



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 abuse and exploitation.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to our generous sponsors, the Sunshine School continues to help us realise our Founder Christina's mission of giving the children in our care an education so that they can break the cycle of poverty and discover a brighter future. We are deeply grateful to the following donors:

Alison Hayes (UK)

Porticus Foundation (Hong Kong)



Special thanks to the United World College of South East Asia, Singapore, for sponsoring school kits for our Sunshine children.

Throughout 2016, our Sunshine children have had many opportunities to interact with, and be inspired by, professional artists and musicians. We would like to thank everyone who gave their valuable time to our Sunshine children. We would also like to thank the venues in Ho Chi Minh City that gave our children spaces to express their creativity and showcase their talents.

By donating to our Sunshine School, you help provide primary education to 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.

We would also like to thank our local government partner, MOLISA, who makes it possible for us to run our Sunshine School successfully.



ABBREVIATIONS

BSP Bicycle Support Programme

CNCF Christina Noble Children's Foundation

CSP Child Sponsorship Programme

ESP Education Scholarship Programme

HCMC Ho Chi Minh City

MOLISA Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs

SSS Sunshine School

UK United Kingdom

UN United Nations

USD US Dollar



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Established	1991			
Location	Ho Chi Minh City			
Objectives	To provide free, holistic, primary education to disadvantaged children and to help them integrate into the mainstream school system; to develop literacy and other skills that will help them attain higher education; to provide children with extracurricular activities, such as sports, music, arts, and excursions, for well-rounded development and give all children the opportunity to participate in educational activities that are designed to enhance their awareness and equip them with other necessary life skills; to ensure that vulnerable children stay safe from risks posed by organised crime, such as child prostitution, trafficking, and drug abuse; to bring vulnerable children into the Foundation's care and provide access to other facilities and support through other programmes like our Bicycle Support Programme, Child Sponsorship Programme, Educational Scholarship Programme and healthcare programmes; by giving children educational opportunity, to help their families break out of the cycle of poverty; and to help decrease the dropout rate in Ho Chi Minh City and contribute to the Vietnamese government's programme for illiteracy eradication.			
Programme Components	Primary school education up to Grade 5; extracurricular activities including arts, music, and sports; health check-ups and medical assistance; life skills training; counselling; and support through other CNCF programmes such as our Bicycle Support Programme, Educational Scholarship Programme, Child Sponsorship Programme, and Medical Assistance Programme.			
Beneficiaries	Children (ages 6–16 years) from disadvantaged backgrounds who are unable to attend mainstream primary schools for reasons such as not possessing required legal documents to enrol in school, being over the maximum age allowed to enrol in public primary schools, and economic constraints. These children come from poverty-stricken families including migrant children and children from ethnic minorities whose families have moved to the city for work, children whose parents/guardians cannot afford their education, children who live and work on the streets to support themselves and their families, and those who have faced or are at high risk of commercial and sexual exploitation, drug trafficking, and violence.			
Local Partners	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA)			
CNCF Involvement	Fully responsible for funding and programme management, monitoring and evaluation.			
CNCF Staff	Ms. Son Thu Trinh, Director of Operations, CNCF Vietnam, and Ms. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Quyen, Programme Manager, Sunshine School, CNCF			
Monitoring and Evaluation	Because CNCF is directly responsible for funding and programme management, regular monitoring and evaluation activities are conducted. Daily monitoring visits during programme activities are carried out by the manager of the programme. Information and updates about the children are collected through daily visits and timely support in different areas is provided where necessary. Meetings with the teachers and other staff are held for project updates and to resolve any issues. Prior to enrolment and as issues arise, our social worker and programme manager conduct home visits. Weekly internal meetings are conducted for CNCF staff to discuss programme-related issues and updates. Monthly reports and semi-annual reports are sent by CNCF staff to the Board of Management and an Annual Review of the programme is sent to all stakeholders.			
2016 Actual Costs	USD \$80,025			
Future Plans	To increase the proportion of children who achieve above-average academic results; to reduce dropout rates; and to enhance active involvement of parents through inclusive activities that help increase their awareness and build their capacity so that they can support us in achieving the ultimate goal of child development.			
Reporting Period	January-December 2016			



PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

Research indicates that getting children into school and helping them stay there can counteract the negative effects of poverty. Basic literacy and education is the first step toward vocational training, higher education, and gainful employment.

