



# **Child Sponsorship programme Annual Report 2016**







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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.





Siblings from our sponsorship programme after receiving new warm clothes and toys.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is with our most heartfelt appreciation that we would like to thank all of our incredible sponsors for their love, care and commitment to helping improve the lives of some of Mongolia's most vulnerable and in need children. It is because of you that thousands of young people living in poverty have been able to receive an education, healthcare and the emotional and physical support they need in order to flourish.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to the following groups and individual sponsors who have been especially active in supporting the children on our programme:

Rotary Club-Kln N; Capital Group; Dubai Duty Free; Leonard Bernhardt; Lynda Chaplin; Barbara Moore Savidge; Kim Boreham; Gary Hui; and Jackie Preis and her team, with a very special mention to Anne Mason and Heike Leitner, for their tremendous hard work and ongoing dedication to creating hope, possibility and lasting change in the lives of those who need it most.

*“Childhood is the foundation of life...” – Christina Noble*

*Thank you for helping us to make it a good one!*

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## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

<b>Established</b>	1997
<b>Location</b>	Capital city Ulaanbaatar and Bulgan, Tuv and Selenge Provinces. Bulgan: Bulgan city, Orkhon, Khishig-Undur, Gurvanbulag and Dashinchilen sub-districts Tuv: Bayanchandmani, Erdene, and Argalant sub-districts Selenge: Khutul and Zuunkharaa sub-districts
<b>Objectives</b>	To provide crucial financial and social support for children and their families living in extreme poverty and help them to improve their living conditions to a point that they no longer need assistance.
<b>Programme Components</b>	Financial support; social work; healthcare; education assistance; clothing, toy, and vitamin distribution; access to the Special Assistance and Education Scholarship funds; full access to the Foundation's other programmes including Give-a-Ger, Arts & Music, and Sports.
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	Disadvantaged children and their families
<b>Local Partners</b>	National Authority for Children; Ministry of Culture, Education, and Science; Development Center(s) for Child and Family of Erdenet City, Darkhan City, Bulgan Province, and Nalaikh district; Zuunkharaa Governor's Office and Achit Bag FGP (family group practice/health clinic); Social Welfare Departments of Ulaanbaatar and its districts; public school social workers and administrative managers.
<b>CNCF Involvement</b>	Fully responsible for funding and programme management, monitoring and evaluation.
<b>CNCF Staff</b>	Child Sponsorship Project Manager: Otgontuya; Social Workers: Baigalmaa and Altanzul; Translators: Deegi and Muugii; Driver: Saindoo
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	Our social workers conduct an annual home visit to each of our children where they complete a full assesment of the child's progress, challenges and living conditions. This report is sent out to the sponsor along with a section written by the child including information about their year's achievements and challenges, and a personal letter to their sponsor. Our children are also monitored at our monthly didtribution days through informal chats with our sponsorship team and Foundation doctor. Internal meetings are conducted for CNCF staff to discuss programme related issues and updates. A monthly report is completed by the project leader and an annual child sponsorship report is sent out to all stakeholders.
<b>2016 Actual Costs</b>	Child Sponsorship Programme: \$333,262.47 USD; Education Scholarship Fund: \$23,054.23 USD; Special Assistance Fund: \$5,949.14
<b>Future Plans</b>	The future plan of our programme is to continue to provide the financial, emotional and social support that enables disadvantaged children and their families to lead more fulfilling, healthy and successful lives. In addition to maintaining our current level of care we always strive to improve our services and strengthen our ability to create lasting change in the lives of those we support.
<b>Reporting Period</b>	January-December 2016

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## PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

Our Founder, Christina Noble, and the Christina Noble Children's Foundation first established the Child Sponsorship Programme (CSP) in 1997. The programme was formed as a response to the desperate poverty and hardship that engulfed the nation at that time and left thousands of children and their families fighting for survival in a country notorious for its fiercely harsh climate and challenging living conditions.

Mongolia became a satellite state of the Soviet Union in 1924, governed from Moscow by the communist party. Then, with the breakdown of the Union in 1990 and the subsequent Soviet withdrawal, Mongolia underwent rapid socioeconomic and political changes that have transformed it from a socialist country to a multiparty democracy and a market economy.

The closure of workplaces, unemployment, high rates of poverty and the many other arduous challenges that resulted from this transition caused great socioeconomic instability. Sadly, as is often the case, it was the children who suffered the most.





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This highly turbulent time led to thousands of vulnerable young people being abandoned, abused or exploited. Many were orphaned. Children dropped out of school at an unprecedented rate and often had no other choice than to go out to work for long hours and incredibly little pay in order to boost the family income. All over the country children were living in horrendous conditions, with many destitute street children's only option being to take shelter in the city sewers. For those living on the streets, the sewers – with warm waste water flowing through the pipes – was their only refuge against a long and harsh winter climate where temperatures regularly reach  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

When Christina first visited Mongolia in 1997, she was heartbroken to find so many children living in such desperate and vulnerable situations.



