



# GIVE-A-GER PROGRAMME MONGOLIA



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



“

I wanted to give children the childhood I never had. I understand their suffering being a child who lived in poverty myself. I understand the feelings of loneliness and fear. I understand the importance of a strong foundation for healing, growth and development. Every child deserves a loving and supportive childhood.

- Christina Noble OBE -



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## ABBREVIATIONS

CNCF	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
CIS	Chinese International School
USD	United States Dollar





# OUR VISION, MISSION, VALUES

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

**Mission:** The Christina Noble Children's Foundation is dedicated to serving the physical, medical, educational, and emotional needs of vulnerable children. We believe that every child deserves love, respect, and freedom from all forms of exploitation. We establish long-term relationships with the children we support and empower them to live happy, emotionally rich, and independent lives.

**Values:** Our values represent our beliefs and guide how we behave. They are love, compassion, respect, honesty, and integrity.

# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	2001
<b>LOCATION</b>	Ulaanbaatar, Songinokhairkhan, Khan-Uul, Sukhbaatar and Bayanzurkh districts
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	To provide families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or living in dangerous and inhabitable conditions with a safe and secure new home (ger) of their own, where children and their families can thrive with confidence that they will remain safe and warm through the harsh climate
<b>BENEFICIARIES</b>	Children in the Child Sponsorship Programme and their families; children transitioning out of the Blue Skies Ger Village to reunite with family members or to begin an independent adult life; homeless and/or vulnerable families in need of assistance
<b>LOCAL PARTNERS</b>	The Family and Child Development Department of Ulaanbaatar, Bat-Uyanga LLC, Sanjumbadari LLC, Mrs.D.Sanaa

## CNCF ACCOUNTABILITY

CNCF is entirely responsible for funding, management, monitoring and evaluation

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Upon receiving support applications from families which include a detailed family history report and a description of their current living conditions, our social workers visit the family and meet with their responsible district and subdistrict community workers for an eligibility assessment. If funding is acquired and requirements are met, CNCF provides a new ger along with basic furniture and supports the family in setting up their new home. Our social workers remain in regular contact with the families to monitor their progress and provide additional support if necessary. A full report is sent out to the donor(s) of the ger. Weekly internal meetings are held for programme discussion. Regular updates are provided to the Programme Coordinator. Monthly reports are sent to the Director of Operations and an annual report is made available to all stakeholders

## ACTUAL COST 2019

USD \$12,781

## REPORTING PERIOD

January - December 2019

## 2020 OBJECTIVES

- To increase the amount of families we support through the Give-a-Ger Programme
- To increase the number of families we support with maintenance assistance

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019, the Give-a-Ger Programme continued to provide families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or living in dangerous and inhabitable conditions with warm, safe and functional new homes. The ger not only improves the family's quality of life but allows them to embark on a brighter future where parents have peace that their family is safe and warm though the harsh Mongolian winters and children can focus on their education.

**01** FAMILY  
received a 4-wall ger

**06** LARGER  
FAMILIES  
received 5-wall gers



**58 CHILDREN & 18 ADULTS**  
were provided with new gers

**06** FAMILIES  
received financial support  
to repair their current gers  
in preparation for winter

**137** PROJECT VISITS  
were conducted by  
CNCF social workers





Pictured on the left, a families dilapidated ger, next to a new ger provided by CNCF's Give A Ger Programme

# PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

When Christina Noble first visited Mongolia in 1997, she was heartbroken to discover thousands of children and families living in desperate and vulnerable situations. All over the country, people were living in horrendous conditions with many having no other option but to take shelter in the city's sewers during the harsh winters of temperatures regularly reaching  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Christina knew she needed to support these children so the Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) in Mongolia was formed. In 2001, the Give-a-Ger Programme was established to provide homeless families, families at risk of homelessness or living in inadequate housing with a safe and secure ger home of their own.

Many children and young adults are forced to endure horrendous living conditions that are detrimental to their physical and psychological wellbeing and development. These adversities form extreme levels of distress, loss of confidence and self-esteem and academic difficulties while putting the children and their families at greater risks of exploitation, violence and abuse.