According to the UN in Vietnam, despite the country's progress in achieving universal primary education, the quality of education remains uneven and is acknowledged to be generally poor with a lack of well-trained teachers and appropriate curricular. Because Vietnam is a lower middle-income country, it is important for the education system to offer a type of education that not only teaches children basic knowledge and skills, but also equips them with competencies that prepare them for the changing world.¹

The UN also notes that, while according to law primary school students in public schools are not required to pay tuition fees, parents often

must pay other costs such as transportation, uniforms, learning materials, and informal fees set by schools or communes at the local level. Many children from poor households simply cannot go to school or complete their primary education due to economic constraints or their need to work to help support their families.

¹http://www.un.org.vn/images/stories/MDGs/MDG2_Eng.pdf

The rural poor have long viewed Ho Chi Minh City, the largest commercial city in Vietnam, as the 'Promised Land'. Many thousands of people migrate to the city each year in pursuit 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. Many children in Vietnam have either never attended school or are forced to drop out at an early age in order to support themselves and their families. The socio-economic pressures faced by these children means not only are they unable to afford the cost of schooling, but many must spend long hours assisting their families by scavenging on rubbish sites or selling chewing gum, lottery tickets, soft drinks, and food on the city streets. According to the most recent data available, 6.9% of children ages 5-14 are involved in child labour activities in Vietnam. In many cases they also live and work in areas rife with drugs and organised crime placing them at severe risk of child prostitution, trafficking and drug abuse.

Our Founder Christina Noble saw education as the way to break the cycle of poverty. This led to her founding a school in 1991 to provide both street children and children from destitute families the opportunity to attend school at flexible hours. Christina called the street children of Ho Chi Minh City her 'Sunshine Children'. Yellow is Christina's favourite colour: 'bright bold, sunshine yellow.' And so the school became known as the Sunshine School. The school is located at the Foundation's centre of operations in Vietnam. During the last 20 years of operation the school has grown considerably and now offers six primary education classes, grades 1 to 5. When Christina first opened the doors to the Sunshine School, there were just 30 children. The numbers have grown and, with our donors' generous support, we now provide over 100 children with schooling every year, filling classrooms with the smiling faces of children who are eager to learn.



A child is considered to be involved in child labour activities in the following circumstances: (a) children 5 to 11 years old that during the week preceding the survey engaged in at least one hour of economic activity or at least 28 hours of domestic work, and (b) children 12 to 14 years old that during the week preceding the survey engaged in at least 14 hours of economic activity or at least 42 hours of economic activity and domestic work combined.

UNICEF: http://www.data.unicef.org/countries/VNM.html





OUR SUNSHINE CHILDREN

Direct Beneficiaries:

The children enrolled in our Sunshine School are:

- Between the ages of 6 and 16 years
- Come from underprivileged families, are street children, or come from migrant families, including ethnic minorities who have moved to HCMC to work
- Children who are over the maximum school age or otherwise excluded from mainstream schools because they lack the required legal documents to enrol (often the case for migrants to HCMC)

Currently, of the children enrolled in our school:

- 64% of children's parents are separated
- 8% of students are ethnic migrants
- 90% of our children live in slums with their families
- -19% of children have to work to support themselves

We assess the family's circumstances through our enrolment process and annual home visits.

Indirect beneficiaries:

Sunshine School students' families and relatives:

Children receive holistic education that includes academic study and extracurricular activities (art, music and sports). In addition, our Sunshine children also follow a healthcare programme and receive counselling. One of the main aims of the Sunshine School is to help integrate children into the mainstream school system. Once they graduate, students can then apply for financial support under the Sponsorship Programme and Education Scholarship Programme to facilitate their integration back into mainstream education and/or their pursuit of higher education.

OUR YEAR

2016 Highlights

In 2016, our Sunshine School continued to provide holistic education to our children that comprised academic study, as per the national curriculum, extracurricular activities including languages, arts, music, sports, healthcare, counselling and social and life skills.