One of our sponsorship families outside their home in the Mongolian countryside.

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

From that point on the Christina Noble Children's Foundation in Mongolia was born and the Child Sponsorship Programme first established. The programme initially supported ninety-eight children living in the capital city, Ulaanbaatar, but has since expanded its reach to the provinces in order to support those living in some of the country's most isolated and impoverished areas.

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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.<sup>1</sup>

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".<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

A view of the capital city, Ulaanbaatar.



<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSPContentServer/WDSP/IB/1996/06/27/000009265_3961214164741/Rendered/PDF/multi0page.pdf) [accessed 21/12/15]

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

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



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Parents often find work cleaning apartment blocks in exchange for a small salary and accommodation under the building's stairs.

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.

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%.<sup>4</sup>

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.<sup>5</sup> Official figures show the poverty rate declining from 27.4% in 2012 to 21.6% in 2014.<sup>6</sup>

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)<sup>7</sup> many families are now unable to afford basic living provisions such as adequate food and heating, and there is effectively

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

<sup>5</sup> 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]

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

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



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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.<sup>8</sup> This is to a large extent due to the incredibly high levels of migration from the 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.<sup>9</sup> Unfortunately however, this is not the case for the vast majority of the new arrivals and Mongolia now faces a situation where it's capital has 1.4 million people living in a city that was originally engineered to support a mere 400,000.<sup>10</sup>

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.



With no access to running water, people living in the ger district often have to walk long distances in freezing temperatures to collect reserves from one of the public wells.

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 unsavory adults, organised gangs and, sadly, also from their own families.

<sup>8</sup> 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](http://digitalcollections.sit.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3109&context=isp_collection) [accessed 12/01/16]

<sup>9</sup> 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]

<sup>10</sup> 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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## WHAT IS CHILD SPONSORSHIP?

*“The future of our world is the future of our children... our beautiful children. For many of them, it is a matter of giving them back their future, giving them a life, giving them hope” - Christina Noble*

Our Child Sponsorship Programme connects children and their families to people from around the world who wish to be part of a rewarding journey to create change in the lives of those most in need. Through building a bridge from families living in extreme poverty and hardship to people who want and are in a position to help, the Foundation's sponsorship programme works to facilitate a mutually beneficial and empowering relationship – human being to human being.

For just \$31 USD a month a sponsor gives a lifeline to a family living in desperate and vulnerable conditions, providing them with the financial means to eat, keep warm and for the children to go to school.

Our social workers monitor each and every family closely, supporting them emotionally and offering opportunities such as workshops and seminars to help with their personal development.



Long-term sponsor, Leonard Bernhardt, visiting some of his sponsored children at the Blue Skies Ger Village.



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Very happy with her special Tsagaan Sar gift!

One of the most beautiful and sometimes life-changing aspects of our programme is the cultural exchange and friendship that often evolves over time. Through an initial profile our sponsors begin to learn about their child and the challenging circumstances they and their family face. This understanding is developed further over the course of sponsorship through letters, reports, photos and other personal correspondence. With the guidance of our social workers many sponsors are able to meet the families that they have been supporting; this is always an incredibly memorable and heartwarming experience for everyone involved.

Since its beginnings in 1997 our Child Sponsorship Programme has supported thousands of children, many of who now have young families of their own and are living as happy, educated and independent adults. Through the love and care of our sponsors, our team's hard work on the ground and the strength of spirit that lies within our children, thousands of young people have been able to break the cycle of poverty both now and for future generations to come.

## SPONSORSHIP CRITERIA

Our social workers carefully assess each sponsorship application to ensure that the children and their families who are most in need receive support. Children that are selected generally come from home environments where there is a single parent and many young children, a parent is disabled, the main caregiver is an elderly relative and the child has been abandoned or orphaned, or both parents are unemployed or engaged in low paying work. The majority of our families have incomes that are below the poverty line.

It is a requirement that all children on our programme attend full-time education<sup>11</sup>. When children are eighteen their situation is reassessed. If they still require financial assistance and are continuing education then their sponsor will be contacted and asked whether or not they wish to continue their support.

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<sup>11</sup> Exceptions are made if both parents are disabled or a single parent is disabled and the child is considered a primary caregiver.

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## HOW SPONSORSHIP HELPS OUR CHILDREN

Every month the children on our sponsorship programme receive the equivalent of \$25 USD in local Mongolian currency, called the “Mongolian tögrög”.

These funds provide the crucial assistance needed in order to cover the costs of education such as stationery, uniform and travel. For the vast majority of children on the programme this monthly support is often the difference between attending school and receiving an education, or not.

Furthermore, as it is a precondition that each child on our programme goes to school, children are far less likely to drop out in order to pursue low paying work on the streets such as selling chewing gum and cigarettes. We believe that education plays a key role in helping these children break the cycle of poverty for good.

