

# Sunshine Homes for Boys and Girls - Vietnam Annual Report 2016





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The mission of the Christina Noble Children's Foundation is to give children the necessary protection, care and education for them to sleep in peace, surrounded by love. Our Foundation is committed to helping alleviate child poverty in Vietnam and Mongolia and giving all children the opportunity to experience a happy and safe childhood.



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following donors for supporting our programmes.

*Leonard Bernhardt*

*Cofco Agri Group*

*WAGS Hong Kong*

By funding our Sunshine Homes, you help provide a safe and caring environment for young boys and girls living on the streets or from very poor families who are at high risk of commercial and sexual exploitation, drug trafficking and violence. With your support, these children have the opportunity to receive psychological counselling, healthcare, education and vocational training.

We would also like to thank our local government partner, DOLISA of HCMC, who makes it possible for us to implement the programme successfully.



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## ABBREVIATIONS

CNCF	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
DOLISA	Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
DOET	Department of Education and Training
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training
VND	Vietnamese Dong (currency)
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USD	US Dollar



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## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

	Sunshine Home for Boys	Sunshine Home for Girls
Established	1994	1997
Location	District 10, Ho Chi Minh City	
Objectives	To provide a safe and caring environment for young boys and girls who are either from very poor families or were living on the streets and were at high risk of commercial and sexual exploitation, drug trafficking and violence. The Homes aim to provide a safe haven, a place where the children are looked after in a nurturing and loving environment, and have an opportunity to receive psychological counselling, healthcare, education and vocational training that will enable them to live independently in the community when they are adults.	
Programme components	Residential Care; Healthcare; Rehabilitation; Education; Vocational and Life Skills Training	
Beneficiaries	Children (ages 5-18 years) from disadvantaged backgrounds including children from poor families whose parents/guardians cannot support them, orphans, abandoned children, children living on the streets and those who have faced or are at high risk of commercial and sexual exploitation, drug trafficking and violence	
Local Partners	The Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA), District 10, HCMC	
CNCF involvement	Directly responsible for full funding and financial management; co-management of the Homes with the local partners and provision of technical support to implement the project and facilitate recreational activities, extra-curricular activities and vocational and life skills training	
CNCF staff	Ms. Son Thu Trinh, Director of Operations - Vietnam Ms. Hoang Tu Uyen, Vice Director - Project Management Vietnam Ms. Nguyen Ngoc Minh Ngan, Programme Manager of the Sunshine Homes	
Monitoring and Evaluation	Because CNCF is directly responsible for financial management and funding, in addition to providing technical support, official monitoring visits to the Homes by the CNCF Programme Manager are conducted at least once every two weeks. Children in the Homes also participate in other CNCF programmes such as Sunshine Arts and Music and Sports Programmes, and the responsible Programme Managers receive regular updates about the children through their project activities. In addition, information and updates about the children are collected through project visits (scheduled and unscheduled) and timely support in different areas is provided when necessary. Meetings with local partners and/or staff at the Homes are held to provide project updates and resolve any issues. Weekly internal meetings are conducted for CNCF staff to discuss programme related issues and updates. Monthly, quarterly and semi-annual reports are sent by CNCF staff to the Board of Management. An end of year evaluation is conducted by DOLISA and CNCF to assess project results and an Annual Report is published.	
2016 Actual Costs	USD 66,276.29	USD 51,941.90
Future plans	The specific goals for 2017 are to provide friendly and well-furnished homes, sufficient and proper interventions to those who require special support (e.g., providing counselling services to help children overcome adversity they may have encountered prior to admission or during their time in the project) and maintain quality of existing services and facilities.	
Reporting period	January-December 2016	



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Community children - Photo by Vo Thi Xuan Huu

## PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) is Vietnam's largest commercial city and has always been the 'Promised Land' for the rural poor. According to the Ministry of Planning and Investment, 'over the last decade, rapid industrialization and urbanization, have taken place along with dramatic increases in migration to urban areas. Most foreign investment in Vietnam is concentrated in urban centres, which then attract more rural labour to big cities.' Many thousands of people migrate to the city each year in search of a better future. Such families are usually unskilled, have no relatives to support them and are often unable to adapt to city life. Many migrants end up in desperate situations. Typically, the children who come with these migrating families are not well cared for and are in great danger of ending up on the street and at risk of exploitation. HCMC has the largest number of street children in Vietnam, with a clear majority of them becoming victims of commercial exploitation, physical and sexual abuse, trafficking and/or drug addiction.<sup>1</sup>

Our Founder, Christina Noble, opened the Sunshine Home for Boys in 1994 to provide

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF: <http://www.data.unicef.org/countries/VNM.html>

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a safe and caring environment for young street boys who were at risk of starvation, commercial exploitation, drug trafficking and who were living under the threat of violence. The Sunshine Home for Girls was opened in partnership with the Women's Association of Ho Chi Minh City, in 1997. Before we gave them a safe haven, the girls, mostly runaways from abusive homes or troubled girls forced to live on the streets due to extreme poverty, were at constant risk of starvation and sexual and commercial exploitation.

