

A close-up photograph of two young children, likely of East Asian descent, smiling and looking towards the camera. They are wearing heavy winter coats with large, fluffy hoods. The child on the left is wearing a purple coat, and the child on the right is wearing a red coat. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with snow and a wooden fence.

Blue Skies Ger Village Annual Report 2016



An aerial view of our Blue Skies Ger Village.

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

We establish long-term relationships with the children we support and empower them to live happy, emotionally rich, and independent lives.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

By funding our *Blue Skies Ger Village* you are helping to provide a safe and caring environment for young boys and girls who are orphaned or from families where they were put at risk; others were living on the streets and therefore at high-risk of commercial and sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and threats of violence.

With your support these children now have the opportunity to enjoy a happy childhood in a safe and secure environment surrounded with love while also receiving psychological counselling, healthcare, education, life skills training, and a rich and varied range of extracurricular activities.

We would also like to acknowledge all our local and government partners who make it possible for us to implement the programme successfully.

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

One of our little ones enjoying the garden at our Blue Skies Ger Village.



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PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Established	1997
Location	Songino Khairkhan, Ulaanbaatar
Objectives	To provide a safe and caring environment for boys and girls up to the age of eighteen who are orphaned, living on the streets, or are otherwise unable to stay at home due to being at high risk of neglect, abuse, or exploitation. To provide a community of healing where the children are cared for and nurtured in a safe and secure environment surrounded by friends, supportive adults, and love, to enable them to successfully break the cycle of poverty and live independently as emotionally secure and fulfilled adults.
Programme Components	Residential care, healthcare, psychological rehabilitation, education; personal, vocational, and life skills development; sports, arts and music.
Beneficiaries	Children up to the age of eighteen years who come from disadvantaged backgrounds including orphans, children from poor families whose parents/guardians cannot support them, abandoned children, children living on the streets, and those who have faced or are at high risk of commercial and sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and threats of violence.
Local Partners	National Authority for Children, National Authority for Family and Child Development Songino Khairkhan: District Authority, Children's Police Precinct, Social Welfare Department, Family and Child Development Centre, and the 7th Micro-District Authority.
CNCF Involvement	Directly responsible for full funding and financial management, and the management of all aspects including healthcare, education support, and emotional development and rehabilitation. CNCF is directly responsible for the protection and development of all children resident at the ger village.
CNCF Staff	Uransaikhon, Ger Village Manager; Myagmarsuren, Ger Village Director; 23 other staff.
Monitoring and Evaluation	Written monthly and annual reports, with regular visits from the Director of Operations for meetings with the ger village management team, staff and children. All children meet regularly with both the Foundation psychotherapist and ger village doctor. Regular government inspections conducted by the National Authority for Children and the National Inspection Agency, as well as health and fire safety inspections by the local district authorities.
2016 Costs	Ger Village: \$196,979.11; Sports Programme: \$15,649.20
Reporting Period	January-December 2016



PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

Christina with one of our children at the ger village.

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Christina, herself a former street child, understands the pain of abuse, neglect, and destitution. After spending time with the children and understanding their lives, Christina knew what was needed to help them.

Since that time the Christina Noble Children's Foundation *Blue Skies Ger Village* has helped over five hundred previously forgotten, abandoned, and neglected children with shelter, rehabilitative care, education, and the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. Without Christina and her Foundation, there is little doubt that many of these children would not have survived.



Two of our children dressed in their traditional 'deels' for the Mongolian Lunar New Year.

MONGOLIA OVERVIEW

Mongolia was a satellite state of the Soviet Union between the years of 1924 and 1990, governed from Moscow by the communist party. The relationship brought many benefits to Mongolia yet also many tragedies.

In the 1930s at least one third of the male population of Mongolia was executed by order of the party. Religious figures, intellectuals, and anyone who might be considered a threat to communist ideals was killed or exiled to Siberia, and much of Mongolia's cultural heritage was destroyed; the fierce independence and self-determination of the Mongols was broken, and an entire cultural heritage was stripped within the space of a generation.

On the other hand, however, Soviet administration also brought significant economic,

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political, and military support along with extensive improvements to Mongolia's infrastructure. Roads, railways, running water and sewage systems, communications networks and power stations were all constructed. Industry flourished as a result, as did civil services such as state education and healthcare.

Many Mongolians were sent to Russia to receive educations in scientific, engineering, and medical professions while a large number of herders who had previously lived the traditional nomadic way of life were given new administrative jobs in settlements designed to create a more geographically fixed population.

The "Russian Years" are remembered with great fondness by those Mongolians who were fortunate enough to share in its benefits, yet by 1990 the Soviet Union was in irreversible decline. With the Russian military having been withdrawn a year earlier Mongolia underwent a peaceful revolution resulting in the nation's first democratic election since the time of the great Mongol empire.

The collapse of the communist system brought about many changes, the two most significant of which were the end of Mongolia's massive Soviet support including much funding for development, and the transition to a market economy.

Unprepared and ill-equipped for such significant changes, Mongolia went into a deep economic recession resulting in triple-digit inflation, large-scale unemployment, shortages of basic goods, and food rationing. The fledgling national economists struggled to adapt to the new market economy, and an over-allocation of bank credit led to a collapse of the financial system in 1995.

Mongolia was plunged into crisis and the nation suffered; many people froze to death. In the coldest capital city in the world with no food, no homes, no jobs, and no foreign aid, the future of Mongolia and its children looked increasingly hopeless and desperately bleak.

It was in the depths of this crisis that Christina first came to Mongolia.



Our ger village children enjoying their childhoods in a secure and loving home.



GER VILLAGE BEGINNINGS

Christina saw first-hand the deprivation and poverty left behind as a consequence of the Soviet withdrawal. Thousands of homeless and destitute children roamed the streets, living down the city sewers. These children were left exposed and vulnerable to both Mongolia's unforgiving winter weather and unscrupulous adults – or often older children - who would seek to abuse, exploit, or otherwise take advantage of them.

Driven by her own childhood experience of living on the streets of Dublin and therefore understanding their pain and the dangers they face first-hand, Christina established the *Blue Skies Ger Village* as a safe haven for orphaned, homeless, abandoned, or otherwise at-risk children in Ulaanbaatar.

Ever since that time the goal of the Christina Noble Children's Foundation has been to care for and rehabilitate these children, giving them access to education, healthcare, and most importantly a *home* where they can enjoy a happy childhood surrounded by the unconditional love and respect that all human beings deserve.

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MONGOLIA TODAY

The first external poverty assessment of Mongolia was conducted in 1996, a year before our founder Christina Noble first arrived. It was reported by the World Bank that 36% of Mongolia's population lived below the weighted poverty line of US\$17 per month.¹

Since then Mongolia has gone through periods of incredibly fast development driven primarily by large foreign investments into the mining industry. In 2001 the world's second largest ever deposit of copper-gold ore was discovered in the Gobi desert, fuelling what many have labelled the "Mining Boom".² After peaking in 2007 Mongolia was then affected greatly by the global economic downturn as the price of metals fell rapidly – especially copper, which decreased by 65% between July 2008 and February 2009.³

Mongolia has been in recovery since 2010 but the economy continues to face challenges due to the low levels of global demand for minerals. Economic growth slowed to just 2.4% in 2015 and the downward trend continued this year, settling at a lowly 1.0%.⁴



A view of the capital city, Ulaanbaatar.