Extra uses for sponsorship money include the purchase of:

- Firewood and coal
- Clothes
- Food
- Extracurricular activities and courses

In addition to receiving much needed financial assistance from sponsors, the children and their families are also supported by our sponsorship team in Mongolia, which this year included two social workers, two translators, one driver and one project leader to monitor and organise the programme.



All children are required to wear school uniform, which can be a very expensive part of a family's budget and often one that they cannot afford. Because of this little girl's sponsor she is now able to buy a uniform and as a result can go to school.



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The social workers see most of our young people each month at distribution day, where the children and their families come to receive their sponsorship money. During distribution day the social workers speak with the children to assess their progress at home and at school, and to offer support in any other areas they may need it. The children and their family members can also see our Foundation's doctor, who attends each month to provide check-ups, nutritional support, basic healthcare and advice.



Our social workers conduct annual home visits to the children and their families on our programme. They also go to the homes of all prospective children to assess their living situation and create a profile for sponsorship.

Distribution days are also an opportunity for any letters, photos, parcels or drawings to be exchanged. Children are always happy to receive additional gifts from their sponsors such as toys and drawing supplies. Families would not be able to afford these non-essential items otherwise and they are received with great pride, appreciation and excitement.

Some sponsors may also choose to send extra financial assistance to their child for reasons such as to help with healthcare costs, purchasing extra coal and wood during winter, extracurricular activities, tutoring, birthdays or other special celebrations.

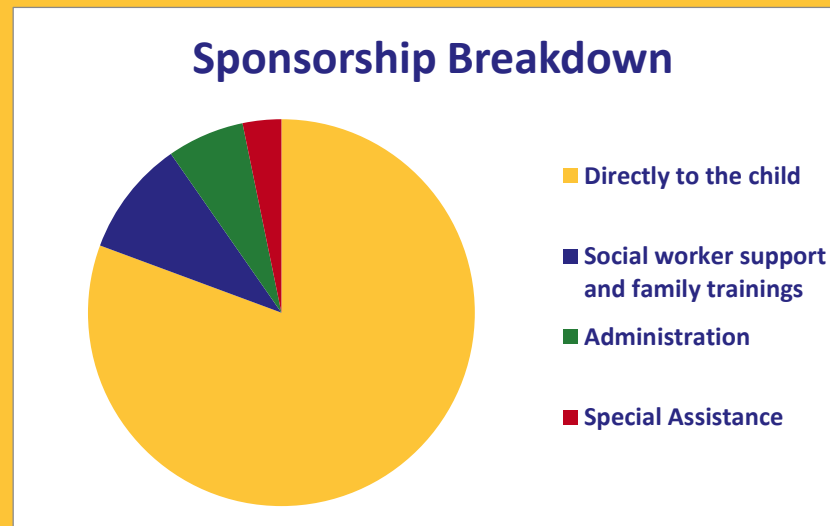
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For the children and families living outside the capital, and who are unable to attend our monthly distribution, sponsorship money is put directly into the children's personal bank accounts. In order to monitor and support these families, as well as collect and distribute correspondence and gifts, our sponsorship team conducts a biannual five-day visit out to the countryside. Each trip is carefully planned to ensure that every child on our programme – even those living in some of Mongolia's most isolated and hard to reach places – has at least one home visit a year.

Children living in Ulaanbaatar also receive an annual home visit from one of our social workers. These visits help to develop and strengthen the relationship between our team and the children as well as provide an opportunity for our social workers to gain a deeper understanding about the families' living conditions and any problems they are facing. Their assessment is included in the annual report, which is sent out with photos to each sponsor. In addition to the social workers evaluation, the child completes a section about their year including updates, achievements, any challenges and a personal note to their sponsor.

It is often during these visits that our team becomes aware about any serious challenges affecting a family's health, happiness or safety, which they will then try to resolve through allocating money from our Special Assistance Fund, enrolling them onto our Give-a-Ger Programme or in certain situations relocating the children to our Blue Skies Ger Village.

Additional trainings, seminars and workshops are offered throughout the year in order to encourage, support and inspire personal growth among the children and their relatives on our programme. We believe that providing these opportunities for learning plays a fundamental role in helping them to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to lead happy, adjusted lives in modern-day Mongolian society – ultimately breaking the cycle of poverty.



## \$31 PER MONTH - CHILD SPONSORSHIP BREAKDOWN

For \$31 USD a month you can help to change the life of a child in need and set them on a journey towards a bright and fulfilling future.



### \$25 directly to the child

This is used to cover the costs of education such as books, uniform, stationery and travel.

It also helps families to buy essentials items such as firewood and coal, food and clothes.

### \$3 Social worker support and family trainings

All of the children and families on our programme receive ongoing professional support from one of our Foundation's social workers.

They also have access to free personal development workshops and trainings; key to breaking the cycle of poverty for good.



### \$2 Administration

This is allocated to your local CNCF office to cover the administrative costs of the programme.