Thanks to the support of our donors and sponsors, we have been able to provide children with a nurturing home that provides them the tools to achieve their goals and build better, brighter futures. The Sunshine Homes provide a safe, loving home environment where the children receive regular, nutritious meals and clean clothing. All children are sent to school and/or receive vocational training, depending on their age and ability. Those undertaking vocational training choose from a wide range of apprenticeship courses suited to their individual interests. We also encourage the children to develop their sport and artistic abilities through our Sports and Arts and Music Programmes. The Sunshine Home for Boys can accommodate up to 25 young boys at a time and the Sunshine Home for Girls can accommodate up to 20 girls at a time.

In the years since we first opened, our generous donors and sponsors have enabled us to provide a sustainable future for 1,009 children, 596 boys and 413 girls.<sup>2</sup> By giving them a safe home and a foundation to build upon in their formative years, our children have developed the confidence, life skills and self-belief they need to reintegrate back into the community and lead independent lives.



<sup>2</sup>This number represents the cumulative number of children who have lived at our Homes since the programme was started. Please note that many of these children live in the Sunshine Homes for several years.





As a regular activity, the boys gathering to help each other to learn and use English in daily life.



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The children are provided with a holistic range of care designed to facilitate their development and equip them to live independent lives as adults when they leave the Sunshine Homes.

## HEALTHCARE



Health insurance, medical check-ups, regular monitoring of general health and personal hygiene and on-the-ground medical assistance, as necessary.

## EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING



Formal academic study in school/university and career counseling and vocational training in different areas based on the child's aptitude and interest.

## PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Includes life skills training, recreational activities, social skills development and hobbies and extra-curricular activities organized through other CNCF programmes.

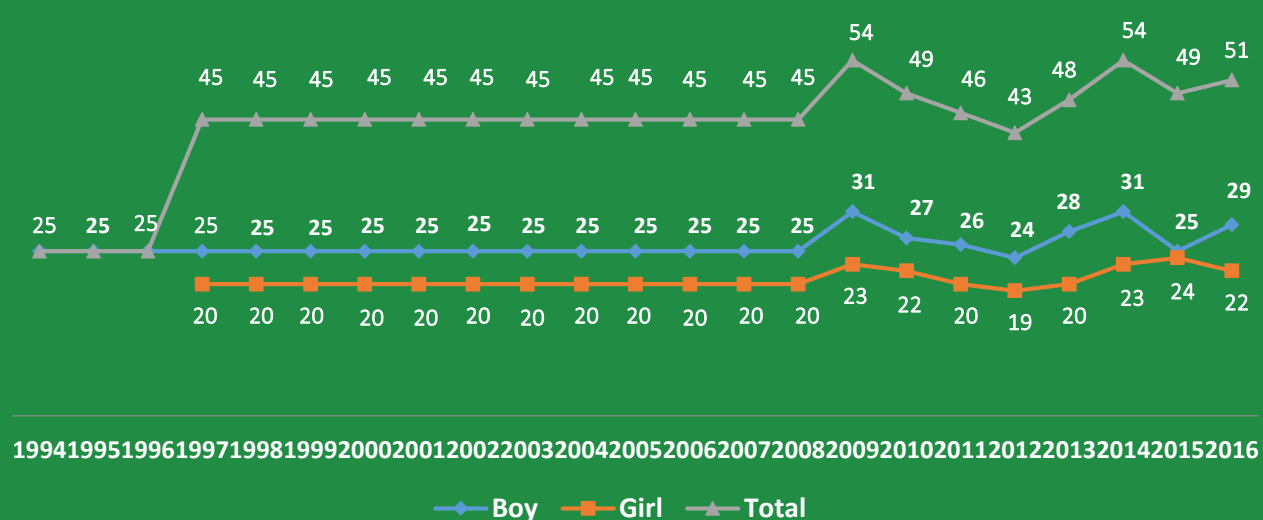


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## OUR YEAR - 2016 Highlights

Children living at all CNCF residential facilities receive a holistic range of care designed to facilitate their development and equip them to live independent lives as adults.

