for the children to participate in fun activities that help them develop into well-rounded young people.

This holistic approach to childhood development is at the core of our work. Through providing a rich and varied range of extracurricular activities in areas such as art, music, dance, and sport, we help our children discover previously hidden aspects of themselves and enable them to develop skills, talents, and important character traits that will benefit them into adulthood.

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Anar*, 5 years old, was referred to us by district social workers after they discovered his difficult life circumstances. At the time, he was not attending kindergarten and was spending his days at home with his grandfather in challenging conditions. Sadly, Anar’s mother had abandoned him at birth and left him without the official identity documents required to enroll in school.

Our kindergarten team worked diligently on Anar’s case and with the support of the district’s social workers, managed to get him a new birth certificate. After spending six months in our kindergarten, Anar completed his preschool education and has now enrolled in a local primary school. Furthermore, while attending our kindergarten, Anar developed his social, emotional and cognitive skills. He is now a bright, cheerful and confident little boy who is equipped for a successful integration into his new school. Without the Foundation’s support, Anar would not have been able to receive an education, and there is no doubt that his future would have looked very different from what it does now.

*Name changed to protect privacy.
ARTS, MUSIC & SPORTS PROGRAMMES

CNCF believes that providing opportunities for children to participate in extracurricular activities such as art, music and sports is not only desirable, but necessary for their full development. Toward this end, our Arts & Music and Sports Programmes provide Blue Skies Ger Village, Child Sponsorship Programme and Boys’ Prison Education Programme children with opportunities to learn and participate in a variety of fun activities to children to express themselves creatively.

This year, the Arts & Music Programme included lessons in visual arts, crafts, dance, art therapy and contemporary and traditional music and benefitted 61 children from the Blue Skies Ger Village, 225 children in the Child Sponsorship Programme, 106 children in the Boys’ Prison Programme and 72 children in the Sports Programme.

Activities offered included taekwondo, cricket, swimming and volleyball. Participants continued to enjoy the new community centre at the Ger Village that houses a kitchen, dining room, main hall, classroom, reception area, and storage facilities and was built in 2017. The centre is a much-needed improvement and has significantly benefitted our children’s taekwondo practice.
One of the primary outcomes of our Child Sponsorship and Education Scholarship Programmes in Mongolia is increased access to all levels of the educational system. Sponsorship funds assist with costs of education such as school supplies, uniforms and travel. Most children in the programme would be unable to stay in school without this monthly support. Because we require that programme participants attend school, they are less likely to drop out to pursue low-paying work on the streets. We believe that education plays a key role in helping these children break the cycle of poverty. Life in rural Mongolia can be particularly challenging because many areas lack services, facilities and educational and employment opportunities. Our Child Sponsorship Programme has allowed us to reach many of these struggling families and provide them the assistance they need to improve their living standards and life prospects. In addition to educational support, the Sponsorship Programme helps provide children with warm clothes, toys, vitamins, monthly art lessons and health check-ups.

CNCF believes that higher education is critically important because it expands a person’s capabilities and enhances his or her learning potential. Our Sponsorship and Education Scholarship Programmes support students who wish to continue their studies beyond the secondary level.

If children in the Sponsorship Programme wish to continue their studies past age eighteen, we contact their sponsors to ask for their continued support to pay tuition fees. If the sponsor is unable to do so, the student then has the option to apply to the Education Scholarship Programme by meeting with our sponsorship team leader, outlining their motivations for continuing their education, and providing a record of their school grades and reports.

To foster a greater sense of personal responsibility among our students, this year we reduced the number of full scholarships available. Instead, where possible, we helped the applicants find ways to contribute to their own tuition fees, such as part-time work. We believe that this will increase their commitment, while at the same time allowing us to support even more students through partial scholarships.

The following percentages of the students’ tuition fees were funded through the ESP:
RISING ABOVE

Bolormaa* enrolled in the Child Sponsorship Programme in 2004 when she was 7 years old. She was living in extremely poor conditions in a small hut with her parents and two sisters.

Her mother was unable to work due to taking care of Bolormaa’s sister who is physically impaired. Her father worked hard driving his friend’s taxi earning $1 a day, struggling to provide for his family. The family income was so low that they often couldn’t afford food, clothes, firewood and coal to heat their hut.

With the financial support from their monthly scholarship, their quality of life began to improve. They no longer had to struggle to find money for daily essentials and the children could focus on their education.

Ever since we met Bolormaa, she has been an intelligent and determined person, who dreamed of becoming a journalist. In 2006, when she was just 9 years old, Bolormaa landed a two-year position as a reporter for a children’s TV programme. This was an amazing achievement, which helped her gain important practical experience and skills.

Sadly, in 2008, Bolormaa’s father left the family and once again their living situation deteriorated. With a new 7-month-old baby to care for, as well as three other young children, the loss of her husband’s financial contribution and emotional support had a significant impact on Bolormaa’s mother and her ability to provide a stable home life for her children.

Finding money for rent each month put a huge strain on the family. Their hut was becoming progressively run-down, cold, and uninhabitable as they were unable to afford the necessary repair work. When our social workers found out about their increasingly tenuous situation, they provided the family with a ger from CNCF’s Give-a-Ger Programme. Having a safe, warm and comfortable home of their own gave the family a sense of security and optimism for the future. They were filled with happiness and pride on the day our team arrived to help build their beautiful new ger.

We have watched Bolormaa thrive in her studies, and there is no doubt that having a secure and peaceful home environment has allowed Bolormaa to focus on achieving her dream of becoming a journalist.

Despite the many challenges Bolormaa faced, she never gave up on her dream. And CNCF never gave up on her. Our team are very proud when they see Bolormaa on TV growing in confidence every day. She is fast becoming a talented professional and is blossoming into a happy, successful, and inspiring young woman.

After learning about our Education Scholarship Programme, Bolormaa applied and was approved by our team to receive a scholarship for three years. Bolormaa was a genuinely deserving beneficiary of the programme, and we knew that she would make the most of the opportunity.

Over the past three years we have watched Bolormaa devote herself to her studies and grow into an incredibly talented and confident young woman. We were all so proud when this year Bolormaa’s hard work paid off and she achieved her degree in journalism. After graduation, Bolormaa received a job offer from the Mongolian National Broadcaster, which is the official state-funded broadcaster in Mongolia, to work as a sports journalist. This is an incredible achievement especially for a new graduate and is a testament to the talent and potential that lies within all children if given the right encouragement, support and direction.