The implementation of the Give-a-Ger Programme reflects our core philosophy of addressing poverty at a grassroots level and providing holistic support that benefits the total development of each child. For many of our children and families, receiving a fully-furnished ger of their own is one of the most memorable and proudest moments in their lives. Children and their families who have come to us burdened with the harsh reality of surviving without a home, have rebuilt their lives and flourished in an environment that is free from fear and uncertainty.

We believe that having a safe and secure place to live is one of the most basic human rights and those who donate to the Give-a-Ger Programme do not just give a home, but they provide safety, reignite a family's confidence, self-belief and hope for the future.







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# PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

## Our Gers

A Mongolian ger consists of two main components: wood, which forms the roof, pillars, walls, skylight and door and a thick layer of felt covering insulates the home. Mongolian ger sizes are determined by the number of walls. A four-wall ger, which costs USD \$3,100 USD through CNCF, can house a family of four, while larger families needing more space are provided with a five-wall ger, costing USD \$3,800.

Many essential household items remain inaccessible to the majority of our children and their families due to financial difficulties. In a holistic approach to support these vulnerable families, in addition to the newly built ger, we provide a full set of furniture including sofas with expandable beds, cushions, a table/desk, chairs, a kitchen unit with sink, a large wardrobe, a chest of drawers, a mirror and the all-important ger stove used for cooking and keeping the family warm during winter. This additional assistance plays an important role in creating a comfortable and functional home that the families can feel proud of.

As gers are designed for nomadic lifestyles, they are relatively quick and easy to set up. A local and well respected ger construction company, our CNCF team and members of the recipient family all join in to assemble the ger. Seeing the children engage in the process of building their own home with excited smiles is always one of the most heartwarming moments of this programme.

Poor quality gers are unable to endure the extreme winter climate of heavy snowfall, strong windstorms and temperatures below -40°C. These run-down gers are also prone to collapsing and causing severe physical injuries and incurring costs the families cannot afford. Gers made from low-grade materials have a lifespan of one to two years, leaving a family with the options of getting a new ger, trying to rent, or continuing to live in a cold, worn out ger that offers little defense against the elements.

CNCF aims to provide high quality and sustainable gers, giving the families peace of mind and security for their future. In 2019 we suspended our programme for two months to research and meet with different suppliers. As a result of this work, we have raised the standard of our gers by using only the best quality and sustainable materials, ensuring our families have warm and safe homes for many years to come.

# PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

## Case Management

Families in need of housing assistance submit written support requests that include a detailed family history report and a description of their current living conditions. During sponsorship home visits, our social workers also work to identify families who are in need of support, and can make a request on their behalf.

The allocated social worker then visits the family and meets with their responsible district and subdistrict community workers to evaluate the family's situation and their eligibility based on the following criteria:

- Family income
- Living conditions
- Number of children
- Family status
- Health conditions and disabilities
- Threats to the family's safety

When funding is acquired, families are chosen based on their level of need. As many of our families do not have their own land, our staff members support them to find a suitable location to rent. If they are unable to afford the rent, additional financial assistance is provided until the family becomes self-sufficient. Our team then contacts the suppliers to schedule the delivery of the ger materials. Prior to the delivery date, Give-a-Ger Programme staff members conduct a final site visit to support the family and ensure the land has been prepared.

Our social worker and driver are in charge of overseeing and supporting the construction of the new ger on the day, as well as documenting all onsite activities as the family shares their feelings and thoughts for their future.

CNCF remains in close contact with all our Give-a-Ger Programme families and closely monitors their progress through annual home visits and monthly sponsorship weekends. We also offer additional support wherever possible including psychological support and financial assistance through our Child Sponsorship Programme.

## Home Visits

Throughout the year, our team conducts home visits to assess the living conditions of families who apply to the Give-a-Ger Programme, to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges they face. Many of the families who come to us share heartbreaking stories of abuse, suffering from chronic health conditions, loss of their loved ones, poverty and hardship which has left them even more vulnerable. Based on the assessment, we then identify families who are most in need of full ger funding and those in need of partial ger funding to prepare their gers for the harsh winter seasons.

When the funding is secured, a further visit is made to ensure the suitability of the site where the family's new ger would be assembled. If the land is not suitable, the families are instructed to find different locations with additional site visits made before the delivery of the ger.

Once the children and families are settled into their new home, follow-up visits are carried out to evaluate their new living environment and to offer additional support if necessary.