- 145 children (64 girls and 81 boys) from disadvantaged, poor and migrant families were enrolled in our Sunshine School
- 19 of our fifth grade students graduated from primary school having passed their primary level examinations
- Our school social worker conducted 211 home visits and 314 counselling sessions and referred 69 children to other programmes for further assistance
- Our Sunshine School children continued to receive healthcare through CNCF and participated in several extracurricular activities, events, and celebrations through the year



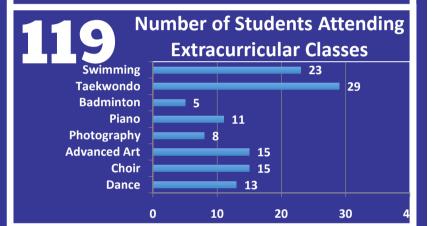
PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS 2016

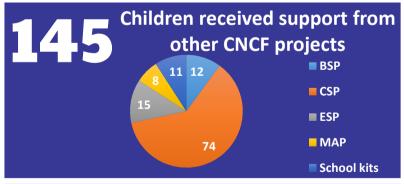


180



Children from poor, disadvantaged families received primary education

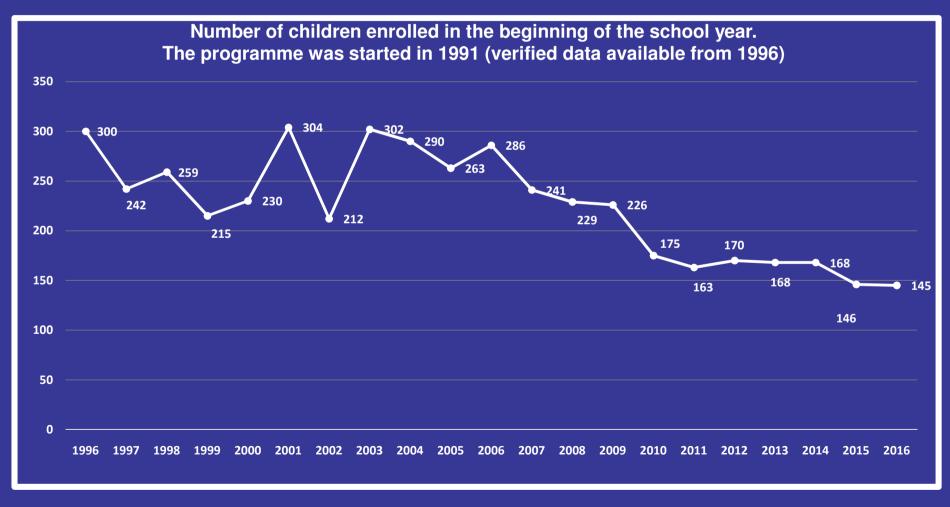




314

Counselling sessions provided to children and parents during 211 home visits to children's families

We have observed a steady decrease in the number of students in our Sunshine School since 2007. This is because of an increase in the number of growing organisations providing free primary education. However, the Sunshine School continues to be the only remaining free schools for disadvantaged children in HCM City providing holistic education with equal importance placed on academics, extracurricular activities and social and personal development.



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Education

Our Sunshine School curriculum aligns with the national public educational system. Subjects taught include mathematics, Vietnamese, science, history, geography, ethics, English, music, and arts. Our students attain the same knowledge and develop the same skills as their peers in mainstream schools. The solid educational foundation they receive helps underprivileged children make a smooth transition to higher education.



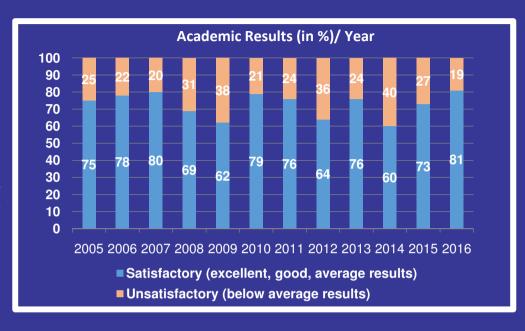
The school's curriculum is based on modern social theory and equips children with basic primary education while developing their skills, behaviour and attitude through extracurricular activities. We provide life skills training to develop social and interpersonal skills and music, art and sports activities to facilitate social and physical development. These experiences play a vital role in nurturing children's interests and ensuring well-rounded development. We believe that by providing children with high-quality education we can break the poverty cycle and help build a new generation of community leaders.