¹ World Bank (1996), *Mongolia: Poverty Assessment in a Transition Economy*, Report number: 15723 [online] http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSPContentServer/WDSP/IB/1996/06/27/000009265_3961214164741/Rendered/PDF/multi0page.pdf [accessed 21/12/15]

² BBC (2013), *Mongolia's Mining Boom*, Radio 4: Crossing Continents, 1 April 2013, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01rgm9q>

³ World Bank (2009), *Mongolia Quarterly*, February 2009, <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTMONGOLIA/Resources/MongoliaQuarterlyFebruary2009English.pdf> [accessed 16/01/15]

⁴ Trading Economics (2017), *Mongolia GDP Annual Growth Rate*, <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/mongolia/gdp-growth-annual> [accessed 12/02/17]

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In spite of the economic slowdown in recent years, on the whole – between 2001 and the present day – there is no doubt that Mongolia has developed rapidly and the standard of living has improved for a significant percentage of the population, including the establishment of a middle class.⁵ Official figures show the poverty rate declining from 27.4% in 2012 to 21.6% in 2014.⁶

However, despite apparent progress on a national level many of the poorest families have been left behind. As is so often the case in rapidly developing countries there is a widening chasm between the rich and the poor. Due to the massive price inflation stimulated by the mining boom (inflation peaked at an incredible 31.9% in July 2008)⁷ many families are now unable to afford basic living provisions such as adequate food and heating, and there is effectively no social welfare available to support them. Despite the prices of commodities increasing rapidly over the past fifteen years, the income of these families has increased at a comparably meagre rate.



Still 61% of Ulaanbaatar's population resides in the city's ger districts, with many having no access to running water or a sewage system; of these 736,000 ger district residents, 60% are unemployed.⁸ This is to a large extent due to the incredibly high levels of migration from the

⁵ Asian Development Bank (2010), *The Rise of Asia's Middle Class*, <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/27726/ki2010-special-chapter.pdf> [accesses 07/10/16]

⁶ World Bank (2016), *Mongolia Overview*, 12 April 2016, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mongolia/overview>, [accessed 19/04/16]

⁷ Trading Economics (2016), *Mongolia Inflation Rate*, <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/mongolia/inflation-cpi> [accessed 12/01/16]

⁸ Engel, David (2015), *Ulaanbaatar's Ger District Issues: Changes and Attitudes*, SIT Graduate Institute, http://digitalcollections.sit.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3109&context=isp_collection [accessed 12/01/16]

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countryside to the city over the past ten years; with the rapid nationwide increases in the prices of goods, the traditional nomadic way of life quickly became uneconomical and insufficient for many herders.

Between thirty and forty thousand people flock to Ulaanbaatar each year with hopes and dreams of steady employment and a prosperous life.⁹ Unfortunately however, this is not the case for the vast majority of the new arrivals and Mongolia now faces a situation where its capital has 1.4 million people living in a city that was originally engineered to support a mere 400,000.¹⁰



Many of the children we receive have experienced a childhood shaped by poverty, neglect and abuse. At the village we work to create an environment where these precious children can heal from their traumatic pasts and enjoy a safe, happy and nurturing upbringing.

This immense overpopulation and its subsequent large-scale unemployment are at the root of many systemic and often incredibly complex societal dysfunctions. Alcoholism, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and families living in extreme destitution are just some of the saddening and desperate realities that many residents of the ger district communities face every day, as they struggle to survive with very little support and scarce opportunities.

Unfortunately, as is often the case in communities blighted by these social conditions, it is the children who suffer the most. Growing up in dire circumstances without security, guidance, or protection has meant that many Mongolian children are exposed to a significantly higher risk of exploitation from unsavoury adults, organised gangs and, sadly, also from their own families.

⁹ National Statistical Office of Mongolia (2010), *Population and Housing Census 2010*, Population and Housing Census Bureau, <http://catalog.ihsn.org/index.php/catalog/4572> [accessed 24/04/16]

¹⁰ Forrest, Brett (2013), *James Passin, The American Who Bought Mongolia*, Bloomberg, <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2013-05-16/james-passin-the-american-who-bought-mongolia> [accessed 04/02/16]

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THE GER VILLAGE TODAY

The ger village today is in many ways different to how it was originally in 1997 and yet at its essence it is still the same – a residential care facility for children who have experienced a childhood that has been shaped by poverty, abuse and extreme neglect. The village provides a safe, happy and supportive *home* for these children, one where they are surrounded by unconditional love and respect.

There are no longer thousands of children living on the streets in Ulaanbaatar's sewers, yet widespread neglect and abuse are still very prevalent.

Through the support of our donors and sponsors we are able to provide the children with a safe and nurturing home, giving them the tools to achieve their goals and ultimately leading them to a better, brighter future. By nurturing our children in an environment free from fear and threats of violence and abuse, we give them the space to be children – carefree and happy. Our ger village is a loving community environment where the children receive nutritious meals, positive guidance from caring adults, and the opportunities to develop their characters and pursue their dreams.

The children receive healthcare, counselling, and attend the local schools; they also receive age-appropriate vocational training and life skills. In addition to their studies the children are encouraged to develop their personal, social, and creative skills through our Arts & Music and Sports programmes.

One of our younger children with her beautiful baby sister.





The ger village can support up to fifty-four children, with up to six children being able to sleep in each of our nine residential gers. Gers typically contain a mix of older and younger children who all contribute to the upkeep and maintenance of their gers, each with their own responsibilities. One of our goals at the ger village is to mirror traditional Mongolian family life wherever possible.

Each ger is assigned a key worker, which is a senior member of ger village staff who is the first point of contact for the children of that ger. The key worker ensures the necessary tasks are being done, the ger is clean and tidy, and that the children from that unit are working well together and supporting each other. The key workers act as mentors, carers, and counsellors for the children in their day-to-day lives, with any successes, challenges, or causes for concern being referred to our Ger Village Manager.

The *Blue Skies Ger Village* has helped to support over five hundred children since 1997, serving the purposes of both a temporary shelter and a permanent home.

Our Ger Village Manager treats each of our children as individuals, with their own unique needs and capabilities. She provides love, care and guidance to all of our young people, who look towards her as a mother figure.



Our children from the ger village, dressed in their smart clothes for a special celebration.

The *Blue Skies Ger Village* occupies 1.23 hectares of land with many traditional Mongolian gers and also several brick structures. A ger is a traditional Mongolian home made from wood, felt, and bound together with horsehair; extra layers of wool are added in the autumn in order to prepare for the cold winter. In the spring the extra layers of wool are removed, ready for the warm summer months.

All our children take an active part in preparing their homes, as well as the village's communal gers, for the different seasons. Through this process the children learn to take care of their own homes and contribute to the functioning of the village as a whole.

In 2016 twenty-three members of staff worked together to run the ger village, this included two members of management, guards, carers, teachers, a doctor and nurse, cooks and a psychosocial team. All members of our hardworking employees are dedicated to providing a supportive and healing environment for the children under our care.



Our Ger Village Structures:

- 9 children's residential gers (7 metres in diameter)
- Community ger (10 metres in diameter)
- Office ger (8 meters in diameter)
- Psychologist's ger
- 2 classrooms, one ger and one cabin
- Kitchen & dining ger complex (constructed this year)
- *Blue Skies Day Care*
- Bakery (fully renovated in 2014)
- Library/ music room (fully renovated in 2014)
- Infirmary
- Bathroom block, including showers and laundry room
- 3 greenhouses, two outdoor and one indoor
- Indoor garage
- Maintenance workshop
- Outdoor toilet (constructed this year)
- Guards' hut
- Coal sheds and storage containers
- Basketball / football surface



BLUE SKIES GER VILLAGE 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

69 children benefited from the project



32
boys



37
girls

61 were permanent residents

8 resided with us temporarily

10 children left the village having reached 18 or to be reunited with family members

27 children were rehomed with us

All children receive an education, healthcare and nutritious meals

All children receive ongoing support from our psychosocial team

All children have access to extracurricular activities & trainings

Art
Music
Dance

Taekwondo
Cricket
Archery

Celebrations
Excursions
Special Events

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OUR YEAR

Beneficiaries

A total of sixty-nine children benefited from our *Blue Skies Ger Village* this year. Here is a breakdown by numbers:

- A total of thirty-two boys and thirty-seven girls benefited from our programme.
- Of those sixty-nine children, sixty-one were permanent residents and eight were temporary.
- Ten of our permanent residents left the village: seven were reunited with family members after their living conditions had improved, two moved to the government run centre for young adults in order to pursue further education having turned eighteen, and one boy went to live and study at a vocational training centre in the countryside. The children will remain on the Child Sponsorship Programme if they need it and we will continue to monitor their lives and provide support wherever possible.
- Twenty-seven new children were rehomed at the village. Out of the new arrivals nineteen remained as permanent residents. The children came to our village for various reasons although their stories all have common themes of difficult family conditions and their parents' inability to take care of them, typically because of their dependence on alcohol.