Number of children in our Sunshine Homes/ Year



## SUNSHINE HOMES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS HIGHLIGHT 2016



**51** Vulnerable children who were at risk of exploitation resided in our Sunshine Homes

22

29

**34** Children received education (pre-school, primary, secondary, high school, university and vocational training)



18

16

All children participated in extra-curricular activities such as music, art, dance, sports and English classes

**41** Children had an annual health check-up and every child received health and hygiene awareness training



Events and performances  
Field trips and visits  
Celebration

40+





Girl with a traditional lantern rehearsing for Mid-Autumn dancing performance at CNCF

- In 2016, there was a slight decrease in the number of residents at our Sunshine Home for Girls. This change might be due to a new trend among disadvantaged children. Rather than living on the streets, children are forming groups and renting accommodation to live together.
- This year, three girls left the Sunshine Home: two returned to live with their families and the third girl left to take care of her grandmother (she returned later in the year).
- Six boys left the Sunshine Home at the request of their families and another left to perform military service for two years. In addition, seven new boys moved into the Home, including a child who has been supported by CNCF's Sunshine Medical Centre for many years.
- Different recreational activities and events were organized for our children at the Sunshine Homes.



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## PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

### Healthcare

All the children at the Sunshine Homes receive healthcare that includes:

- Health insurance
- Annual health check-ups
- Regular monitoring of their health and hygiene
- Timely on-the-ground medical assistance when required
- General health and hygiene training

#### *Annual health check-up and recording of medical conditions*

All children received an annual check-up at a government hospital. Eye and dental check-ups also conducted. All children were also dewormed twice.

For those who joined the Homes during this reporting period, their medical conditions were recorded and follow-ups were conducted to make sure they received proper vaccinations.

#### *Regular monitoring*

The staff at our Sunshine Homes regularly monitor and evaluate the children's health.

In 2016, more than 10% of the children suffered from tonsillitis and some of them relapsed many times. Skin allergies and dental issues were also common. As a preventive measure, we provide the children with tonic and natural vitamins to improve their immunity.

At the Sunshine Homes, we also provide:

...ing topics such as common diseases and prevention and puberty  
...their own, discuss their concerns with others and seek their own

...ment, we also assign daily cleaning tasks in the Homes and in the





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Children at Girls home preparing for lunch



Boys at their annual health check-up at the hospital





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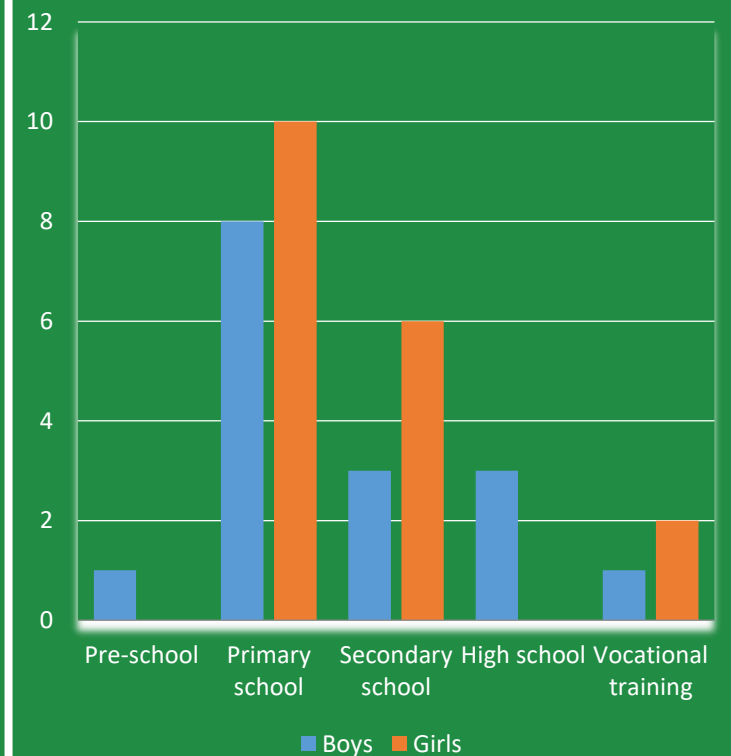
## Education

During the 2015-2016 academic year, 18 girls and 16 boys from our Sunshine Homes enrolled in local schools at different levels. Most of the schools are close to the Homes so the children can walk or ride to school. Academic performance of 91% of the children was above average. Children who scored below average were given extra tuition at the Homes and sent to extra classes, if necessary.