### \$1 Special Assistance

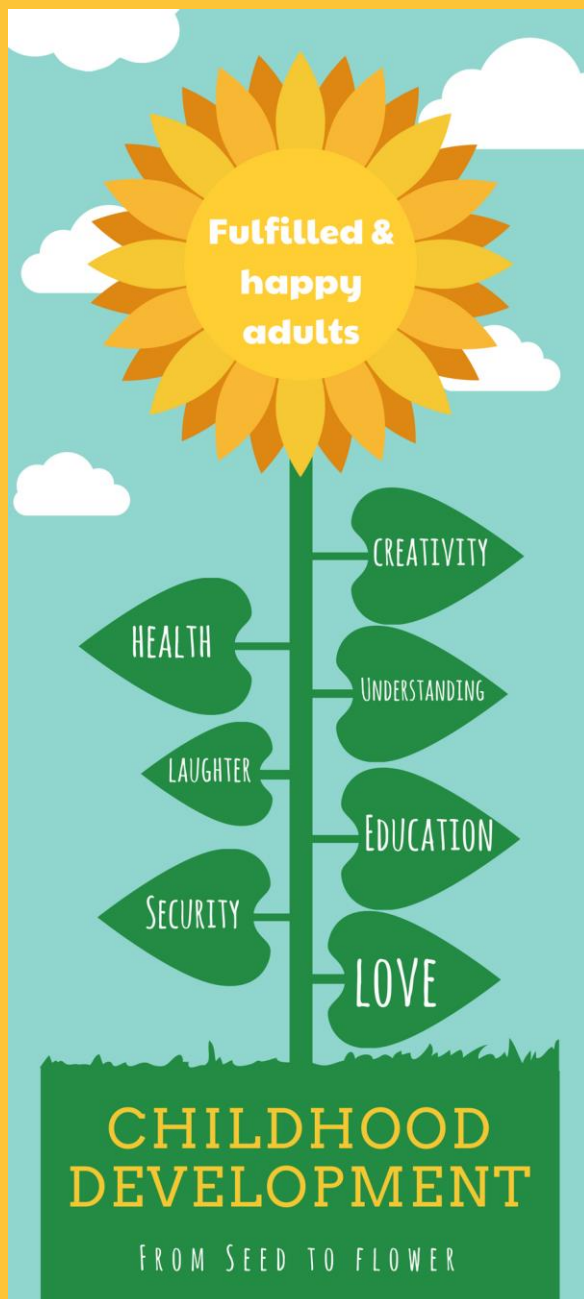
Often families need additional financial support for things like operations, housing repairs and major life events such as the loss of a spouse.

This acts as a reserve fund for any emergency situation that cannot be covered by sponsorship alone.





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## OUR YEAR

### 2016 Objectives

- Assess the living conditions of new children applying for sponsorship; finding a sponsor for those children most in need.
- Conduct annual household visits to monitor and assess the situations of the children and families currently on our programme.
- Promote child-sponsor relations through encouraging correspondence, sending and translating letters.
- Distribute sponsorship money, special assistance, letters and parcels.
- Evaluate requests for special assistance; providing additional financial support where it is most needed.
- Organise trainings and workshops for children and parents.
- Supervise countryside/local programmes.
- Maintain child sponsorship operations in the countryside.
- Continue the implementation of the Education Assistance and Special Assistance funds, and Give-a-Ger Programme.
- Provide medical assistance and services through our Healthcare Programme

### 2016 Overview

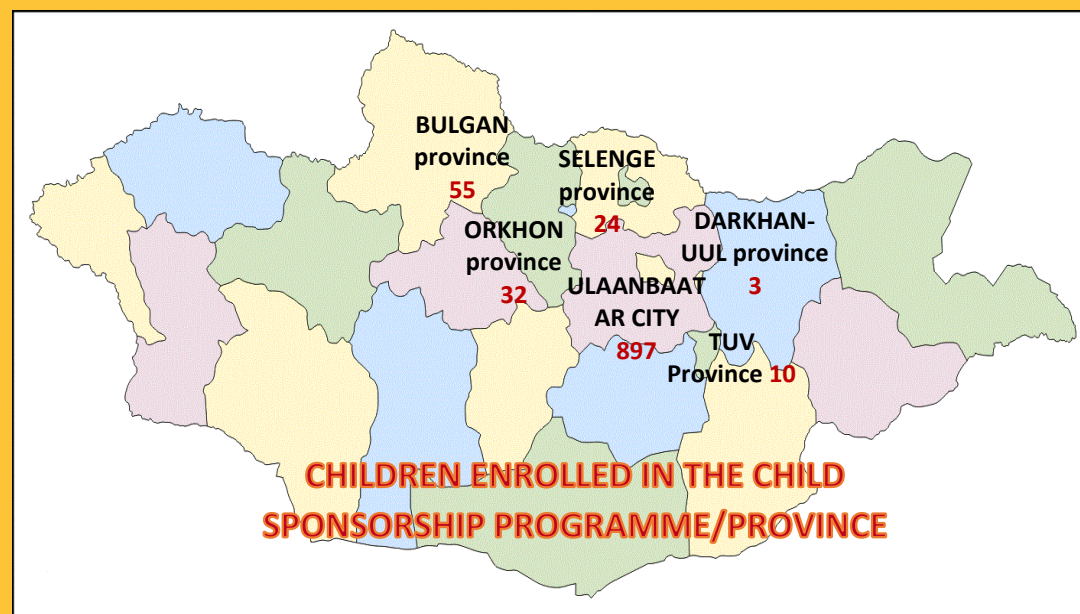
This year we successfully carried out all of our objectives helping to support a total of 1220 children and their families.