*Bolormaa’s* name has been changed to protect privacy.
Soon after arriving in Mongolia for the first time in 1997, Christina Noble worked relentlessly alongside key forward-thinking members of the government and spearheaded the creation of Official School 110 within the walls of Ulaanbaatar’s Boys’ Prison. This was a monumental achievement that marked the fundamental shift of a penal system that had previously existed to punish and condemn to a more empowering and progressive system of education and rehabilitation. Since the school’s inception, more than 2,000 boys have received the same education and credentials as children attending mainstream public schools. In addition, CNCF’s work on behalf of this marginalised population has changed the way children in the juvenile detention system are treated and perceived and provided them opportunities to achieve a brighter future.

A national amnesty law passed in November 2015 led to a significant reduction in the boys’ prison population, which, in turn, reduced the number of beneficiaries in our programme. However, another change in the criminal law in 2018 resulted in a significant increase in the number of boys sent to prison. The old law excused first-time offenders, but now anyone who commits a crime receives a sentence. Thus, our Prison Education Programme’s work is even more vital. These boys deserve a chance to build a better future and it starts with education.

In June, a National Education Exam which determines whether students can move up to the next grade took place. In addition, students participated in personal development workshops, cultural events, a bakery training course, art and music, and a variety of sports activities and competitions.
Despite substantial progress nationwide, disparities remain in access to quality healthcare.

Lack of access to water, sanitation, medications, and good quality healthcare are common problems in Mongolia’s rural areas. In the cities, particularly the capital Ulaanbaatar, poor air quality is a significant health risk factor. The government provides free healthcare to citizens that make Social and Health Insurance contributions; however, the state system is inaccessible for many of the poorest families who are unemployed, and in many cases, lack official documents and required paperwork.

Poor diets and substance abuse are also significant problems in Mongolia. In addition to providing quality healthcare, we aim to help the children in our programmes make positive lifestyle choices by providing nutritious meals, health education and holistic psychosocial care.
MEDICAL CARE

Fundamental to our Foundation’s philosophy is the belief that all children are entitled to high-quality healthcare. Helping our children develop strong and healthy bodies is one of our top priorities. We provide nutritious meals, opportunities for physical activity and regular checkups at our Ger Village infirmary.

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 carry out these examinations. 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, stunted growth and severe dental issues.

In addition to receiving healthcare from our Foundation’s medical team, a variety of doctors and medical students visit our Blue Skies Ger 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.

Finally, in addition to providing medical care to residents of our Blue Skies Ger Village, our medical team also provides medical check-ups and routine treatments to children in the Child Sponsorship Programme and their relatives, children attending the Blue Skies Day Care and members of our staff.

PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE

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 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.

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, behavior and overall outlook on life thanks to the professional psychosocial care they receive.

1,403 PEOPLE BENEFITED FROM OUR HEALTHCARE PROGRAMME
Arban*, age 6, came to live at the Blue Skies Ger Village in March 2016. He was found by the local authorities when he was just 3 years old after being left at home on his own for two days without any food, in temperatures below -30°C.

Arban’s neighbours heard him crying and alerted the police, who were shocked to find Arban alone and in such appalling conditions. They immediately removed Arban and took him to a children’s shelter where he stayed temporarily.

When the police found Arban’s mother, she had been drinking and did not know her son’s whereabouts or the incredibly dangerous situation he had been found in. Following a full inquiry, the police concluded that Arban was being severely neglected by his mother and needed to be permanently rehomed for his protection.

At this stage, our Ger Village Manager was contacted and steps were taken to prepare for Arban’s arrival at our children’s home.

When Arban first came to the Blue Skies Ger Village, he was clearly traumatised and scared. He was physically sick and looked very pale and weak. Our doctor carried out an assessment which showed that Arban was extremely malnourished and underdeveloped for a child his age. He also had small injuries all over his body.

Our healthcare team put Arban on a special diet and nutritional supplements to help replenish his body and build his strength. Our Ger Village psychotherapist also created a psychological development plan for Arban and spoke to our team about the best ways they could help him feel happy and secure at the village. Our nurse, Dagvaa, who is the longest-serving staff member at the village, was designated as Arban’s primary caregiver. From tucking him into bed to reading stories or playing on the swings, Dagvaa was responsible for providing Arban with the motherly care, love and attention that he so desperately needed.

When we first met Arban, we realised that he wasn’t talking but could understand what was being said to him. We took Arban to a specialist ENT doctor who told us that he had been born with a damaged nose, which got worse with time due to his adverse living conditions.

Last year, Arban started at a primary school for children with special needs. The local authorities advised us to send him to a boarding school, but after our own assessment, we decided that the best and only place for Arban was at the Ger Village with his CNCF family.

This means that Arban goes to a different school from all our other children, and has to have his own driver—he is now the first person in our Foundation to have a personal chauffeur! We believe that it is this level of individual attention that makes CNCF so unique and allows us to create such profound change in the lives of the children we support.

With unconditional love and care, Arban has blossomed into a beautiful, happy and kind little boy with a lot offer the world. When he walks into the room, he is like a ray of sunshine, who brightens up everyone’s day and fills their hearts with warmth and joy.

Arban has now finished year one, having received “The Best Student Award.” He is also much stronger and healthier and is communicating using sign language and speaking occasionally. We are so proud of Arban, who is a testament to the strength of spirit that lies within our children.

*Name changed to protect privacy.
MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

61 CHILDREN LIVING AT OUR BLUE SKIES GER VILLAGE RECEIVED HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, LIFE-SKILLS TRAINING AND ACCESS TO EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

11 FAMILIES RECEIVED GERS THROUGH OUR GIVE-A-GER PROGRAMME

53 PEOPLE BENEFITTED FROM OUR GIVE-A-GER PROGRAMME

35 CHILDREN
18 ADULTS
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.

Of the 10 new arrivals, 7 remained as permanent residents. The children came to our village for various reasons, but their stories share common themes of difficult family conditions and their parents’ inability to take care of them, typically because of alcohol addiction.