Children who join the Homes in the middle of an academic year receive support to enroll in school for the next academic year.



### Education Levels of Sunshine Homes Children



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## Personal and social skills development

CNCF recognizes the importance of personal and social skills in child development. Thus, we provide boys and girls living in the Sunshine Homes comprehensive skills training so that they can learn to take care of themselves and interact successfully with others.

### *Life Skills Training*

At our Sunshine Homes, children take part in training and sharing sessions focusing on issues related to behavioural development, attitude and modern social problems. Our children also learn from real situations during excursions and outdoor activities.

In 2016, the children learned about communication and conflict resolution, self-discovery and school violence. In addition, the safe use of social media was a point of focus. Children were also trained to deal with potential approaches by predators, kidnappers and strangers.

To improve the effectiveness of the training, we collaborate with other organisations that have expertise in conducting training for children and groups that have professional knowledge of specific issues. With the help of a local government officer, the girls from our Sunshine Home attended an awareness talk on a new kind of drug called 'Tem Giay-paper stamp'. Children from the Boys' Home also attended six training sessions on emotional control that were facilitated by local students.



Communication skills exercises.





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One of our girl's with her embroidery stitches

### ***Social Skills Development***

Boys and girls living in our Sunshine Homes are given opportunities to interact socially with local and international visitors. Most social interaction occurs during play and organized activities organized in which the children can establish a sense of self and learn what others expect from them. In addition to improving their social behaviour, the children also improve their communication, cognitive and motor skills and learn about other cultures.

Sunshine Homes children also take part in social events and interact with CNCF staff, volunteers, interns and donors on special occasions such as Children's Day and Mid-autumn festival.

### ***Hobbies and Recreational Activities***

Experiencing a fun and engaging childhood is important for comprehensive development of children, and thus, we focus on giving the boys and girls a tour Sunshine Homes the chance to choose from a range of activities. Through our Arts and Music and Sports Programmes, we organized regular extra classes and seasonal activities and made sure that these were easily accessible.

In 2016, more than 85% of the children attended extracurricular activities in art, dance, music and sports.





"My dream summer holiday" by a young child living in our Boys Home



First time at the basketball tournament



Playing



Summer camp with children from Sunshine Homes and students of CNCF's Sunshine School.





Children interacting with NBA players



A birthday party!



Learning how to make a chair in woodwork



Fire safety training





Children above 15 leaning about different positions in a large enterprise during a career orientation trip to a resort



During an annual visit, a CNCF sponsor long term sponsor taking boys and girls to the circus



Boys dancing to celebrate Teacher's Day (20<sup>th</sup> November 2016)



Girls enjoying making beaded bags, a regular handicraft activity at our Home

10/05/2016



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## OUR STORIES

### A New Life: A Story From Our Sunshine Home for Boys



Son having an interview in the meeting with NBA players

Son (name changed to protect identity) was only three when his mother left him with a man to whom she owed a debt. To pay his mother's debt, he was forced to sell lottery tickets for seven months. Throughout his early childhood, Son worked on the streets and the money he earned went straight into the man's pocket, leaving Son with an empty stomach. When the government was informed of his situation, Son was immediately sent to the Sunshine Home for Boys. At last, he was able to live with other children, sleep in a bed of his own and receive proper food and clothing. However, his past and lack of family cast a shadow on his life; he felt vulnerable, lacked confidence and struggled to express himself. He often covered his mouth and avoided eye contact during conversation.

Son has spent eleven years at the Sunshine Home for Boys and has gradually overcome the

ghosts of his past. He has built self-confidence through activities offered at the Boys' Home and interaction with people outside the Home. He has a keen interest in the English class that is organized and conducted by our Volunteer Programme. After just a short time of intensive study, Son has shown impressive progress and exhibited his language skills when he interacted confidently with a VIP foreign visitor in English. Moreover, he usually volunteers to look after younger children in the Home and stays beside their bed when they are not well. Son is now in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade and hopes to continue studying his favourite subject, English, in the future.



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## From Grief to Joy: A Story From Our Sunshine Home for Girls

Linh (name changed to protect identity) was left to live with her grandmother after her parents divorced when she was a toddler and neither of them took responsibility for her. The grandmother was seventy, suffered from poor health and struggled to feed and care for her grandchild. Although she lacked sufficient income to send Linh to school, she tried to keep her close for as long as possible. However, she finally decided to send Linh to the Sunshine Home for Girls when Linh was 8 years old. Two years later, Linh's grandmother passed away.