As of December 2016 a total of 1021 children are part of our Child Sponsorship Programme; 897 children (87.8%) reside in Ulaanbaatar and its ger district, while 124 children (12.2%) live outside the capital city in twelve different countryside locations.

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Life in rural Mongolia can be particularly challenging with many areas lacking the services, facilities, education and employment opportunities that families require in order to live healthy, happy and enriching lives. Through our Child Sponsorship Programme we have been able to reach many of these struggling families and provide them with the crucial assistance they need to improve their living standards and overall quality of life.

This year sisters Oogii and Pagma, who are living in the Selenge province, received effective nutritional assistance and medical treatment for their severe malnutrition. The debilitating medical condition, rickets, which had developed as a result, has since shown significant signs of improvement and both of these beautiful young girls are stronger, happier and more mobile than ever before. This deserving family also received a fully furnished ger through our Give-a-Ger Programme and are now living in a safe and comfortable home of their own for the first time. This is just one of many examples of how the Christina Noble Children's Foundation, with the support of our sponsors, has created lasting change to the lives of those most in need during 2016.



Having completed their education and after receiving ongoing support and guidance from our social workers, this year nineteen children living in rural Mongolia graduated from the Child Sponsorship Programme. They are now ready to embark on an independent future. We will continue to maintain a relationship with these young people and provide additional support through our Education Assistance Programme to those who wish to go on to university or vocational training.

Within Ulaanbaatar we have also had many accomplishments this year. A total of one-hundred-and-eighty young people graduated from the sponsorship programme, many of whom achieved exceptional grades and are looking forward to entering employment and living as self-sufficient adults. Other reasons that children graduated from our programme in 2016 included:

- The family's living conditions improved significantly and they are no longer in need of sponsorship.
- The child chose to leave full-time education.



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- Pregnancy and/or marriage, therefore they are no longer considered a child as defined by our child sponsorship criteria. We will continue to offer support in other ways such as providing the new family with a home of their own through our Give-a-Ger Programme.
- We lost contact with the family.
- Alcoholism or abuse within the home. In these situations our team contacts the local authorities and works with them to find an effective solution. In this case that meant rehoming the children at our *Blue Skies Ger Village*.

In addition to receiving monthly sponsorship money and ongoing care from our social workers, this year we have also supported the physical, emotional and social development of our children and their families in a variety of ways. These include:

### Healthcare

Many of the poor living in Mongolia have no access to clean water, sanitation, medication or good quality healthcare. This combined with the harsh winter climate, poor air quality, and lack of nutrient rich food, means that many of the country's lowest income families often face ill-health and an array of life threatening conditions.

Our Foundation's doctor attends each distribution day and provides full health check-ups and consultations to the children and their families at their request. She also administers high quality dietary supplements to those who are deficient in certain vitamins and minerals. If our doctor is unable to provide the necessary support, she will make arrangements for the



Our Foundation's doctor attends each distribution day to perform check-ups and offer healthcare advice.

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patient to be seen by a specialist at one of the city's hospitals. If this occurs any additional costs to the family, financial help will be offered through our Special Assistance Fund or by contacting the child's sponsor to see if they would like to contribute.

This year a total of three hundred and forty-four children or their family members received check-ups by our doctor and four hundred and forty medicines were distributed.



Creating underwater scenes at one of our sponsorship art workshops.

## Art and Dance

With thanks to the support of ArtiCour Gallery, this year we have been able to conduct monthly sponsorship art workshops in one of Ulaanbaatar's main galleries. The sessions are led by one of ArtiCour's professional teachers and provide an opportunity for our children to explore their imaginations, have fun and make new friends. Furthermore, they are an occasion for the children to be in a new environment surrounded by exciting, thought-provoking works of art to inspire their creative minds.

Five children also attend weekly street dance classes with ten of our children from the *Blue Skies Ger Village*. The lessons are held at the 'Aim4r Dance studio' in Ulaanbaatar, and provide our children with the chance to learn from some of the country's top street dance teachers. For these ambitious young dancers this is an incredible opportunity that without the Foundation's

sponsorship programme would only ever be a dream. We believe that it is through exposing our children to new ideas, experiences and people that we help them to discover their desires and capabilities and see beyond their often limiting and difficult circumstances.