Three children stayed temporarily at the village on the request of the Family, Children and Youth Development Agencies of Ulaanbaatar and the Songino Khairkhan District. Temporary places were provided for children who had been found wandering the streets without supervision. 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 most suitable for their individual needs and development.

The Blue Skies Ger Village, which serves as both a temporary shelter and permanent home, has supported nearly 600 children since 1997. The Ger Village is made up of multiple gers, which are traditional Mongolian structures made from wood, felt, and horsehair and several brick structures.

The Ger Village has grown and changed over the past twenty years, but its mission remains the same. The dedicated staff 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.
MESSAGE FROM URNAA MAKBURIAD, BLUE SKIES GER VILLAGE MANAGER

As a Mongolian woman with three children of my own, I have always felt a deep sense of empathy and sadness for children on the streets or those who are living in extremely difficult conditions, often exposed to horrific abuse and exploitation. I feel so grateful to be able to work on behalf of these vulnerable young people, giving them a voice in society and a secure and loving home where they can heal from the traumas of their pasts and enjoy their childhoods.

At the Ger Village, we want our children to have opportunities for growth and to build self-esteem through trying new things and developing talents and interests. Our ultimate goal is to break the cycle of poverty by helping our young people gain the life skills they need to leave the village as emotionally secure, happy and independent adults.

I am now a mother of hundreds of children and am dedicated to giving them the best start to life possible. As the Ger Village Manager, I ensure that all of our team is continuously working in alignment with this vision. I am proud to say that for everyone who works here this is not just a job, it is their family. From the guards to our teachers, everyone has their own unique and crucial role in making the village the magical home that it is.
A HOME CHANGES EVERYTHING

Tuvshuu*, 11 years old, was enrolled in CNCF’s Child Sponsorship Programme in 2014. For the past six years, she has been living with her father and aunt, moving in between different rented accommodations such as old wooden huts and dormitories.

During the week, her father works as an assistant doctor and on Sundays helps at his church. Her aunt also contributes a small amount to the family’s income by working as a cleaner at a dental clinic. Their combined income, including the child sponsorship money, is just $360 a month, of which $175 was spent on rent.

Tuvshuu’s mother and father separated in 2012. Before the separation, the whole family lived together in Tuvshuu’s grandmother’s ger. Sadly, the grandmother passed away and at the same time, Tuvshuu’s parents’ relationship broke down—her mother now lives separately but keeps in regular contact.

No longer able to stay in the grandmother’s ger and unable to afford their own home, Tuvshuu, her father and aunt had no choice but live a nomadic existence staying in unsafe environments.

Tuvshuu’s life has improved significantly since beginning the sponsorship; she can now afford to pay for stationery, travel to and from school on the bus, purchase clothes and her uniform. Despite these improvements, being able to afford a home of their own still seemed like an impossible dream.

Thanks to the love and care of one of our ger donors, we were able to provide Tuvshuu and her family a beautiful home where they could settle down and start a new life. Tuvshuu can now focus on her education and enjoy her childhood in a secure and comfortable environment. Free from the pressure of having to find monthly rent, her father and aunt can now focus on further improving their lives and giving Tuvshuu the loving and nurturing upbringing that all young people need and deserve.

Tuvshuu’s father said, “I want to convey my deepest gratitude to my daughter’s sponsor and to everyone else who has helped to give us this ger. Thank you for making my daughter’s living and learning environment so safe and warm.”

Because of the love and kindness of one Give-a-Ger donor, this family’s whole world has changed.

*Name changed to protect privacy.

A NEW GER HOME ALSO COME FULLY FURNISHED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- 04/05 Walled Ger
- 01 Floor Panels
- 01 Double Felt Covers for the Roof
- 01 Waterproof Lining
- 01 Stove and Chimney
- 02 Beds
- 01 Wardrobe
- 01 Cupboard
- 01 Small Table
- 04 Small Stools

FAMILIES

- 11 Families received four-walled gers
- 04 Families received five-walled gers
- 35 Children have new homes to call their own
- 18 Adults

GIVE-A-GER PROGRAMME

Our Give-a-Ger Programme was established in 2001 to create real and lasting change for children and their families by providing them with a warm, safe and beautiful home of their own. For many who apply to our programme, CNCF offers their only hope for escaping a lifetime of violence, abuse and exploitation that often accompanies homelessness and extreme poverty.
TO CHILDREN

The first step in keeping our children safe is ensuring that all those who work and volunteer with our Foundation place children’s rights and needs above all else. Our employee recruitment process includes extensive vetting of all prospective hires in strict accordance with our policies and procedures. We have very stringent volunteer application and selection procedures consisting of several rounds of application phases and interviews.

Every employee and volunteer is required to read and sign our Child Protection Policies, which are part of their employment contract with CNCF. These policies are also covered extensively in the orientation programme attended by all staff and volunteers. All CNCF members are made aware of the actions they should take if they have concerns about child safety. All staff including board members, managers, staff, volunteers, and interns are encouraged to report evidence of misconduct to the appropriate people in charge or directly to our Head Office Board.

Because we work with some of the world’s most vulnerable children, we uphold very stringent child protection policies. Safeguarding the children we work with can be challenging because of the cultural context of the communities we work in, where children’s rights are sometimes considered less important. In addition, some of our children come from hostile environments. Thus, the measures we take to ensure their well-being have to be solid and relevant to the different settings in which our teams work.

CNCF is committed to transparency, we welcome visitors to observe our work first hand. An important aspect of our programmes is personal and social development of our children and thus we encourage child interaction with people outside of their regular environment, such as visiting Foundation members from our partner offices, donors and supporters, local project partners, students from international and local schools, and members of the local community. All visitors are required to sign terms and conditions before visits are confirmed, and visitors when on-site are accompanied by authorised CNCF management staff at all times.

To protect our children, visitors and volunteers are not allowed to take photographs unless approved by authorised CNCF management. In addition, no images of our children may be made public without consent of CNCF. Images of our children and other beneficiaries cannot be disseminated if they interfere with a person’s rights, privacy, bodily integrity, or dignity.