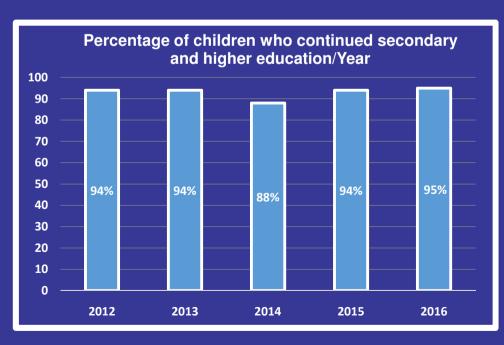
In Vietnam, few vocational training schemes or high-quality jobs admit students who do not have at least a school certificate. Our Sunshine School provides children with the educational skills they need to attain this much needed certificate and they also learn how to interact socially with other children and adults, skills that are crucial to their future success.

In 2016, the school offered six sessions to 145 students in grades 1 to 5 (three morning sessions and three afternoon sessions).

Academic Results

In the most recent school year, 81% of students obtained excellent, good, and average scores, which are now referred to as "Satisfactory" in the Ministry of Education's new grading system. About one in five children (19%) performed below average ("Unsatisfactory"). These children were given extra tutoring. It is important to note that our children come from homes that do not provide a conducive learning environment, many children are behind academically and some have learning difficulties.





Tutoring

Our teaching and programme staff are working to introduce the proper tools to address academic performance issues in our children. To enhance our children's grade average, we hold tutoring classes three times each week. These extra lessons for children experiencing difficulties helps prevent them from dropping out of school and giving up on their education. In addition to providing disadvantaged children with free primary education, thus relieving their parents of the burden of tuition and other fees, we also offer lunchtime tutoring and reading sessions for students whose parents work in other districts and cannot pick their children up on time.

Secondary and Higher Education

Access to continuing education is critical for breaking the cycle of poverty. The national completion rate for lower secondary education (2011–2012) is 81.3%.3 One out of four children in the Central Highlands and three out of ten children in the Mekong River Delta have not completed lower secondary education. In the Southeast provinces (including HCMC), 82.1% of children have attended and completed secondary school, but because of urban poverty, the risk of children dropping out of school is very high as their priority is to work and earn a living.

It is always a matter of great pride for us when our Sunshine children continue their education and we endeavor to continue to support the children through other CNCF programmes. In 2016, nineteen of our fifth grade students graduated from primary school after passing their primary level examinations. Of the children who graduated, thirteen are now in the Child Sponsorship Programme and the others transferred to the Education Scholarship Programme to continue their studies in secondary school.



³ Country Report. 15 Years Achieving the Millennium Development Goals, September 2015 (source GSO 2007-2012)

Dropout rate

An issue we continue to face every year is mid-year dropouts. Whenever a child is taken out of school, we make every effort to meet and talk to the parents to see if there is any other solution. In most cases, the reason for a child being withdrawn from school is financial. We try to provide alternative solutions but unfortunately, we are not always successful.

In 2016, sixteen children (seven girls and nine boys) dropped out of school mid-year. The reasons for dropping out were varied.

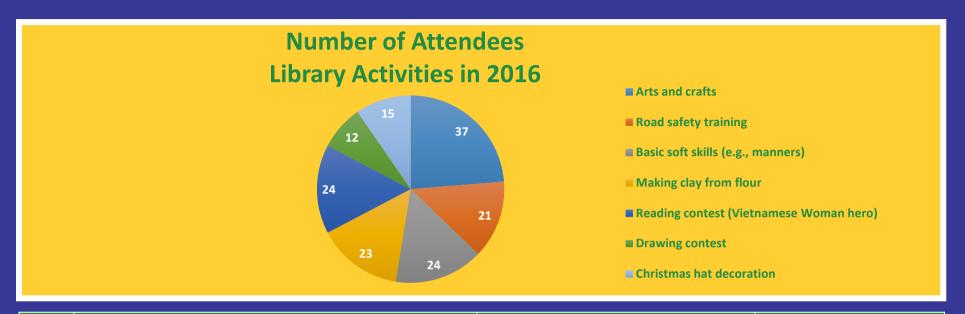
- 6 children changed schools because they moved locally or back to their home towns
- 6 dropped out of school to help support their families
- 4 dropped out because they had no one to bring them to and from school or they had health problems

Extracurricular Activities

The Sunshine School employs a holistic approach to education that provides students access to extracurricular activities including music and arts, sports, and essential living values and positive life skills trainings. These activities encourage and nurture children's skills, self-expression, and self-confidence and thus, boost their creativity and imagination. In addition, because our Sunshine students are at high risk of drug abuse, violence and prostitution because of their complex living environments and neighbourhoods, after-school activities help keep children at school and limit their time spent on the streets. Furthermore, extracurricular programmes serve as channels through which our staff quickly identify children potentially at risk and in need of help as indicated by changes in behaviour and/or decreased class attendance. When necessary, we provide timely interventions such as home visits, comprehensive counselling and group work.