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- Eight children stayed temporarily at the village on the request of the Capital City Family and Child Development Centre. 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, whilst working to locate their parents or find them permanent housing most suitable for their individual needs and development.
- As of 31 December 2016 a total of fifty-one children are now leading safe and nurturing childhoods at our *Blue Skies Ger Village*.

2016 Highlights

2016 has been a busy year for our *Blue Skies Ger Village*. We have had many highlights and developments within the programme that will benefit our children both now and for many more years to come. Here is an overview of our main highlights:

- The ger village passed the national inspection test with an A+ rating. This inspection was made by Ulaanbaatar Children's Development Centre and the Songino Khairkhan District Children's Development Centre.
- The Songino Khairkhan District Office of Child and Family Development paid recognition to the most child-friendly workers among children's organisations. From the *Blue Skies Ger Village* our guard, baker and head day care teacher all received certificates for being the most "child-friendly" workers in the community. Furthermore, our Ger Village Manager was awarded a gold medal for her commitment to children's rights and outstanding work ethic.



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- Two of our children were selected to represent Mongolia at a ten-day international taekwondo competition held in Korea. This was an incredible opportunity and achievement for our children, who returned home having received two bronze medals.
- Due to the increased number of infants being taken in by the ger village, the role of the *ger* mother became particularly important this year. We therefore hired former kindergarten teacher, Nomin, to live at the village and care for our youngest children. After seeing her warm, maternal and nurturing interaction with all of the children we offered her a position as a day care teacher.
- In September twenty-four fundraisers taking part in the Noble Challenge arrived at our village after nine-days trekking, horse riding and cycling across Mongolia. The day ended with the group gifting ten bikes to the village. This was a dream come true for many of our children.
- Visitors from all around the world came to meet and play with our children, encourage their talents, and learn about how we operate.
- Our children began attending cricket lessons organised by the Mongolian Amateur Cricket Association – the first cricket organisation established in Mongolia. Our children love their weekly lessons, which have been an exciting and rewarding addition to our Sports Programme.



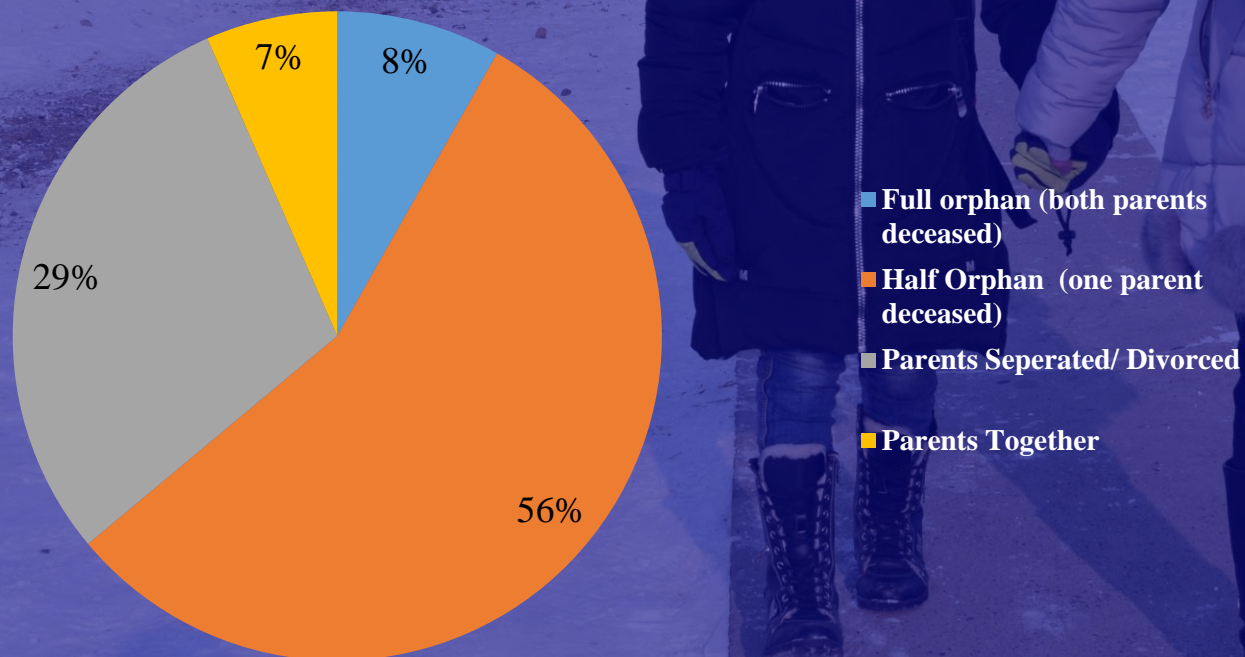
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- High quality security cameras were installed around the village; all areas can now be viewed from a central monitor to increase security and in alignment with government regulations.
- In Spring WaSH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Action of Mongolia conducted a full analysis of the water cycle at our ger village, including source analysis, usage and waste disposal. Based on their results they then lead specific trainings for our children and staff on how to further improve our water hygiene and efficiency of use.
- Our oldest ger village resident, 'Dingo' the dog, sadly passed away aged nineteen. Over the years he has become a well-loved member of our ger village family and will be greatly missed by all of our children and CNCF team.



Wrapped up warm and heading off to school.

Background/family status of our children



For children whose parents are alive, their home conditions put them at a risk of extreme neglect and abuse.

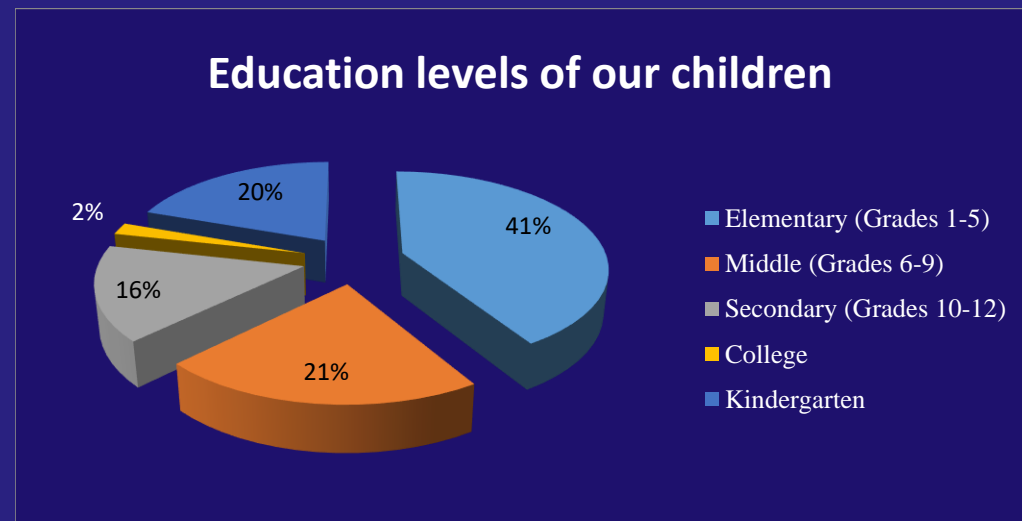
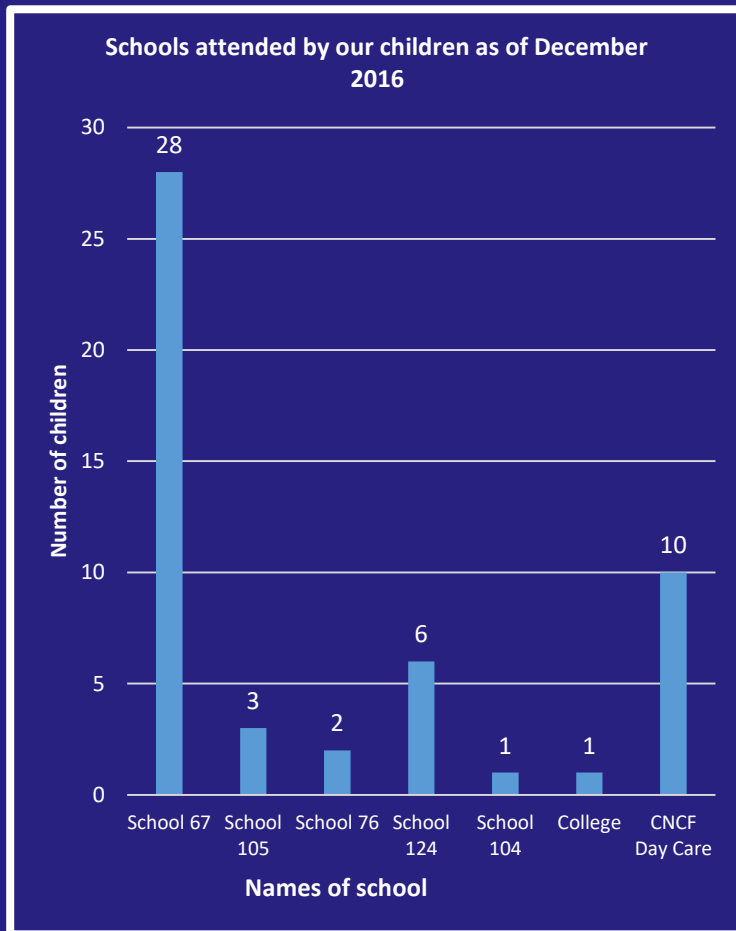
○ Visitors