Our CNCF staff & children from CNCF's Ger Village & Noble Club



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# PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

## Visits & Activities

### Chinese International School Visit

Each year, a group of students and teachers from the Chinese International School (CIS), Hong Kong, facilitate activities to raise funds in support of CNCF's Give-a-Ger Programme. The group then visits our programmes in Mongolia and donate a ger to a family in desperate need of a home. The students also participate in the ger building day where they share special moments and support the family in setting up their new home, creating inspiring and lasting memories for all.

### Noble Club

CNCF's Noble Club is a community service group that promotes leadership and empowerment for the young people in our programme. The Noble Club is made up of young people aged 16 and above who are currently or formerly enrolled in CNCF programmes. The Noble Club focuses on developing the local community and a major project the Noble Club supports is the establishment of new gers for families in CNCF's Give A Ger programme. Members of the Noble Club support CNCF staff and the recipient family of the new ger in preparing the land for their new home, assist in building the ger, laying the linoleum floor and setting up the furniture ready for the family to move in.

As giving is a powerful component to personal growth and lasting happiness, we aim to provide the youth in our community with opportunities to connect to others and develop social skills, leadership skills and a sense of purpose. By engaging contributing to society and supporting local community members, the children and young adults of the Noble Club feel a sense of pride in knowing they are giving back to their community through their work while gaining a great level of strength and volunteer experience.

Staff and children from the Chinese International School on a home visit.

# GLOBAL STATISTICS

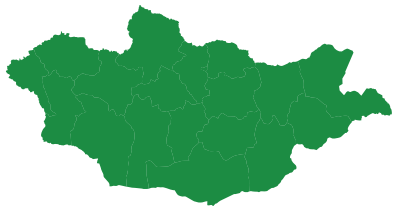
Poverty and the inability to afford sufficient housing remain leading causes to the lack of access to safe and secure housing among children and their families. Accompanied by abuse, violence and ill health, people experiencing significant hardship are particularly vulnerable to homelessness and face a higher risks of marginalisation. There is a need for a comprehensive approach to provide children and families living in poverty with the infrastructure that benefits their overall health and wellbeing. CNCF takes on this approach by providing holistic care through our Give A Ger programme.



- Around **734 million** people live in extreme poverty with less than \$1.90 a day <sup>[1]</sup>

## Mongolia

Mongolia's harsh winter seasons with temperature reaching -40 degrees Celsius, increase the risk of severe illness and death among people living in poverty who have no access to warm clothing or shelter.



- **2 in 5** poor people in Mongolia are children under the age of 15 <sup>[2]</sup>
- **7 in 10** poor people lack access to one of the basic infrastructure services (improved drinking water, sanitation or sustainable heating source) <sup>[3]</sup>

[1] World Bank 2015  
[2] & [3] World Bank 2018



# OUR YEAR

Access to safe and secure housing remains one of the most basic human rights. By providing vulnerable children and their families with a home of their own, we ensure that their rights to adequate living conditions are fulfilled and protected. A new and functional ger not only brings the comfort and warmth of a home but also ensures the families safety and restores their confidence, self-esteem and optimism, enabling them to flourish and the children to thrive.



**58 CHILDREN & 18 ADULTS**

received new gers



**06 FAMILIES**

received financial support to repair their gers in preparation for winter

**07 FAMILIES**  
received new gers

**01 FAMILY**  
received a 4-wall ger

**06 LARGER FAMILIES**  
received 5-wall gers

**137 PROJECT VISITS**  
were conducted

**59 ASSESSMENT HOME VISITS**  
were facilitated

**12 LAND PREPARATION VISITS**  
were organised

**66 FOLLOW-UP VISITS**  
were carried out to monitor the progress of the families





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# OUR STORIES

## A Safe Home For A Bright Future

9-year-old Gerel\* lives with her family in the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar city. Gerel has a reoccurring health condition which requires her mother to stay at home and look after her and her siblings while her father worked. He was the sole breadwinner, but after an accident, Gerel's father was no longer able work resulting in the family having no income. At the time, young Gerel was in need of regular health treatments and monitoring at a local hospital. For years, the family was surviving on a little amount of child benefits, disability allowances and food coupons from the government. Life was hard for them. To cover the medical treatment of Gerel and her father, Gerel's mother had to sell all of their furniture and eventually their own ger. With no home of their own, the family had to stay in run-down and dilapidated huts for the last 12 years, which caused severe negative impacts Gerel's family's physical health, psychological health and overall wellbeing.