The care and compassion of the residents and staff helped Linh overcome her grief. In addition, she finally had the opportunity to attend school and extracurricular activities like dancing and drawing, which she previously only saw from afar. Thanks to her hard work and the support of our career guidance staff, Linh graduated from secondary school and applied to a cookery course. She was very happy with her decision and tried to learn more about the hospitality field on her own. In 2015, Linh finished her course when she was 19 years old and started working for SHRI Restaurant where she received an attractive salary for a recent graduate. She also met the love of her life at the restaurant and she got married in 2016.



Linh making cakes in her cooking course



Linh and her husband on their wedding day



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## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

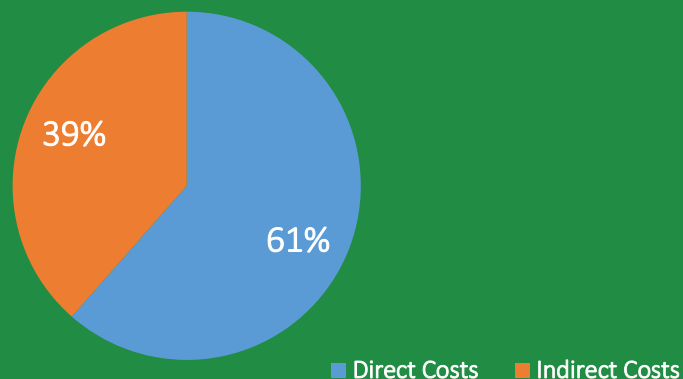
In 2016, the operational cost of the Sunshine Home for Boys was USD 66,276.29 and for the Sunshine Home for Girls it was USD 51,941.50.

Direct costs include costs of running the Sunshine Homes including repairs and maintenance, food and nutrition, medical and healthcare and provision of education, vocational and life skills training and recreational activities for the children. Indirect costs include salaries of project staff, stationery, communication, transportation and accommodation, security fees, and electricity and water allocated to the project.

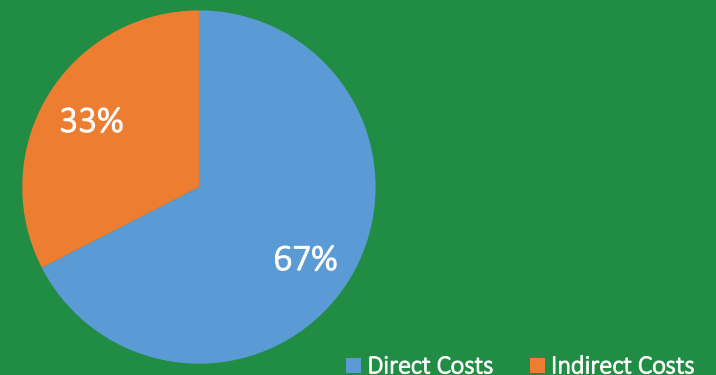
The project is funded by individual, corporate and institutional donors. Our 2016 audits are currently pending and will be available for distribution in the fourth quarter of 2017.

2016 audit available upon request.

Expenditures - Sunshine Home for Boys



Expenditures - Sunshine Home for Girls





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Sunshine Home for Boys – Expenditure 2016		
No.	Item	Amount (USD)
I	Operation fund	40,646.88
1	Child care services	21,810.00
2	Home staff salary	18,836.88
II	CNCF Project Management	22,930.10
III	CNCF staff salary	2,457.88
IV	Misc	241.43
	<b>Total</b>	<b>66,276.29</b>

Sunshine Home for Girls – Expenditure 2016		
No.	Item	Amount (USD)
I	Operation fund	34,766.34
1	Child care services	18,266.15
2	Home staff salary	16,500.19
II	CNCF Project Management	14,228.93
III	CNCF staff salary	2,457.88
IV	Misc	488.75
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51,941.50</b>

It is only because of the generosity of our sponsors and donors that we can continue our work with some of Vietnam's most vulnerable children.

Thank you for helping us give children back their childhood.





*“Childhood is the **foundation** of life. Help us make it a **good** one!” - Christina Noble*

Each of us is only one person. But by joining all the ones together, we can accomplish greatness.  
If you and your organisation are interested in supporting us in 2017/2018 please contact our Foundation.  
If it is only through the kind 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 - Vietnam

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