In 2016, thirteen students joined the dance class, fifteen enrolled in the SSS choir, fifteen took advanced arts classes, eight practiced photography, eleven studied piano, five played badminton, twenty-nine took taekwondo and twenty-three participated in swimming classes (a new activity for fifth grade students in 2016).

The Sunshine School also houses a library with hundreds of books and magazines. There were 2022 visits to the library in 2016. Children can come to the library to read after class and borrow books and magazines to read at home. To promote reading, the library organises many extracurricular activities.



No.	Skills Training Courses Held in 2016	Number of Sessions	Number of Attendees
1	Politeness and its advantages	2-1 hour sessions	138 (All grades)
2	Emotional Challenges	2-1 hour sessions	138 (All grades)
3	How to avoid sexual abuse	3-1 hour sessions	138 (All grades)
4	How to deal with emergency situations (e.g. getting lost, home alone, trafficking)	6-I hour sessions	60 (Grades 1–3)
5	Emergency First aid	3-1 hour session	76 (Grades 4 and 5)















Social Work Services

What sets our Sunshine School apart from other similar schools and organisations offering primary education is that for us, our Sunshine children are not just students, they are family. In addition to free primary education, we provide a holistic range of care designed to facilitate child development. Because our Sunshine children are vulnerable and come from disadvantaged backgrounds that put them at risk of dropping out of school and in danger of exploitation, we established the school social work service to help our children manage problems they face and continue in school.

The school social worker has an in-depth understanding of the family background of each student. She makes home visits and provides counseling to students and their families to identify appropriate approaches on a case-by-case basis. Through home visits, the social worker observes the living situation, social environment, and economic conditions in which the students and their families live and assesses risks children might be exposed to. These observations offer insights into the lives of our Sunshine children and, based on this knowledge, we develop appropriate intervention and support plans. Consulting, counseling, and referral services are provided in a responsive and timely manner to support students and help them stay in school. Our social worker uses a participatory approach to counseling that amplifies the voices of students and their families.

We introduce school social work activities to parents at yearly parent-teacher meetings and during home visits. We encourage students and parents to reach out to the social worker for help when in need.

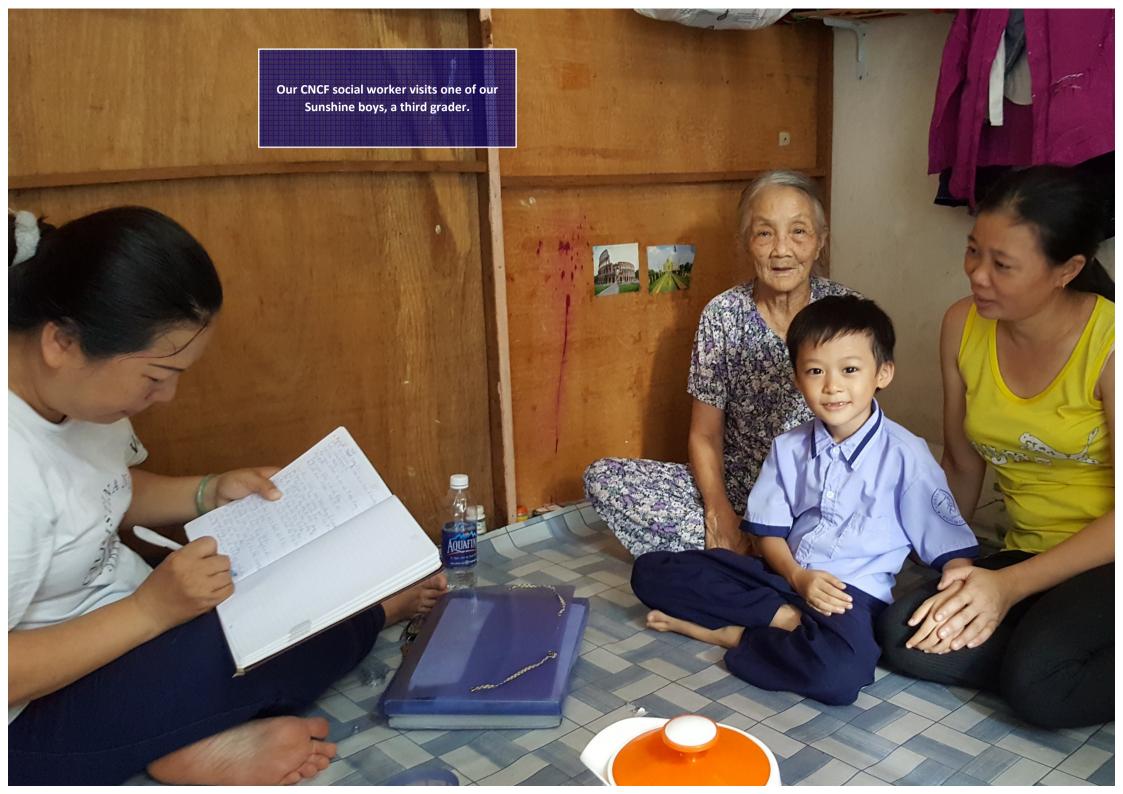
Communication between teachers, students, parents, and the school social worker is achieved through the systems of assessment, weekly meetings with teachers on student progress and direct communication between the social worker and students and families.