When CNCF came across the family, we enrolled Gerel into our Child Sponsorship Programme to ensure she was able to access an education. We also provided Gerel's family with a fully furnished four-wall ger through the Give-a-Ger Programme so that the children had a safe and comfortable home to live and thrive in. Since having the security and warmth of a home, Gerel and her siblings have been making great progress in school while her mother was able to secure a stable job at a local market. Gerel's father was able to improve his physical health with support from the CNCF Healthcare programme, and secured part time employment as a truck driver.

After experiencing such a hardship, the gift of this ger has sparked hope, happiness and positivity in Gerel and her family's lives. This safe and uplifting environment also marks the beginning of a bright future ahead.

\*Names and Identities changed to protect privacy



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# OUR STORIES

## Testimonial from a Family

“There are no words to describe how grateful I am for all the things CNCF has done for my family through the Child Sponsorship Programme and the Give-a-Ger Programme over the past 5 years. Having our own new home is a life-changing moment for us, especially for my children. They can now live in a safe environment and continue to thrive in their studies and throughout their lives.

Life has been very challenging for us over the past few years. Finding a job with a stable income has become difficult due to the economic issues that Mongolia is facing. We would often dream of having a home one day so our children could grow up with safety and security, but the dream was quickly forgotten in the harsh reality we were living in.

When the CNCF social worker told us that we were selected to receive a new ger, my wife and I were so happy, we shed tears of gratitude. The thought of having our own ger has given us so much hope, belief and encouragement to work even harder for our children, now that CNCF has laid a strong and safe foundation for us.

I would like to thank everyone at CNCF for changing the lives of thousands of people like me through their work, and for always caring for us and providing genuine love and support. Thank you so much for the new home and giving us a new lease on life.”

- A Give-a-Ger Family -

\*Identities changed to protect privacy



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# OUR STORIES

## Testimonial from a Child

“Having a new ger of our own feels like a dream to me. We have new furniture and a stable roof and walls that can withstand the heavy snow and rain. The walls of our previous ger were so thin that one night, the rain poured down heavily and left us soaking wet, shivering in the cold. We had to sit squashed together in the driest part of the ger we could find to stay warm the whole night. I am very happy now knowing that I would never have to experience that moment again. When I wake up every morning, I feel like I am in someone else's home, because our new home is so much nicer than the old one that sometimes I just can't believe it! It still feels like magic to all of us. Thank you CNCF for our new home. You have changed our lives.”

- A Give-a-Ger Child -

\*Identities changed to protect privacy



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# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

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The operational cost of the Give-a-Ger Programme in 2019 was:

**USD \$12,781**

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

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Audit in progress at time of reporting.  
Our audits can be found at:  
[www.cncf.org/finance-policies/](http://www.cncf.org/finance-policies/)



## GIVE-A-GER PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES IN 2019

Description	Expenditure 2019
Ger materials and establishment costs	8,695
Furniture	3,884
Transportation and delivery	202
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>12,781</b>



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We believe that all children need a safe and secure home to grow up in. A place where they can lay their heads at night with peace in their hearts, surrounded by love, security and protection. Your donation to the Give-a-Ger Programme enables us to create real and lasting change by providing children and their families with a warm, safe and secure home of their own. A ger is not only a place to live in but also an essential tool that allows our families to rebuild their lives with hope for a better future.

We would like to thank the following donors and organisations that supported our Give-a-Ger Programme in 2019 and in doing so have changed the lives of a family in desperate need:

- Chinese International School
- Singaporean International School
- Hildegard Mayhew
- Ken Anderson
- Hildegard Mayhew c/o Peter Mayhew
- Un MO D'ou
- Family, Child and Youth Development Department of Ulaanbaatar city
- Geoff Selley
- Ken Anderson
- Chia Fen Yu
- Marie – Bernadette Raynaud
- Caroline Perruchot-Triboulett

Thank you for all your support.



For more information on this report and our CNCF projects in Mongolia please contact:

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