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PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Education

All children residing at our ger village are in full-time schooling, either in kindergarten, primary, secondary or higher education. Children study at either the CNCF *Blue Skies Day Care* or the local public schools in Songino Khaikhan district. We employ a full-time teacher to help our children with their homework and catching up if they are behind. As many of the children we receive have missed out on prolonged periods of schooling due to their previous poor living conditions, this additional support is particularly important. Additional English lessons are also provided to all of our children; we believe that this plays an important role in opening up opportunities for our young people and enabling them to have a more enriched life experience.



In the majority of Mongolian state schools elementary, middle and secondary education are taught in the same school.

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Our Foundation's doctor, Muugii.

Healthcare

Fundamental to our Foundation's philosophy is the belief that all children, without exception, should be entitled to good quality healthcare. Helping our children to build strong healthy bodies is central to giving them the best possible start to life and is therefore something we take very seriously. This means lots of healthy meals, physical activity and regular checkups at our ger village infirmary.

The majority of children who come into our care have grown up in incredibly unsanitary and often squalid conditions, such as cold dilapidated sheds or sleeping rough on a garbage site. It is therefore crucial that they all receive a full health checkup upon arrival and have their details recorded for future monitoring.

Our caring and sensitive medical team – nurse Dagvaa and pediatrician Muugii – carry out these examinations, ensuring that our children feel safe and comfortable at all times. If they suspect any health issues that cannot be resolved on site, the child will be referred to a pediatric specialist for further diagnosis and treatment. Some of the most common ailments we see in our new arrivals are malnutrition, rickets, growth retardation, and severe dental issues.

In addition to the diagnoses and treatment of illnesses, our ger village healthcare programme educates our children about the importance of healthy lifestyle choices and good personal hygiene, as we believe that prevention is better than cure. Our medical team organises regular workshops and seminars to teach our children about how they can maintain good health. Topics covered include how to brush your teeth, keeping your body clean, and the benefits of exercise and a healthy diet. Individual sessions and group workshops are also held with pre-pubescent and pubescent girls and boys to talk about hormonal changes and how to manage some of the related challenges such as acne, body odor, and menstruation.

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"First you feed a child's stomach, and then you feed their spirit"
– Christina Noble, Founder

During 2016 we watched our children develop socially, academically, emotionally, creatively, and physically as a result of our broad range of extracurricular activities and programmes. These included:

Arts & Music Programme

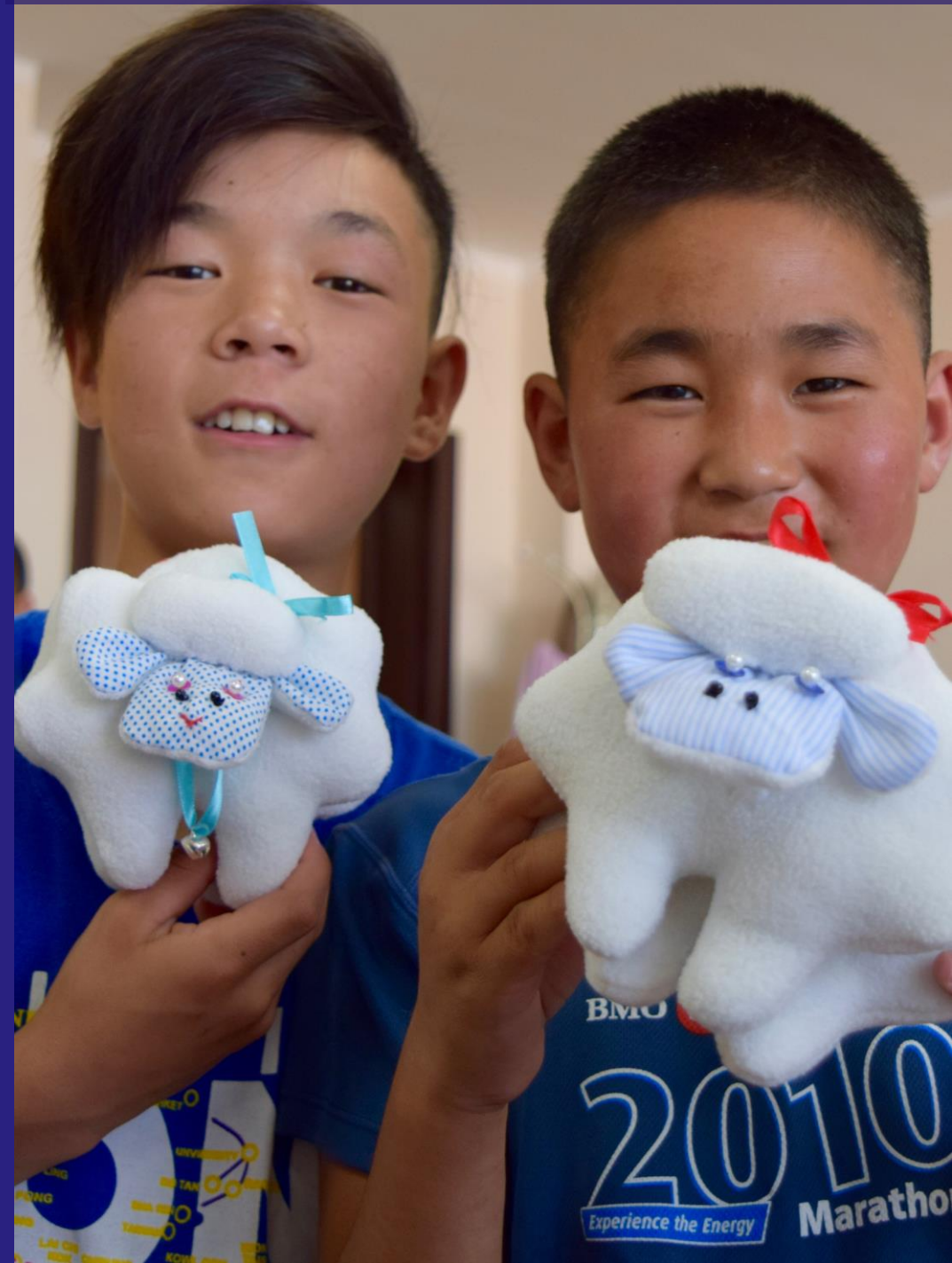
Visual Art and Crafts

Art lessons take place every Sunday at 10am until 2pm in our *Blue Skies Ger Village* classroom. During the classes our young people have fun exploring different mediums such as clay, pastel, paint and pencil while expressing their unique imaginations and creative ideas.