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## Warm Clothing and Blanket Distribution

With thanks to the love and on-going support of our Foundation's long-term sponsor Jackie Preis and her dedicated team of helpers, this year we were able to distribute over one thousand warm knitted items such as jumpers, hats, scarves and blankets. Each piece had been handmade with special care and attention to detail and was received by our children and their families with happiness and gratitude.

## Toy Distribution

Toys provide a source of happiness and joy to all children. However, it's impossible for low-income families to buy these non-essential items when they can barely afford food. With thanks to the care and generosity of the Mongolian community in San Francisco, this year we received two large shipments of beautiful toys for us to distribute to the children on our programme. This, combined with the on-going shipment of packages we receive from UK sponsor Jackie Preis, meant that this year we were able to distribute over seven hundred toys to underprivileged children.

## Vitamin and Supplement Distribution

Due to their difficult living conditions many of the children on our programme have weak immune systems and vitamin deficiencies, which can lead to rickets, respiratory illnesses or viral infections. With thanks to the support of long-term sponsors Leonard Bernhardt and Jackie Preis, in 2007 we began a campaign to distribute supplements such as multivitamins and Omega3 fish oil to the children most in need.

Happy with her new woolly jumper and cuddly toy!



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This year one hundred and eighty-five children benefited from this campaign and as a result are now experiencing increased energy levels and improved health.



Receiving vitamins at sponsorship distribution day.

presentation We Min talked about the challenging and rewarding aspects of parenthood and gave insightful advice about how to raise healthy, happy and fulfilled children.

## Trainings

In Ulaanbaatar 65% of the population, approximately one hundred and eighty thousand households, do not have access to a proper sewage system and instead rely on poorly constructed, unhygienic 'long-drop' latrine toilets.

In September 2016, WaSH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Action of Mongolia organised a training session for families on our sponsorship programme. The course was titled "Water hygiene and sanitation" and provided important, practical advice on how to conduct daily water and waste regimes in a healthy and safe way. Six hundred parents attended this event.

Earlier on in the year one thousand and ten parents attended another valuable training session titled 'Parenting: A Rollercoaster Experience'. This was conducted by Lee Wee Min, Regional Director for Asia from the international non-profit organisation Focus on the Family.<sup>12</sup> During the

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<sup>12</sup> The Christina Noble Children's Foundation is a non-political and non-religious organisation. We are inclusive and respectful of all organisations and faiths that share our humanitarian values. Focus on the Family is a Christian based NGO. In alignment with CNCF's Ethics Policy all trainings delivered in partnership with Foundation are not religion focused in any way.



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## Performances

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 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 contortion. The event provided an opportunity for our children across both projects to have fun, make friends and showcase their creative talents. It was an incredibly heart-warming day, which left the challenges feeling inspired and impressed by the charismatic, confident and talented children we support.

## Outings and Celebrations

### Twins Day

Being a twin is considered something very special in Mongolia but for many children living in poverty this celebratory day often goes unnoticed. As it is part of our mission to create happy childhood memories that our children will carry in their hearts into adulthood, we make sure to celebrate days such as this as we believe they play an important role in weaving a childhood tapestry that is enriched with positive experiences.

To mark the occasion this year thirty of our twins enjoyed a fun-packed day where they played games, went to the cinema, visited a dinosaur museum, and ate lunch at a Vietnamese restaurant. The children also received



One of our sponsorship graduates performing the Mongolian 'Morin Khuur' with his band at our Noble Challenge concert.

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some thoughtful gifts such as books, toys, and a beautiful photo of them and their twin taken by a professional photographer. For many of our young twins this was the first printed photo they had ever had of themselves together.

### Eating out

This year our team organised two special meals out for our children in order for them to experience an aspect of modern day life that they would otherwise not get to be part of. We believe that through providing opportunities for our young people to try new things and experience different environments, we help them to overcome limiting beliefs and build self-confidence. In total seventy children attended the lunches



Our long-term sponsor Jackie Preis visits Mongolia regularly to provide additional help to the children and families that she supports as well as locate any new children who are in need. This year she visited with fellow sponsors Anne Mason and Heike Leitner. As always the children and their family members were over-the-moon to see the three familiar faces that have brought such love, warmth and hope into their lives.

which were kindly donated by the Mongolian Khasvuu Group.

### Sponsor Visits

Many sponsors enjoy visiting Mongolia and meeting their sponsored child in person. This year we were happy to welcome eight sponsors visiting from the UK, America, Belgium, Australia and Hong Kong. This was a special occasion for everyone involved and a valuable opportunity for our sponsors and children to get to know each other even better and gain a deeper understanding of one another's lives and culture. Sponsor visits provide some of the most beautiful and exciting moments in our year; they are always an incredibly memorable and heart-warming experience for us all.