In 2018, no child safety concerns requiring investigation were reported. There were no dismissals or disciplinary actions taken against any employee or volunteer for not following our child safeguarding and protection policies.
We believe that the voices of the children and communities we work with are of the utmost importance and we actively seek to learn directly from them how they are being impacted, what else we need to do, and how we can improve our services. Our monitoring and evaluation activities include regular home visits where we talk with children and their families about their experiences with our programmes. During these visits, our programme managers and social workers gain an in-depth understanding of the family background and environment of each and every child. These observations offer insights into the lives of our children and allow for appropriate planning. Consulting, counseling, and referral services are provided in a timely manner to help the children stay in school. During our child sponsorship disbursement days and rural field visits, we share information about our organisation and projects, educate people on how they can get involved, and proactively listen to and act on feedback. For our residential programmes, we organise regular meetings between our children and residential staff so concerns or complaints can be addressed in a timely and efficient manner. Furthermore, our children are aware that they can speak with any staff member or social worker at any time if they have concerns. Our children are also encouraged to provide feedback to programme managers about the programmes and activities they are involved in and how they think we can improve.

When Christina Noble founded CNCF she created a culture of family. This culture is weaved into the very fabric of our organisation and remains as strong as ever today. Our people are our most valued asset. We are deeply indebted to all the people who have built CNCF into a force for good in the world. Because we recognise that the work our people do is both challenging and invaluable, our goal is to foster an environment in which our people can flourish and succeed, not just professionally, but in all aspects of their lives.
Our global team is diverse and comprises of people of different nationalities; Vietnamese, Mongolian, American, Australian, British, Belgium, Chinese, French, German, Indian, Italian, Irish, Pakistani, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Scandinavian, Spanish, Syrian.

In our Vietnam and Mongolia operations 97% of our staff are local nationals. We recognise that hiring locally benefits the communities we work in and provide us with a better understanding of the people’s needs. We also believe that localising the local leadership of the Foundation and utilising the talent of our local staff makes our Foundation and our impact in the community more sustainable in the long run.

We also encourage people with physical disabilities and CNCF graduates from our programmes to apply for employment positions within our Foundation.

At CNCF, an important component of our capacity building effort is training and development of our people. In addition to formal external training, we also promote a culture of learning internally so our staff can develop together as one team.

Each staff member sets personal and professional objectives, which are assessed during mid-term appraisals and annual reviews with their line managers and the Director of Operations. All staff, volunteers, and interns who work directly with children attend a orientation programmes that covers topics such as child protection, cultural sensitisation, safety, and play and behaviour therapy. In addition, training for volunteers and interns includes a combination of on-the-job training, observation, and mentoring. All volunteers and interns work closely with and are monitored by the Volunteer Coordinator or Programme Managers.

We encourage healthy work-life balance, and where possible, we offer our staff flexibility in the way they work, including location-free work places and flexible working hours. However, this is not always possible for teams that work directly at a grassroots level. We continue to make a conscious effort to enhance collaboration between all teams to increase creativity and learning.
Our volunteer programme allows volunteers to work in our operational centres and at a grassroots level. While we recognise that everyone who wants to volunteer with us is well-meaning, we do not condone the growing ‘voluntourism’ industry. Thus, we have very stringent volunteer application and selection procedures.

CNCF is a member of the Comhlámh Code of Good Practice (CoGP) for Volunteer Sending Agencies in Ireland, which is a set of standards for organisations involved in facilitating international volunteer placements. The focus is to ensure overseas volunteering has a positive impact for the four main stakeholders: the local project, the community, the volunteer, and the sending agency. By completing the CoGP, a volunteer sending agency commits to implementing good practice in their work.

The volunteer programme is managed in our Vietnam operational office, and all those applying are strictly vetted prior to any agreement to become a volunteer. Currently, we accept only volunteers with specific professional skills for our Mongolia operations.

Security cameras ensure the safety of the children and staff. Security guards are also stationed at main entrances of our centres and all those entering must sign in, state reasons for entering, and sign out upon departure.

Fire Departments conduct regular fire safety checks and comprehensive annual fire drills for all our staff and children in Vietnam and Mongolia. Part of the drill includes evacuating all children and conducting first-aid training.

The health, safety, and security of our children and staff is a top priority. We consider it our duty to ensure for their physical and emotional well-being. CNCF provides all our children and staff in our Vietnam and Mongolia Centres with social and health insurance. Volunteers and interns are required to be insured in their countries of residence before they begin work with CNCF. They are also required to be vaccinated against communicable diseases and infections that are common in Vietnam and Mongolia. In the event of an outbreak, all affected children are quarantined and our Centres are closed to all visitors, volunteers, and project office staff. The medical teams and child care workers who care and attend to the children during an outbreak take all necessary precautions to minimise their risk of infection, all of these staff are monitored during and after any outbreak. All staff in our operations undergo a compulsory annual health check-up.

CNCF has stringent anti-corruption policies in place that meet international financial standards. All staff are contractually required to understand the Foundation’s anti-corruption policies. Any breach of the anti-corruption policies by CNCF staff is absolutely prohibited and results in disciplinary action. All staff including board members, managers, staff, volunteers, and interns are encouraged to report any misconduct and malpractice to the appropriate people in charge or directly to our Head Office Board. In 2017, there were no dismissals or disciplinary actions taken against any employee as a result of corruption.

It is important that all our staff are fully informed and engaged with organisational developments. CNCF emphasises a well-rounded people management approach and one-on-one dialogue between staff members to monitor progress and address any issues in a timely manner. Weekly management meetings and regular departmental meetings keep staff informed about all programmes and give them the opportunity to raise questions and voice concerns. All individual partner office Boards of Directors meet monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly. The Group General Management team meets once a month via conference call. In addition to general daily communication, the CEO of the Foundation and the Directors of the operational offices have weekly conference meetings. The CEO maintains an open-door policy for all staff and volunteers. The languages used for internal communications is English and the local language where applicable - Vietnamese and Mongolian, and French in our partner office in France.

To communicate with the wider community, our websites, blog, and social media are updated with latest news, information about our work, and ways to get involved. We send regular newsletters and mailshot updates to our supporters around the world.
OUR PARTNERSHIPS & SUPPORTERS

Any friendship founded on the basis of helping others, is a friendship to be respected, protected and one to be very proud of.

PROGRAMME DELIVERY PARTNERS

In both our operational offices, we work very closely with local government partners in Vietnam and Mongolia to implement our programmes. Our relationship with our partners is based on our mutual commitment to working towards the progress and the betterment of the communities we work in and increasing our impact for the child. We have regular open dialogues with our local partners to understand issues and challenges implementation of projects and their timely resolutions, and identifying new communities in regions that are in need of our support. We also facilitate capacity building of our local partners as we believe that this will have the most impact in terms of promoting long-term, sustainable change.