In addition to the children's weekly art lessons, this year we were happy to introduce regular craft classes to the Arts & Music Programme. During the sessions the children learn a wide range of craft techniques such as sewing, stuffing, beading and following patterns. The children love attending the lessons, which have helped them to develop creatively and become more patient and focused.

For all of the children who participate in our art and crafts lessons, this dedicated time for self-expression and imagination is extremely special and forms a highlight to their schedules.

Our children love attending their craft classes. It is always lovely to see how proud they are of their creations.



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Music

Music has the unique ability to connect with, and to heal, aspects of the soul. It fuels and inspires the mind, stirs emotions, relieves anxieties and creates memories that we will carry with us through life. The magical and reviving capabilities of music is a belief that Christina Noble herself shares, describing many lonely and desperate times as a child where music and singing were her only forms of escape and connection to a world beyond her own horrific daily reality.

At the *Blue Skies Ger Village* our professional music teacher, Gonchig, works three days a week helping our children to learn a variety of

instruments including the drums, guitar and piano. He also leads group singing lessons with all of our children in preparation for special events such as concerts, visitors and birthdays, and conducts weekly choir classes with ten of our youngest children aged seven or below.



Our children enjoy showcasing what they have learnt in their extracurricular activities at special events. We are always extremely proud to see how far they have come.

During the year our children also had opportunities to develop their talents at playing traditional Mongolian instruments such as the 'Morin Khuur', also known as the horsehead fiddle, and the 'Yatag', the Mongolian half tube zither. By incorporating these traditional instruments into the music programme we help to maintain our young people's cultural identity – a fundamental part of the Christina Noble Children's Foundation's philosophy.

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Dance

At the Foundation we believe in the power of dance and the wide-reaching benefits it can have for our young people. Dance provides an outlet for expressing and communicating emotions, it helps to increase self-confidence and develop social skills. It is also highly physical and a fun and effective way for our children to improve their overall health and fitness.

Since 2015 ten of our older children have attended weekly dance classes at the 'Aim4r Dance studio' – a profession street dance facility located in the centre of Ulaanbaatar. This year we were also able to extend the programme to our younger children, who began weekly street dance lessons at our village in April.

The children love the classes and attend each week with enthusiasm and commitment to developing their skills. It is always clear to see their progression at special events, when the children proudly showcase their routines in front of an audience.

In addition to learning street dance, our children have had opportunities throughout the year to develop their skills in traditional Mongolian dance. This is with thanks to our ger village psychotherapist, Nomin-Erdene, who as a talented dancer herself has been able to work with our children to help them learn this unique art form. Four of our older girls expressed particular interest in the classes and have stunned audiences at many events this year with their beautiful performances.



Our older girls performing a traditional Mongolian dance routine at our Children's Day celebration.

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Our children with CNCF taekwondo coach, Battulga.

Sports Programme

Taekwondo

Taekwondo lessons were reintroduced at the *Blue Skies Ger Village* in April 2015 after a two-year break. Since then we have seen a noticeable improvement in our children's confidence, strength and self-discipline.

Nineteen children from the ger village participate in taekwondo lessons. They are joined by twelve children on our Child Sponsorship Programme and nine young people from Battulga's own club. The children are divided into three groups, with each group having three two-hour lessons per week.

During the classes our children learn important self-defense techniques as well as developing key life skills such as respect for themselves and each other, focus, punctuality, and good personal hygiene.

Our professional coach Battulga is passionate about the benefits of teaching taekwondo to children and leads each class with pride, authority and great attention to the needs of each individual child. He has become a well-respected and loved member of our community whose hard work and commitment to the children, combined with their personal motivation, has resulted in many victories for our taekwondo team.

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throughout the year.

2016 Taekwondo Highlights:

- For the first time the children began competing in national championships.
- In March the Adolescent Taekwondo National Championship was held with two hundred and eighty trainees from thirty-three organisations. One of our older girls received a bronze medal; we were all very proud of her achievement at such a high level tournament.
- In April eleven children qualified to participate in a taekwondo festival held in Khutul, Selenge province. The event lasted for three days and our children proudly walked away with one gold, three silver and three bronze medals.
- Our children participated in the Youth Taekwondo National Championship, where they won one silver and two bronze medals.
- At the beginning of 2016 the Mongolian Taekwondo Association released a ranking of young female trainees. Two of our girls came in 5th and 10th place.
- Two of our children qualified for an international taekwondo competition held in Cheongju, South Korea – both won bronze medals.
- Our children practiced taekwondo with participants from the Noble Challenge. This was an enjoyable experience for everyone involved and a great way for both groups to make friends and transcend language barriers.



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- In August, CNCF coach Battulga hosted a championship at our ger village for trainees from different clubs across the country. This was a wonderful opportunity for our young people to develop their skills and mix with other children who share their passion for taekwondo.
- To celebrate South Korea Week, the Nasara University taekwondo team co-organised a demonstration with our children in Mongolia's National Park. This was an exciting new experience for our young athletes, who enjoyed showcasing their talents during the fun day out.
- Our CNCF team participated in the junior championships organised by the Public Security Department of the National Police Agency. The team won 3rd place overall, taking home two gold and four bronze medals.

Cricket

Our children began attending cricket lessons organised by the Mongolian Amateur Cricket Association – the first cricket organisation established in Mongolia. Our children love their weekly lessons, which have been an exciting and rewarding addition to our Sports Programme.

Head teacher, Tulga, is the first internationally qualified Mongolian coach, and teaches our children with great enthusiasm for the sport. As it is part of the association's initiative to promote cricket and produce more qualified coaches, our ger village Junior Psychologist, Munkhsukh, has been attending a cricket coaching course organised by the club. This means that he will be able to encourage and support our children's development in the sport through regular practice sessions at the ger village. If he passes the training he will also be part of Mongolia's first wave of cricket professionals.



Our children at their new cricket lessons.

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Our children love learning this new sport, which is helping them to develop their coordination, fitness and focus, while having fun and making new friends.

Our children enjoy learning archery during their summer holidays.



Archery

During the summer our children enjoyed an eight-day archery course led by national and world champion archers Simon and Michèle from Belgium.

It was a wonderful opportunity for our young people to develop on their learning from the previous year in a sport that benefits them physically while helping to develop their confidence, concentration, patience, and is part of their Mongolian heritage.

Everyone had lots of fun outside in the beautiful summer sunshine, learning this valuable skill from such kind, patient and knowledgeable teachers.

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Horticulture

At the ger village we work to create a healthy and sustainable community where our children can develop an understanding and respect for the environment.

Growing our own produce is an important part of this process, helping our children to connect with the natural world, build strong healthy bodies through an organic nutrient-rich diet, and allowing us to save money through becoming more self-sufficient.

At the beginning of spring 2015 we expanded our horticulture project by renovating our two old outdoor greenhouses and one indoor planting area. With the increased space available, this year we hired a professional horticulturalist in order to maximise our yield and make the most of the available room and new facilities. As a result, over the summer we grew more nutritious fruits and vegetables than ever before including turnips, beetroots, cabbages, spring onions, cucumbers, lettuces, peppers, chilis and cauliflowers.

With the new addition to our team, in spring we were able to map out our unused areas of land and plant Aspen trees, Sea Buckthorn and Blackberry bushes. Our staff and children are looking forward to watching them grow and picking their produce for many years to come.

As potatoes are the most popular and commonly used vegetable in Mongolia, this year, in order to grow more, we rented an additional plot of land located outside the city. This meant that we able ensure a high quality product while reducing our monthly food cost. It was also an enjoyable and rewarding experience for our children, who loved getting



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out into the fresh country air to help plant and tend to the potatoes.