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## Summer Camp

For Mongolian children, going to summer camp is an activity they look forward to all year. Sadly however, for the majority of children on our programme this is an experience that they will never be able to afford to have. This year, with thanks to the support of long-term sponsor Lynda Chaplin, seven of our children were able to stay at a camp located in the beautiful countryside just west of Ulaanbaatar. The children had lots of fun making new friends, playing games and exploring the natural environment. It was a special opportunity for them to take time out from their often challenging everyday lives and enjoy just being children.

### Archery

In July our children enjoyed a six-day Archery course led by national and world champion archers Simon and Michèle from Belgium.

Archery is deeply rooted in Mongolian culture and heritage, and is a sport that helps to develop confidence, focus and patience. The course was a great opportunity for our young people to make new friends while learning a valuable skill from kind, patient and professional teachers.



Learning archery outside in the beautiful summer sunshine



# 2016 Child Sponsorship Summary

**1220** children received sponsorship

**1021** children on the programme as of December

**151** new children registered

**199** sponsorships concluded

**1610** training admissions for parents and relatives

**344** children and their families received health check-ups

**185** children received vitamins

**1000<sup>+</sup>** warm knitted clothing and blankets distributed

**700** toys distributed

**8** sponsor visits

**110** children attended art, craft and dance lessons





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## CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME – SUBPROJECTS

### Education Scholarship Fund

To enable children from disadvantaged backgrounds receive a full and enriching education we offer all of our young people the opportunity to apply to our Education Scholarship Fund. The fund was established as a subproject of our Child Sponsorship Programme and operates to provide equal opportunities for children wanting to continue into further education but who lack the financial resources to do so.



It is always a special and proud moment to see our hardworking, determined students on graduation day.

Sponsors of children who wish to pursue their studies past eighteen are initially contacted and offered the opportunity to help with their child's tuition fees. If the sponsor is unable or unwilling to do so, the child then has the option to apply to our scholarship fund by meeting with our sponsorship team leader and presenting their motivations to continue in education.

The students are also required to write a short essay outlining their choice of subject, future aspirations and why it is important for them to receive a scholarship. If they fulfill our criteria and are committed to working hard and making the most of the opportunity, we will provide funding for the upcoming academic year.

It is compulsory that every student reapplies for funding each year, and that their academic progress and commitment is evaluated by our team on an annual basis.

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We offer this opportunity to all young adults who wish to pursue vocational training or a university or college education. Although not strictly limited to children who are already part of one of our Foundation's programmes, we do not advertise or promote the scholarship externally, therefore generally speaking all of the applicants are, or have previously been, under the Foundation's umbrella of care.

As a result of CNCF's Education Scholarship Fund many ambitious, talented and motivated young people, who would have otherwise had no choice but to leave education and enter unskilled unemployment, have been able to develop their skills and interests to become qualified, fulfilled and leading members of Mongolian society.

### 2016 Overview

This year thirty children were selected to receive scholarships through our fund. Out of these children, ten are either current or former residents at our *Blue Skies Ger Village* and twenty are children from our Child Sponsorship Programme. All of the students exhibited tremendous determination and commitment to continuing their studies and are deserving beneficiaries of the Education Scholarship Fund.

In addition to awarding new scholarships, twenty-one of our students graduated from university gaining degrees in subjects such as Social Work and Psychology, Engineering, and Law. To celebrate their academic achievements all of our graduates were invited to attend a special lunch with the CNCF team. During the event they talked about their career aspirations and shared heartwarming stories about their experiences of the Foundation. It was beautiful to see what confident, ambitious and thoughtful young adults they had become and celebrate the beginning of the next chapter in their lives.



This year's graduates!



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### *“My Experience As A Sponsored Child And Scholarship Recipient”*

*“At the beginning of 2009 I enrolled on the Child Sponsorship Programme. I was fifteen-years-old and living in the most difficult circumstances of my life. Thanks to the Child Sponsorship Programme a new door opened in front of me and my life conditions greatly improved.*

*When I joined the programme my father had just passed away and my mother was struggling to take care of my three siblings and me. She was unable to go to work because of her poor eyesight and painful stomach disease. My mother, with four children and no income, couldn't provide proper food, clothing or school supplies for us. We were always hungry, cold and scared about our future. When I started receiving the sponsorship money it had a big impact on our lives and provided the critical support that my family and I needed.*

*I heard that not every sponsor is rich, but they are all very kind and helpful people. This inspired me to want to become an educated and skilled adult so that I could find well-paid work and help other children like me living in hard circumstances. I have not only had financial assistance from CNCF but I have also received lots of love and support from my sponsor and the Foundation's staff. They have always encouraged me and helped me to believe in myself. Knowing that people care about my life has motivated me to always want to do my best so that I can make everyone proud.*

*I didn't think that I would be able to continue with my education after school, but thanks to the CNCF scholarship fund, this year I graduated from the Mongolian State University as an Accountant. I am excited about my future and deeply grateful to my sponsor and to the Christina Noble Children's Foundation for helping me and many other young people fulfill their dreams.” – Maagaa, 22-years-old*

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## Special Assistance Fund

The Special Assistance Fund was established as a subproject of the Child Sponsorship Programme and provides emergency assistance to children and their families in critical and risky situations. This year crucial financial support was given for things such as operations, medicines and treatments, housing repairs, food, and firewood and coal.