CNCF is privileged to partner with the following local government and other partners in Vietnam and Mongolia:

VIETNAM

• Ministry of labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs of Vietnam
• Department of Labour Invalids, and Social Affairs - Dong Thap, Lam Dong, Ca Mau, Dong Nai, Kien Giang, Tay Ninh, Ben Tre.
• Union of Friendship Organisations of Vinh Long Province
• Association for Promoting Education of Tan Dinh Ward (District 1, Ho Chi Minh City)
• Saigon Children’s Protection Center
• Tuong Lai Project - Women Union of Cau Ong Lanh Ward (District 1, Ho Chi Minh City)
• Union of Friendship Organisations of Long An Province
• Bureau of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs of District 10 (Ho Chi Minh City)
• Children’s Hospital No.1
• Children’s Hospital No.2
• Eye Hospital of Ho Chi Minh City
• Women’s Union of Long Thanh District
• Bureau of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs of Can Gio District
• People’s Committee of Chau Thanh District and Thanh Hoa District (Long An Province)

MONGOLIA

• National Authority for Children
• National Authority for Family and Child Development
• District Authority, Songino Khairkhan
• Children’s Police Precinct, Songino Khairkhan
• Social Welfare Department Centre, Songino Khairkhan
• Family and Child Development, Songino Khairkhan
• 7th Micro-district Authority, Songino Khairkhan
• Brigade 411 under jurisdiction of the General Executive Agency of Court Decisions
• General Court of Mongolia
• School of Dentistry
• Aim4R dance Studio
• Focus on the Family
• Little Khan theatre
• Gradon Architecture
• Mongolian Amateur Cricket Association
• Wash Action LLC
• Policy Personal Development Course
I am pleased to recognise the Christina Noble Children’s Foundation in Mongolia which has been operating since 1997 in our district. They have been working incredibly hard over the past twenty years to make changes in the lives of many disadvantaged children, their families, and vulnerable and abused women. The Blue Skies Ger Village is one of the Foundation’s main projects and one of our most honored local partners. At the moment they lovingly care for many children, all of whom have come from extremely difficult backgrounds often characterised by abuse, poverty and severe neglect. On behalf of the District’s Governor and all of the people of Mongolia we would like to thank the Christina Noble Children’s Foundation for their life changing work - we are truly grateful.

Mr. Oyunbileg - B Songino Khairkhana District Governor - Head of Social Development Department
•
Ulan Batar Mongolia

We greatly appreciate the support of CNCF. Your support and assistance over the past 28 years in improving the quality of professional activities in Vietnam for children in the fields of health care, physical therapy, malnutrition treatment, and so much more has enabled us to care for seriously medically compromised children and thereby enabling them to integrate back into society – we remain very grateful to CNCF and have the highest respect for this wonderful children’s foundation.

Head of Paediatrics - Doctor Thi Thanh Ngan, Co-Representative of Ministry of Labour Invalids And Social Affairs • Vietnam

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."

Mr. N.Uranchimeg - Director Songino Khairkhan District - Children and Youth Development Department • Ulan Batar Mongolia

When donors invest in CNCF they are directly investing in to the lives of the children and communities we serve. Secure and diverse funding enables CNCF to undertake our vital work, maintain our independence and reputation, and operate effectively. We receive funding from a range of donors including corporations, institutions, and individuals. Funding may be unrestricted or restricted for specific projects or programmes. We will accept monetary or in-kind donations from any donor, provided that acceptance does not impair our independent pursuit of our mission or compromise or endanger our integrity and reputation.

CNCF’s work is only possible because of the generosity and kindness of others. We endeavor to build long-term close relationships with our partners and supporters, and in order to achieve this, we recognise that we must be transparent and accountable throughout the different stages of our
CNP works with corporate partners who share our mission of helping vulnerable children and poor communities in Vietnam and Mongolia. Our corporate partners also view the collaboration with us as a meaningful way to engage their employees, clients, and consumers.

There are many different charities all vying for the next donation, and undoubtedly there are many, many good causes, but CNCF is just different. The empathy and passion that runs through the whole organisation from Christina down is what really makes this out as the most incredible foundation to support.

The philosophy is based not simply on charity but on helping, supporting and nurturing. It is a very special experience, to see the children, young adults and former receivers of support, who are now making their way in communities, excelling in careers and are fully engaged and participating in what we see the simple norms and pleasures of life. I cannot over emphasize the profound impact that I have seen first-hand, lives immeasurably changed for the better.

The Christina Noble Foundation has been the charity partner for Acelity EMEA, ANZ & ASIA for the past 4 years. The Foundation has been a pleasure to partner with, the transparency and truth afforded to us has been fantastic. Having visited the centre in Vietnam, I have witnessed first-hand the care, love and comfort that the children have received. The words "do the right thing" are etched in my brain when I think of the foundation as that in what they do, they simply do the right thing. I am proud that they are our partner and I am proud that they can support the vulnerable children in Vietnam and Mongolia. I look forward to many more years of partnership and truly making a difference.

Laura Piccini, President Acelity Developed Markets (EMEA, ANZ & Asia)

The British Business Group Vietnam (BBGV) has been a supporter of the Christina Noble Children’s Foundation (CNCF) in Vietnam for 18 years. This is the longest period of continuous support that BBGV has given to a single organisation. The partnership between the two organisations has grown and matured over the years. The experience with working with CNCF has been very professional and demonstrated a high level of understanding for the group of people it is seeking to benefit and support. The expansion of work has been well planned and implemented. This has engendered a high level of trust in the organisation. Indeed, their work with children would be classed as exemplary. As well as their service delivery CNCF has recently undertaken a strong internal review which should serve it well for the future and help maintain strong governance and management processes. Safety procedures are clear and correctly implemented when visiting the facilities. BBGV has not faced any issues when requiring further information concerning usage of the grants when requested, all have been provided in a timely and accurate fashion.

CNCF is very open to people shining their work first hand and with appropriate safeguarding they welcome people seeing their activities taking place. Whilst maintaining a high standard they have also adapted their work as appropriate to be localized to the community in which they serve and work.