Throughout all of these activities our staff involved the children as much as possible and from the early stages of preparing the land, right up until the crops were ready to be harvested, each of our children had their daily responsibilities.

Everyone loved playing a part in this satisfying process and there was always a great sense of pride and achievement when our young gardeners finally got to eat the products of their hard work.

Happy with his lettuce!



Our children preparing the land for the new fruit bushes.



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PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

All of our Foundation staff play a positive role in the children's lives, supporting and guiding them as much as they can. In addition to this we have three dedicated members of full-time professional psychosocial staff: one senior psychotherapist, one social worker, and one junior psychologist who is himself a former ger village child.

All three members of the team work towards the goal of healing the emotional trauma that affects, to differing degrees, all of the children who live at the village.

Our psychotherapist, Nomin-Erdene, conducts one-on-one and group sessions with the children, using art therapy as her main therapeutic technique to address emotional issues which may be confusing and distressing.

Nomin-Erdene meets with every child at the village at least once a month, with those needing ongoing attention meeting anywhere between one and five times a week depending on their specific needs. This year all sixty-nine children who were living at the ger village on either a permanent or temporary basis received therapy sessions.

Regular group work is carried out with all of the children where they are encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings and talk about how they can be more supportive of themselves, each other, and their community. Over the course of this year many of the children have become more comfortable talking openly about their lives and it has been clear to see the improvements that are continually taking place in their attitudes, behaviours and overall outlooks on life.

Additional Psychosocial Evaluations, Trainings and Activities

Our psychotherapist Nomin-Erdene, is a well-loved member of the community who has helped many of our children overcome the trauma of their early years.



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➤ *Children's psychological survey*

This year we conducted monitoring, interviews and surveys to assess the children's progress and adapt our activities and approach if needed. The three major assessments we conducted were: levels of motivation in elementary school students, levels of self-confidence in children aged between nine and eight, and a personal evaluation by children aged fourteen to eighteen. The surveys were an important guide for our team to base their future work and determine new ways we can support our children's development. We were happy by the responses given, which were generally very positive and affirmed the effectiveness of our work.

➤ *Children's psychology workshops*

This year, Nomin-Erdene organised a total of forty-three group sessions designed to help our children determine their objectives, discover ways that they can achieve them, explore different perspectives on life, and realise their skills and capabilities. The sessions were designed to be dynamic and engaging by encouraging active participation and open discussion. Titles of the topics covered included: 'My Dream', 'My Career And Future', 'How Do I Increase My Self Confidence?', 'What Is The Purpose Of My Life?', 'How To Overcome Challenges', and 'Change Starts With Yourself'.



➤ *"My Friend" and "My World" Programmes*

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In partnership with the National Authority for Children and the Metropolitan Office of Child and Family Development, on 1 March the ger village, alongside other welfare centres, implemented the “My Friend” and “My World” programmes. Thirty-six of our children participated in the course, designed to help young people learn valuable life skills and lessons such as: how to address and manage their feelings, taking care of finances, the importance of family and friend relationships, and the importance of teamwork. The course was delivered by our psychosocial team with the support of our ger village staff, who worked to reinforce the lessons that had been taught in the children’s everyday activities.



Nomin-Erdene uses arts and crafts to help our children communicate their emotions in a relaxed, engaging and non-threatening way.

village staff members

➤ *Focus group meetings with our children*

This year our psychosocial team held twenty focus group meetings with our children. During each meeting the children addressed a specific issue together, working through different ideas, experiences and emotions in a supportive and controlled environment.

Compared to individual consultations, this form of therapy allows the children to realise that others are facing similar challenges to their own as well as gain a valuable insight into alternate perspectives and experiences.

This year group meeting topics were decided on the spot based on the wishes of the children. Topics covered included: missing school, online gaming, friendships, and overcoming challenges. Ground rules are set before each meeting commences, such as no cursing, being respectful at all times, raising your hand to speak, and not laughing at others.

➤ *Monthly psychology workshops for all ger*

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On the last week of each month our psychosocial team delivered training workshops to all members of the ger village staff. The sessions were designed to develop our team's understanding of basic psychology, improve their communication skills with our children, and help them to manage workplace stress. They were also an opportunity for our team to share ideas and gain a deeper understanding of each other, helping to form a more harmonious and supportive working community.

Titles of topics covered included: 'Methods For Communicating With Children', 'Respectful Interactions', 'Stress Management', 'Teamwork', 'Why Children Choose Risky Behavior' and 'Adolescent Psychology'.

Training sessions such as these play an important role in enabling us to provide the best level of care possible for our children. We believe that ongoing professional and personal development for our staff is key to creating lasting job satisfaction and motivation in their daily work.

Regular training sessions are carried out with all of our staff in order for them to develop their understanding about how to support children who have suffered from trauma.



➤ *Additional training and support for our psychosocial team*

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In order to provide the most current and effective methods of psychological support for our children, our psychosocial team attended a variety of trainings throughout the year. These included sessions conducted by Focus On The Family on topics titled: 'No Apologies', 'Gender Issues And Counselling' and 'How To Diagnose Children With Mental Disorders'. They also participated in a one-day psychologists meeting to discuss regularly faced challenges, different methods of practice, and common issues affecting the children of Mongolia today. The event was organised by leading psychologist Unur Bul, and was a beneficial experience for all involved.

Training sessions are carried out with the relatives of our children so that they can improve their lives and gain a deeper understanding about the needs of their children.



➤ *Workshops for parents*

In partnership with the police department of the Songino Khaikhan district, a behavioural workshop titled “Change Starts With You”, was organised for struggling parents in the local area. Approximately fifty people attended the event, many of who are relations of the young people living at our ger village.

Parents and relatives of our children were also invited to the ger village to take part in a workshop called “Our World”. The session was designed to sensitively communicate the expectations, desires, and needs that young people look to receive from their caregivers.

We believe that personal and community development workshops such as these play an important role in helping us to achieve our ultimate objective – to reunite children with their families wherever possible.

GER VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

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Our guards play an integral role in the overall running , security and maintenance of our ger village. They are in charge of ensuring the safety of our children at all times while they are on site, this includes monitoring the front gate and security cameras, and patrolling the grounds at night. They are also responsible for making sure that all of our buildings, specifically our children's residential gers, are properly heated during the different seasons; a particularly tough job in the long, bitter cold Mongolian winters. In addition to this, their daily work includes the general upkeep of the village such as fixing broken furniture, performing repair work on our buildings and gers, and tending to the ger village grounds.

Main work and improvements carried out at the village in 2016:

- Upgrades were made to the guards' duty station to improve insulation and therefore overall heat efficiency.
- High quality security cameras were installed around the village; all areas can now be viewed from a central monitor to increase security and in alignment with government regulations.
- The old, damaged garage roof was removed and replaced with one that is strong, insulating and able to withstand the harsh climatic conditions for many more years to come.
- The day care building underwent major renovation work, including structural improvements to the roof and the installation of a new heating, plumbing, and fire alarm system. Additional work included refurbishing the bathrooms and fitting bright new closets.
- Small maintenance work was carried out on the medical and music rooms, this included fixing cracks and repainting the walls and ceilings.



Our ger village maintenance and horticulture team hard at work collecting coal.

We encourage our children to help out around the village as much as possible so that they can learn important life skills.