A special distribution was also carried out during the heights of winter prior to the Mongolian Lunar New Year, commonly known as 'Tsagaan Sar' or 'White Moon'. This is one of the most important holidays celebrated in Mongolia and brings together families and friends over traditional customs and food. Sadly however, for those living in poverty, participating in the highly respected and meaningful Tsagaan Sar practices is extremely difficult and often impossible. This can result in many parents feeling depressed and ashamed about not being able to provide their children with the same food, warmth and celebration that others around them are enjoying.

This year our team visited ten families that we identified as being most in need with supplies such as flour, rice, butter, oil, warm clothes, and firewood and coal. CNCF's distribution benefited approximately sixty people allowing them to enjoy this important holiday with their loved ones and start the New Year off with full stomachs, happiness and optimism for the future.

CNCF social worker, Altanzul, buying additional food supplies for one of our sponsorship children and his family





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In addition to helping families meet their basic needs, this year the fund was also used to help two of our talented athletes attend an International Judo tournament in China. We believe that supporting these determined children in the area that they are most passionate, plays an essential role in helping us to fulfill Chrisitna Noble's philosophy – to care and nurture each child as an individual, helping them to achieve their dreams and reach their own unique potential.

## Special Assistance - 2016

35

families received support

175<sup>+</sup>

children and their family members benefited

18

people received emergency medical care

150

sacks of coal delivered

75<sup>+</sup>

benefited from food supplies

2

Childhood dreams fulfilled



Additional food supplies were distributed during the holiday season.

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## OUR STORIES

### Former Sponsored Child – Purevdulam's Story

We first met Purevdulam in 2001 when she enrolled on our Child Sponsorship Programme.

At that time she was living with her mother in extremely poor conditions. Her mother, who had tragically lost her hand in an accident, was unable to work due to her disability and the family struggled to get by with limited government financial support.

Despite their desperate situation and the huge stress they were under daily just to survive, Purevdulam continued to work hard at school and achieve straight A's in all of her subjects.

When our social workers asked Purevdulam about her dreams she would speak with great excitement and determination about becoming a doctor and helping other people with health problems like her mother.



Purevdulam performing check-ups at our sponsorship distribution day



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After learning about her future ambitions our team arranged for Purevdulam to take the entrance exams for medical school. She did outstandingly and the college, who would usually give 680 points as their top mark, awarded Purevdulam a score of 800. Both her mother and our team were incredibly proud and excited that she could now start on her journey towards becoming a doctor.

As a result of her hard work and commitment, CNCF gave Purevdulam and her mother a ger through the Foundation's Give-a-Ger programme. She finally had a warm, safe and beautiful home of her own where she could focus on her studies in peace. Furthermore, the Foundation committed to funding Purevdulam throughout all of her education and supporting her where necessary with supplies such as books and stationery.

After successfully completing a six-year course at medical school, Purevdulam went to a town called Züünkharaa where she worked for two years gaining vital experience and helping the local community. This was a rewarding time for Purevdulam who enjoyed being able to provide the services and care that many people living in poverty desperately need.

Upon returning from Züünkharaa, Purevdulam enrolled in medical university where she is now studying for a further two years in order to achieve a higher qualification in Internal Medication. In between her studies Purevdulam has been working part-time at our sponsorship distribution days providing check-ups, medical advice and treatments to the children and their families on our programme. She is happy to be able to give back to the Foundation and support some of Mongolia's most in need and vulnerable people with good quality healthcare.

We are all so proud of Purevdulam's determination and achievements. Her success highlights the important role the Christina Noble Children's Foundation plays in giving young people the support they need to fulfil their potential and ultimately go on to lead independent, productive and happy lives. Purevdulam is now able to give back to the community and help others who are experiencing the same difficulties she faced as a child.

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## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The total **direct costs** of our programmes in 2016 are:

- Child Sponsorship Programme: \$333,262.47 USD
- Education Scholarship: \$23,054.23 USD
- Special Assistance Fund: \$5,949.14 USD

This includes all expenditure that is specific and dedicated to the running and operation of the programmes such as monthly financial assistance for the children, additional support, workshops and trainings, social worker and translator salaries, equipment and supplies.

The **indirect costs** of supporting our programmes in 2016 are:

- Child Sponsorship Programme: \$67,949.45 USD
- Education Scholarship: \$4,700.57 USD
- Special Assistance Fund: \$1,212.98 USD

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 from the Foundation's administration budget.

Our 2016 accounts are available upon request.

It is with thanks to love and care of all of our sponsors and their commitment to helping to improve the lives of some of Mongolia's most vulnerable and in need children that thousands of young people have been able to receive an education, healthcare and the emotional and physical support that they need in order to flourish.





## ***“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.

**Christina Noble Children's Foundation – Mongolia**

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