Mr Peter Rimmer – Executive Director British Business Group Vietnam (BBGV)

The Irish Business Association of Vietnam (IBAV) was formed in 2014 as a business networking association for Irish businesses and business people living and working in Vietnam, particularly in Ho Chi Minh City. In our 3 years of operations, we have been honored to partner with Christina Noble Children’s Foundation (CNCF) and have designated CNCF as our primary charity, with all proceeds raised from our events being donated to the charity. As a resident of HCMC for the past 13 years, I have always been aware of the tremendous work that CNCF has done for the underprivileged and disabled children of the city and of other rural parts of Vietnam and I am proud to be associated with the organization, which has selflessly done so much good for these children and continues to change lives for the good. Furthermore, Christina and Helenita Noble, have played a very prominent role in raising awareness of Ireland and promoted not only the historical generosity of the Irish people but also our warmth and hospitality. CNCF has been unparalleled as an Ambassador for Ireland in Vietnam and we look forward to continuing our work with CNCF in helping the less fortunate children of the city and the country. IBAV would urge all business people and corporations to support CNCF in bringing happiness and a bright future to so many children.

John Marron, Chairman Irish Business Association Vietnam
PARTNERSHIPS WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Our Schools Visits Programme helps students learn the importance of service. It also aims to promote an understanding of the types of issues and difficulties that some of the most disadvantaged members of our global community face and how CNCF strives to help alleviate poverty and restore dignity to the deprived.

CNCF also partner with educational institutions to promote capacity building of our local partners. For example, our Medical Exchange Programme aims to bring pediatric surgery in Vietnam up to international standards. This programme was established by CNCF in 2004 together with Professor Martin Corbally of Operation ChildLife and medical team’s from the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI) and Bahrain (RCSB).

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland has enjoyed a 12-year association with the Christina Noble Children’s Foundation (CNCF), sponsoring a group of students from the schools of medicine, physiotherapy and pharmacy to travel to Vietnam and volunteer at the CNCF Social and Medical Centre in Ho Chi Minh City annually. RCSI strongly believe that volunteerism provides students with an invaluable experience that they will carry throughout their lifetime, encouraging humanitarian commitment to those less fortunate. The students attest to the experience as being unique, life-changing and massively rewarding and state that the experience of adjusting to a new culture and working collaboratively together and with the Vietnamese Staff, to the sole benefit to the children, puts into practice what they learn about being a caring professional. The experience challenges them to communicate effectively and work hard with respect for the children they help care for and their co-workers. Our students could not recommend the whole experience highly enough and each gain their own unique insight as this quotation demonstrates: “Working at the Centre wasn’t about practicing medicine abroad, it was about learning that the small things in life are in fact the big things”

Dr Orna Tighe - Vice Dean for Student Support & Development
Royal College Surgeons • Ireland

It has been my privilege to take over the Hale School group tour organisation, and the 3 days we spend with CNCF every year have always been a highlight of the tour. You just get a sense of magic being done at the Children’s Medical and Social Centre, and somewhere in the background there is a magician that started it all. I met the magician, and she is not dressed up at all. In fact she is a mortal. Not an ordinary one, mind you. It was my privilege to talk to Christina and her love and care for young people is palpable. So thank you for [bringing] the most irrepressible, humble and inspirational person I have ever met to Perth.”

David Alderson - Service Learning Coordinator at Hale School

I have known Christina Noble personally since 2003. Christina is a rare human being compassionate, caring, and self-sacrificing. She saw an unmet need for complex surgery for some of her children in Vietnam in 2003 and asked if we would be willing and able to go to Vietnam and help. After that initial engagement it was apparent that there was a greater need for complex paediatric surgery not only for the children that CNCF looked after but also on a wider scale in HCMC. There began a 14-year involvement in Children’s Hospital No. 2 through CNCF to engage with the local surgical, medical, and nursing teams and enable them to acquire complex skills in these areas. This programme has resulted in the successful development of a children’s cardiac centre, oncology centre, and complex renalal and surgical centre at Children’s Hospital No. 2 and this is largely due to the foresight, support and commitment of Christina and her Foundation. It is difficult to list all the surgical, nursing, medical, and anaesthetic competencies that have resulted from this engagement over the years but they are significant indeed. It is my greatest pleasure to know and be involved with Christina and CNCF and that engagement has lasted for the past 14 years. She is one of the world’s most remarkable women and has risen above her own personal challenges to bring hope and health to many thousands of underprivileged children in Vietnam and Mongolia.

Professor Martin T Corbally - Consultant Paediatric Surgeon, Prof and Head of Dept. of RCSI Bahrain

One person can make a big difference in the life of a child. Each of us is only one person. But by joining all the ones together, we can accomplish greatness.”

CHRISTINA NOBLE
WHAT OUR SUPPORTERS HAD TO SAY WHEN VISITING OUR PROJECTS

Michelle Cahin

Amazing. I am speechless at this beautiful place. Can’t wait to see this level of commitment to a charitable cause anywhere.”

Niall Meyler • Dublin, Ireland

Such a well-established foundation. Amazing to see the great care provided here. Happy children and staff. Very impressed with CNCF projects here in Vietnam. Thank you so much for showing us around.”

Jaqueline Riddle • HCM City, Vietnam

The work at CNCF is unbelievable and it is incredible to hear the amazing things Christina and her team have achieved here. Thank you for the experience of getting to see this beautiful place for children.”

Camilla Dobson • UK

Thank you so much. Such an inspiring experience. I am in awe of all the incredible work, and beautiful children that I feel so privileged to have met today. Thank you with all my heart.”

Llys Cenren • Wales, UK

We truly enjoyed our visit. Your foundation has done so much good and is incredibly inspiring. You have filled our hearts. Thank you.”

Debra Scriber • Ontario, Canada

We were looking for information because we are in the process of building a new shelter house for disadvantaged children ourselves. We are very much inspired by the quality of the people working with CNCF and the joy that you can see on the face of the children. This is a wonderful thing for us.”

Christina Larolinerie • France

It was a very touching experience. Very educational and a real inspiration to know about Christina’s world. No words can express adequately the incredible work of Christina Noble and her team. I love you all - You give me faith in life. Thank you.”