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- Flowerbeds and decking were built outside our day care centre for our little ones to enjoy in the summer months.
- Good quality wooden shelves were built in three of our shipment containers in order to create a well-organised and efficient storage space for our stock.
- A new ger for sewing activities was assembled in order to encourage resourcefulness and creativity among our children and staff.
- High-speed internet connection was installed in all areas of the ger village. This allows our team and children to carry out tasks quickly and conveniently, for example downloading educational resources, accessing and researching information, and completing homework assignments. Precautions are taken regarding the children's internet access and usage, and we focus on educating them of both the advantages and dangers of the internet.
- Former ger sites were leveled.
- In preparation for winter, fireplaces were repaired or replaced in the gers. Furthermore, "Good Sharing LLC" in Mongolia donated special heat retainers, which help to regulate the temperature within each ger and keep them warmer for even longer, hence leading to a reduction in coal use.
- All ger village facilities were sterilized twice throughout the year in partnership with the district sterilization organization.
- In Spring WaSH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Action of Mongolia conducted a full analysis of the water cycle at our ger village, including source analysis, usage and waste disposal. Based on their



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results they then lead specific trainings for our children and staff on how to further improve our water hygiene and efficiency of use.



Each year our guards prepare the gers for the winter and summer months by adding or removing an underlayer of insulating material.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



Noble Challenge Visit: In September twenty-four visitors taking part in the Noble Challenge arrived at our *Blue Skies Ger Village*. During their visit they enjoyed a special concert by our children from the Child Sponsorship Programme and those living at the village. The concert included a variety of acts such as traditional and contemporary dance and music, singing, taekwondo and a short play. Following this the challengers took part in collaborative classes with the children like art, music and dance. It was an incredibly heart-warming day that came to an end with a special surprise for our children – ten sparkly new bikes purchased using some of the money raised through the challenge. Owning a bike is a childhood dream for many of our children and so it was beautiful for everyone to see the happy excited faces that had been created as a result of the challengers' hard work.

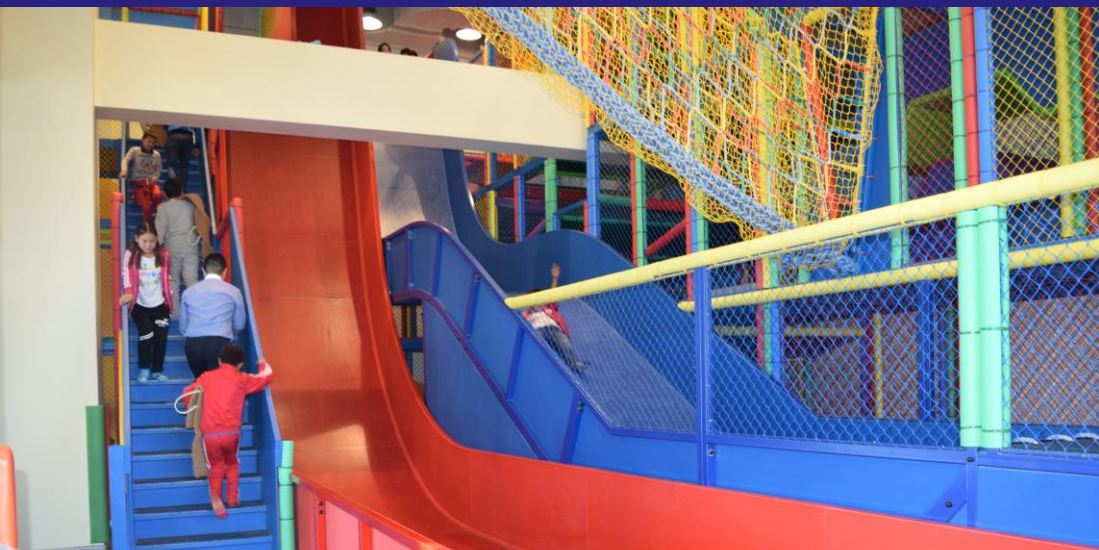




Children's Day: To celebrate this special occasion our children enjoyed a fun-packed day of games, delicious food and gifts. Performances in dance, taekwondo and music were also displayed by some of our children, showcasing what they had been learning in their extracurricular classes.



Easter Celebrations: 2016 was our second Easter celebration at the ger village. There was lots of smiling faces as our children spent the day playing games, hunting for chocolate eggs and taking part in their first ever egg and spoon race. Days like this are a valuable opportunity for our children to learn about different traditions from around the world and broaden their perspectives on life.



Shangri-La's Adventure Zone: Our children spent a magical day out at Shangri-La's new Adventure Zone. There were lots of big happy smiles as our children raced around the magnificent play area, climbing across rope bridges, battling in ball pits and bravely taking on the huge vertical drop slide.



"Sunny Day": On 26 March, the ger village hosted a "Sunny Day" event where the parents and relatives of our children were invited to play games, watch performances and speak to our staff. It was a special day, which allowed family members to see the progress their children are making.



“Emotional Support Campaign”: As part of an initiative to help develop understanding, compassion and togetherness at the village, each month our children visited the family home of a chosen ger village child. During their visit they gave small useful gifts that they had bought with their pocket money and helped with chores around the home.



“Tsagaan Sar Celebrations”: Tsagaan Sar, or the Mongolian Lunar New Year, is one of the most important holidays in the Mongolian calendar. Our children and staff enjoyed wearing their traditional deels, eating delicious food and celebrating this special time of year together



Pizza Making: Our younger children enjoyed a special day out at Pizza Hut learning how to make the perfect pizza!



New Years Eve: The New Year party at the village is an annual tradition. We collectively reflect on the year and award the children based on their efforts and accomplishments. This year we had a special visit from the Mongolian Father Christmas who distributed presents to all of our children and wished them luck and happiness for 2017.



Art Exhibition: In October four of our older children who had been attending advanced art classes for seven months, impressed and inspired us all with an incredible art exhibition showcasing their large collection of stunning work. The event was arranged in partnership with the NGO 'Amirlakhuin Soyombo' who operate to help disadvantaged children in the Songino Khaikhhan district. Many government officials, charitable organisations and members of the general public attended the event and were left mesmerised by the deeply meaningful, inspiring and striking works of art that our children had created. During the opening evening our young artists were joined by some of our other children from the ger village, who performed a variety of traditional and contemporary music and dance acts, further contributing to the magnificent display of creativity and talent. The exhibition was a dream come true for these children and a memory that they will always cherish.



SPECIAL TAEKWONDO TOURNAMENTS



Ger Village Taekwondo Tournament: Teacher, Battulga, invited children and their coaches from different clubs across the country to participate in a day of taekwondo at our ger village. Certificates and medals were handed out at the end to award the children for their on-going commitment and dedication to the sport.



National Taekwondo Tournament: Nine of our children were invited to take part in one of Mongolia's biggest children's taekwondo tournaments. Twenty-five different taekwondo clubs attended the competition, which took place outside Ulaanbaatar in Erdenet city. The day was long and physically tiring but our children remained focused and walked away with one gold and two bronze medals.



International Taekwondo Tournament: Two of our taekwondo superstars were selected to represent Mongolia at a ten-day international competition held in Korea. This was an incredible achievement for our children, who returned home having received two bronze medals. Here is a quote from one of our children: "My most beautiful memory in life was flying to Korea and knowing that I had been selected on the team. It was such a special feeling and experience for me."



Two-Day Taekwondo Tournament: Eight of our children participated in a two-day taekwondo tournament where they competed against over five hundred young people from different clubs across Mongolia.

We were all extremely proud of our team who received two bronze, two silver and two gold medals.

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OUR STORIES

Ger Mother – Nomin's Story

Nomin began working as a ger mother at *our Blue Skies Ger Village* in April 2016. She is 42-years-old and a qualified kindergarten teacher. Since moving to the ger village with three of her children Nomin has become a well-loved and respected member of the community, whose hard-working and caring nature shines through at all times.

Before moving to the village Nomin and her family's situation was very different. They have experienced many challenges in their lives together and are relieved to finally be in a safe and supportive environment where they can live free from fear in warmth and peace.



Many homeless families live in the cramped, dark and unhealthy stairwells of city apartment blocks. Nomin and her children lived in a space like this before moving to the village.

Nomin's husband died in 2014 due to ongoing alcohol abuse, a common problem amongst the poor in Mongolia. When he got drunk he used to become physically and psychologically violent to Nomin and her oldest son, often beating them badly in front of the three younger children.

At this time the family lived in an old shed that the husband used for his carpentry work. The space was cramped and run-down but provided some form of security, and protection from Mongolia's notoriously harsh winter months.

With nowhere else to go Nomin felt unable to escape this controlling and destructive relationship and despite desperately wanting to leave she remained with her husband for many years.

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After her husband passed away the family lost their shed and were forced out onto the streets. Having four children to care for and nowhere to go meant that Nomin had no choice but to take shelter in a stairwell of one of the city's apartment blocks. The space was tiny and dark but Nomin did her best to make it feel homely for her children. She told us that no matter how poor you are you can always be clean and maintain your dignity.

During this time Nomin worked three different jobs to provide for her family: she was a caretaker for the apartment block, a cleaner at a nearby hospital and a kindergarten assistant. Her work was physically tiring and paid very little but Nomin never stopped holding on to her dream to one day have enough money to buy a home for her children.

After living under the stairs for a couple of years the family moved into a shed belonging to one of their relatives. It was old, dilapidated and provided inadequate insulation from 2015's particularly harsh winter where temperatures regularly remained below -40°C. The conditions were appalling and lead Nomin to feel increasingly depressed and hopeless about her family's future together.

It was around this time that we first met Nomin. When she came to our ger village she was in a state of desperation and it was clear to see from her tired, heavy eyes the hardship that she had experienced.

After getting to know more about Nomin our ger village manager felt that she could be a wonderful fit for our community. Her previous experience as a kindergarten teacher combined with her inner strength, warm heart



Nomin has become a well-loved and respected mother figure at the village.

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and high standards surrounding cleanliness were all qualities that could benefit our children and help to support our village. After further discussion with other members of management the decision was made to ask Nomin if she would like to become part of our family as one of our 'ger mothers'. Nomin happily accepted and moved into the village with her children immediately.

Initially her primary responsible was to care for our four youngest children, however after seeing her warm, caring and nurturing interaction with all of the children we offered her a position as a teacher in our day care centre. She accepted the position and has flourished in her new role.

It has been wonderful to watch the changes in Nomin since she first arrived with us and to see her and her children settle into ger village life so naturally. She takes her position very seriously and with great pride, paying attention to the children's individual needs and always making sure that the village is a clean and beautiful environment.

Nomin is thankful that her children are now able to grow up in a positive, caring and safe place where there is access to nutritious food, school supplies and a range of enriching extracurricular activities. She believes that with these opportunities now available to them her children can grow into happy and successful adults.

She explained to us that in the past when life was extremely tough for her and her family, she used to tell her children to close their eyes at night and dream about their biggest wish. Since living at the ger village Nomin's son has been taking part in art classes and this year displayed his powerful work at an exhibition. Recently he said to his mother 'Mother, my dream came true. I always imagined that one day my art would hang in an exhibition for everyone to see. Now that it has come true do I need to think of another wish?'



Since beginning as a ger mother, Nomin has now become a teacher at our Day Care Centre. She takes great pride in her new role and looks after the children with love, care and sensitivity.

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As the Christina Noble Children's Foundation's mission is to help families lead independent lives wherever possible, we intend to give Nomin a ger through our 'Give-a-Ger' Programme at the end of her two year contract with us. Our team feels privileged that with the love and support of our donors we are able to help fulfil Nomin's dream to finally have a home of her own.

Ger Village Child – Oogii's Story

Oogii and her two brothers first arrived at our *Blue Skies Ger Village* in 2007; she was nine-years old. Up until that point their lives had been filled with sadness and difficulties. Having lost their father due to liver disease when they were very young, Oogii and her three siblings were left under the sole care of their alcoholic mother. Her dependency on alcohol took priority over providing for her four children, who without a responsible caregiver had no choice but to look after themselves.

Sadly, their situation only grew worse when their mother remarried and subsequently completely abandoned Oogii and her siblings. With nowhere to go they were forced out onto the city streets. Cold, alone and vulnerable, the children moved in-between old abandoned buildings, apartment block corridors, and anywhere else they could find that would offer some form of protection against the often freezing cold temperatures, and the many threats of violence and abuse that life on the streets brings.

It was during this time that Oogii and two of her siblings were found by the local authorities and rehomed at our ger village. Her oldest brother, who was seventeen at the time, was later located but chose not to come to the village; he asked that we took care of his brothers and sister as he could not provide for them.

When the children first arrived it was clear to see the extreme neglect and trauma that they had experienced in their young lives. All three children were malnourished and



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their behaviour was distant and untrusting of those around them. We knew that it would be a long process of love, care and support before they would begin to regain their confidence in a world that had previously caused them so much fear and suffering.

With on-going reinforcement the children's beliefs and outlooks began to change. They became more open, light-hearted and able to form



relationships with the other children and staff. As with all of the young people who come to us having experienced trauma, it was beautiful to watch as they started to enjoy a happy childhood and experience the security of having a family that loves and protects them.

Over the years Oogii has worked closely with our psychosocial team to explore her feelings and work through any painful memories associated with her past. At first she expressed a great deal of anger towards her father, blaming him for the breakdown of their family and her mother's alcoholism. With time and support from our team, Oogii has let go of a lot of this anger and has been able to make peace with what happened to her as a child.

Oogii has developed many hobbies and talents, which have played an important role in her healing process. Through our extracurricular activities she has discovered a wide range of interests, which have helped her to channel difficult emotions and express them in a positive, rewarding and therapeutic way. She has a natural talent for art and music and spends much of her spare time drawing, painting and learning to play instruments such as the guitar and piano.

This year Oogii attended regular professional art classes in the city, where she developed on her understanding about how to connect with and convey her powerful emotional landscape through thought-provoking and symbolic works of art. The lessons culminated in an

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exhibition, which was attended by many government officials, organisations and members of the general public. Everyone was left astounded by her talent and the deeply meaningful pieces that she had created.

Oogii is now in twelfth grade at school and is achieving good grades across all of her subjects. She particularly loves technology and wants to study it next year at university in order to achieve her dream of becoming an electrical engineer.

This year she was awarded the 'Golden Rose Certificate' for being a top student by the Mongolian student's union. She also received a certificate for her talents and hard work from the Songino Khaikhan district.

We are all so proud of Oogii, who exemplifies the strength and courage that lies within all of our children. She is a true success, and highlights the importance of our Foundation's work in providing the love, support and opportunities that enable our young people to fulfil their potential and break free from the cycle of sadness that is so often caused by childhood hurt and neglect.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2016 the direct cost of the *Blue Skies Ger Village* was \$196,979.11 USD. This includes all expenditure that is specific and dedicated to the running and operations of the ger village such as food, education, clothing, vocational and life skills training, recreational activities, repairs and maintenance, and ger village staff salaries.

The direct cost of the Sports Programme was \$15,649.20 USD. This includes the running and operations of the Sports Programme such as equipment, competition entry fees, travel to and from events, sports teachers' salaries, and a funding contribution towards the Mongolian Amateur Cricket Association.

The indirect cost of supporting the ger village was \$40,162.40, and the indirect cost of the Sports Programme was \$3,190.74. This includes the salaries of CNCF Mongolia management and administration staff, office rent and utilities, stationery and supplies, communications, staff training, professional consultancy, and travel. This expenditure was paid for by the Foundation's administration budget.

The *Blue Skies Ger Village* and Sports Programme is funded by individual, corporate and institutional donors. Our audited 2016 accounts are available upon request.

From all of us at the Christina Noble Children's Foundation Mongolia, especially our beautiful children, thank you for your love and support, and for believing that all children have the right to a happy, safe and enriching childhood. It is only through the kindness and generosity of people like yourself that the Foundation can continue in its incredibly important work with these precious young people.





“I believe in childhood!” – Christina Noble

Each of us is only one person. But by joining all the ones together, we can accomplish greatness. If you or your organisation is interested in supporting us in 2017/2018 please contact our Foundation. It is only through the love, care and generosity of others that we are able to continue our work with some of the world's most vulnerable children.

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