Yap Kunbur • Malaysia

We were just overwhelmed by the experience. The children are all so beautiful and so loveable. We will never forget today. Thank you all so much for your amazing work. God bless you all.”

Maryshane Hoctor • County Offaly, Ireland

ACCOUNTABILITY TO OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

We aim to maintain high levels of accountability and transparency in our operations and we adhere to strict evaluation and reporting procedures.

PROGRAMMES OPERATED BY OUR FOUNDATION

Budget control is assigned to the accountant, project managers, and finance manager.

Any disbursement required by project staff must be checked against the budget by project managers and accountant and receive Board of Management approval before payment is released.

Each month, the accountant compares what the foundation planned to spend with what was actually spent. The budget deviation analysis report is sent to project and finance managers for monthly review. The budget deviation analysis helps determine how well we operational outcomes match our plans, how much to budget in the future, and where expenditure problems might arise in the future.

CNCF PROGRAMMES OPERATED BY OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

When we grant money to local partner organisations in the countries we work, we rigorously monitor all expenditures:

Budget control is assigned to the accountant, project managers, and finance manager.

Partners are required to send monthly financial reports along with supporting documents, invoices, and receipts to the Foundation.

The accountant makes sure all financial disbursements by partners are correct and match the project budget. The accountant provides a complete budget analysis to the finance manager and project managers for review.

All donations we receive in cash or in kind are allocated to best serve the children and communities we support. Although we appreciate and are deeply grateful for all offers of support, in order for us to be accountable to the communities we serve, we do not work with or accept resources from partners whose products, practices, or ethics conflict with our values. We do not accept gifts of clothes or toys that are not in good condition and not fit for use. Our supporters and donors understand the rationale behind this policy.

As a part of our commitment to all children, when we are fortunate enough to receive more than what we require at any one time for the children, with the donors’ consent we donate any surplus gifts, toys, and clothes to local underfunded state orphanages and centres.

We are committed to being open and transparent with all our partners, supporters, and donors. Thus, we provide details on how we spend the funds we receive and how we use in-kind gifts.

We are proud of the progress our children and communities make and thus endeavour to share stories with our supporters and partners. However, we are always careful to respect the privacy of our children and their communities. In some cases, certain information cannot be disclosed due to security or confidentiality concerns, but we always provide reasons for non-disclosure.

We have an open-door policy that allows members of our community to drop by our offices at any time during business hours so they can talk to our team members and learn more about our work and our administration.
CNCF is committed to ethical fundraising. We respect the rights of our donors to be informed about the causes and programmes for which we are fundraising. When seeking funds, we only collaborate with partners and supporters who share our mission, philosophy, and values and have no conflicts of interest. Our internal communications framework provides guidelines for selection of appropriate messages and images for ethical fundraising based on “Focus on Ethics: Addressing Tensions in Choosing Fundraising Images.”

Our partner fundraising chapters are responsible for fundraising and building and maintaining relationships with donors and supporters globally. Six fundraising chapter offices are located in America, Australia, France, Hong Kong, Ireland, UK, and a CNCF representative in the UAE, all who support our two operational centres in Vietnam and Mongolia by raising funds, supporting and administering local child sponsorship applications, and work closely with donors and partners in their home countries. These offices rely heavily on the support of volunteers, and operate under their own local jurisdiction, with their own charity registration number and have appointed boards that oversee local governance and fundraising.
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FINANCIAL HEADLINES

CNCF operates a structure of global fundraising offices dedicated to raising the necessary funds to deliver its care programmes in Vietnam and Mongolia. The foundation concentrates on delivering stable, efficient and high impact projects focussed on its core mission. This provides donors with the comfort that funds are used to “best value”, balancing much needed care with the right amount of monitoring and reporting to ensure that the funds deliver the best possible results.

CNCF operates with infrastructure intensive operations such as the Sunshine Social and Medical Centre in Vietnam and the Blue Skies Ger Village in Mongolia. These operations require high capital investment and as such CNCF operates a reserves policy to ensure the long term future of its operations and comfort to its donors that their funds will be used well into the future to provide much needed medical care and education to the children under its care.

INCOME

The total income of the Foundation for 2018 was US$2.98m, a small increase when compared to 2017, which was US$2.95m. However, there were some changes in the mix of the income received. The Foundation’s fund raising activities maintained the levels achieved in 2017, US$530k, a significant increase when compared to 2016, US$322k. Restricted donations increased by 16% from US$789k in 2017 to US$913k in 2018 which is a trend in the charity sector. Donors would like to see specific outcomes for their contributions. Consistent with this trend, unrestricted income fell by 11% to US$616k in the same period. There was also a decline in child sponsorship receipts of 12%. The Foundation is currently reviewing the child sponsorship program to try to alleviate the declining long-term trend of the program.

EXPENDITURE

Total expenditure for the Foundation in 2018 was US$3.1m, a decrease of 9% (2017- US$3.4m). However, this was achieved concurrently with an increase in charitable activity expenditure, in both Vietnam and Mongolia, by 1.5% to US$1.72m. In 2018 the Foundation made an administrative cost saving of 17%, a reduction from US$805k in 2017 to US$672k.

RESERVES

The Foundation’s operating deficit fell from US$432k in 2017 to US$125k in the current year. This is a significant improvement, it was achieved by a slight increase in income, a reduction of costs and without impacting the charitable activities. The Foundation’s cash balance reduced from US$4.1m at the end of 2017 to US$3.6m at the end of 2018. This represents approximately 1.4 years of operational costs which is significantly below the Foundation’s stated objective of holding a minimum of three year’s reserves.

For CNCF Group Combined financial statement and all individual group office audit 2018 please visit our website: https://www.cncf.org/finance-policies/
2018 GROUP FINANCIAL

**INCOME**

- Donations: 18%
- Charitable Activities: 3%
- Cost of Generating Income: 5%
- Fundraising Income: 3%
- Other Income: 4%
- Direct Fundraising Cost: 2%
- Tax Relief: 1%
- Governance: 1%

**Expenditure**

- Donations: 18%
- Charitable Activities: 29%
- Cost of Generating Income: 74%
- Fundraising Income: 69%
- Other Income: 69%
- Direct Fundraising Cost: 29%
- Tax Relief: 1%
- Governance: 1%

2018:
- Total Income: $3M
- Total Expenditure: $3.1M

2017:
- Total Income: $3M
- Total Expenditure: $3.4M
OUR CORPORATE, INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS ARE THE LIFEBLOOD OF CNCF. WITHOUT THEIR DEDICATED COMMITMENT, THE IMPORTANT WORK WE DO ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN VIETNAM AND MONGOLIA WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. WHEN DONORS INVEST IN CNCF, THEY ARE DIRECTLY INVESTING IN THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES WE SUPPORT.

OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

We work closely with foundations, other NGOs, educational institutions and civil society organizations to further the aims of CNCF and promote an understanding of the types of issues and difficulties that some of the most disadvantaged members of our global community face and how CNCF strives to help alleviate poverty and restore dignity to the deprived.

CORPORATE PARTNERS

We partner with corporations that share our mission of helping vulnerable children and poor communities. Our corporate partners also view our collaboration as a meaningful way to engage their employees, clients and consumers.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

Our supporters are vital to our success and their contributions to our mission take many forms. Through volunteering, regular donations, child sponsorships, and participation in our fundraising events and activities our individual supporters are the fuel that makes our foundation run.

We encourage everyone who has contributed to our organisation or who is passionate about our mission to visit our operational centres and see first-hand the positive impact our work is making.

Supporters can connect with us in person, via email or telephone (details listed in Contact Us), or through our social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and our website and blog (www.cncf.org).
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATE, SUPPORT AND VOLUNTEER SOME OF WHO ARE MENTIONED BELOW. YOU AND MANY OTHERS ARE OUR LIFELINE, WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT CNCF COULD NOT CONTINUE HELPING SOME OF THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES IN OUR WORLD TODAY. THANK YOU.

COMPANIES
AIA Insurance
Alstom Foundation
Ambrosia Design
Argon Masking
Asiana Foundation
Australian International School
Banham Group
BDO
Brown Thomas Ireland
Canterbury
Caravelle Hotel- Saigon
Coso Tang Nottingham
Cong ty co phan sinh hoa Quoc te
Cty co phan do go Phuc Thang (Phuc Thang Fine Furniture Corp)
Cty LDHH KS Caravelle
Cty Luat TNHH Rouse
CV Imports LLC
Electric A
Ernst & Young
Furniture Industry For Education
GAP GIS Viet Nam
GAP Inc.
Huu Thang Nguyen & Loi Nguyen
Intel Product Viet Nam
Jackson Lynch,
Karakin Foundation
KCI Holdings UK Limited
Leonard Bernhardt (Holt International)
Li & Fung Vietnam
L’Oreal Co.
Lycee International
M + W Group
MCD-Ireland
MUFG Bank
Noble movie night- Denver fundraiser
Oriamgo - Italy
Pantheon Ventures HK
Pheonix Hotel – Battersea London
Phuc Thang Fine Furniture Co.
POH HUAT VN Joint Stock Co.
Pure Collection
PVH Co.
Red Hot Productions Ltd.
Rehahn Photography
Revapreme Ltd
Saddlemakers
SE Asia Consortium
Semiconductor Components Industries
ShoeFABRIK
Singapore Educators
Soeverign Art Foundaion
The Executive Center (Hong Kong ) Ltd.
Tinem Project,
UPS
VN Insurance Consultant Services Co Ltd.
Vodafone Ireland
WOWSWISS
ZPN

TRUSTS AND FOUNDATION
Alstom Foundation
Anonymous - USA
Asiana Foundation
Association Corpo Langues
CAF America
Chailig Foundation
Cuckoo Hill Trust
Electric A
Holt International
J.C Trust
Mahrberg Foundation
Operation Childlife
Soeverign Art Foundation
Tanner Trust

INSTITUTIONS
British Business Group Vietnam
Centre Culturel Mongol De Belgique
Cricket Association Mongolia
Gilde Des Archers De Saint Pierre
Good Neighbours Mongolia
International Women Association
Judo Club Lugdunum
British Business Group Vietnam

EMBASSIES
British Consulate Vietnam
British Embassy Vietnam
Consular Club Charity Bazaar 2018
Czech Embassy
Mongolian Embassy UK
Mongolian Embassy Vietnam
Singapore Consulate Vietnam
South African Consulate Vietnam
Turkish Embassy Ulaanbaatar,
Vietnam Embassy UK

SCHOOLS & COLLEGES
Australian International School HCM City
British International School HCM-City
Chinese International School Hong Kong
Globe College- Munich
Hale School – New Zealand
Saint Ignatius College
Singapore International School
St Hildas Collegiate School
United World College SEA

AWARDS LIST 2018
CNCF Mongolia Awarded, “Best Organisation 2018” presented on behalf of the Mongolian Government Youth Development Agency for the excellent and consistent work in contributing to the care and development of children in need.

Two CNCF Mongolia staff members recognised by the government youth development agency as two of the, “Hundred Leading Young People of 2018”.

CNCF Mongolia’s Child Sponsorship Programme awarded Certificate of Appreciation from the Family, Child and Youth Development Department of Erdenet City.

CNCF Mongolia’s Boy’s Prison Education Programme awarded the Certificate of Appreciation from the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare for successfully participating in, “Professions of Future” state competition.

CNCF Mongolia’s Blue Skies Ger Village awarded the Certificate of Appreciation from the Family, Child and Youth Development Department of Songinokhairkhan District for the excellent and consistent work in contributing to the care and development of children in need.

Certificate of Recognition from the Hematology and Blood Transfusion Hospital awarded to Christina Noble Children’s Foundation Vietnam for an outstanding contribution as a co-organiser of, “AmCham’s World Blood Donor Day”.

Certificate of Merit from the Ho Chi Minh City Union Friendship Organization (HUFO) to Christina Noble Children’s Foundation Vietnam for positive contribution and effective implementation of humanity programmes and projects in Ho Chi Minh City.

Certificate of Merit from the People’s Committee of Dong Nai Province to Christina Noble Children’s Foundation Vietnam for achievement in the work of foreign NGO’s Assistance in Dong Nai Province.

Certificate of Merit from the People’s Committee of Tay Ninh Province to the Christina Noble Children’s Foundation Vietnam for contribution to educate visually impaired children in Tay Ninh Province.
Each one of us is only one person. But joining all the ones together, we can accomplish greatness.”

- Christina Noble -