In 2016, our school social workers conducted 314 counselling sessions, 211 home visits, and referred 69 cases to other CNCF programmes for further assistance. More than half of our students were in the Child Sponsorship Programme (74 students). 31 children were diagnosed with developmental delays or behavioural problems. Of these, 11 were selected to work with a outside specialists, the remaining children were

given extra focused care from our social workers.

"I am a 5th grader at the Sunshine School. Thanks to our teachers and social workers for their guidance which makes me feel safer and happier. I also feel more motivated and stronger in taking firm steps to make my dreams come true. I love the Sunshine School, this is the happiest part of my day" - Thanh









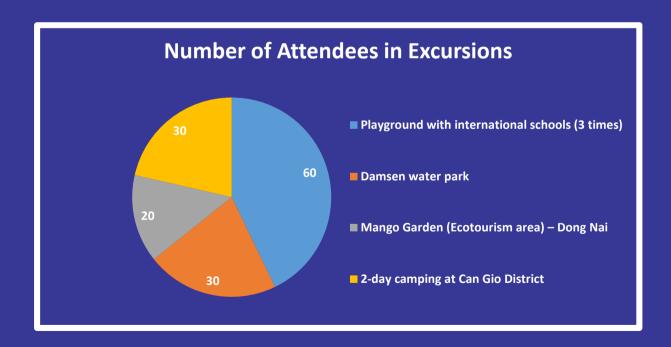


Personal and Social Development

We seek out opportunities that allow our children to interact socially. Through social interaction with people from outside the Sunshine School and their immediate environment, the children develop a sense of who they are, they learn appropriate social behaviors and they begin to foster independence. The children also participate in social events with CNCF staff, volunteers, interns, and donors. During the year, most of the Sunshine students had the opportunity to interact with international school children from Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia, as well as corporate visitors. Despite obvious language barriers, the Sunshine students and their international counterparts communicated with each other and had a great time. Thanks to these activities, the children's communication skills and self-confidence improved enormously.

This year, Sunshine students had numerous opportunities to participate infestivities, such as the Mid-Autumn Festival, Vietnamese Teacher's Day, Children's Day, and Christmas.

In 2016, a child's right to play was promoted in almost all SS events. SS children participated in organising the events as part of the organising team.



















OUR STORIES

Mai (name has change for child protection) - Grade 5

Mai's schooling was interrupted because of her family's financial situation. Mai attended grades 1 and 2 at Ket Doan Primary mainstream school, but transferred to St. Vincent school in 2014 for grade 3 because her parents could no longer pay tuition fees. Mai finished grade 3 at St. Vincent school for the underprivileged in 2014 and moved to the Sunshine School in 2015.

Mai's parents used to work for a small "Cai Luong" band, a Vietnamese traditional musical performance. The band regularly travelled to provinces and remote areas to entertain the people there so Mai's parents had to bring their children along. The travel negatively affected the children's schooling and the job did not pay well. They decided to quit and Mai's father has since struggled to maintain steady employment. Mai's mother washes dishes from 11am to 11pm at a restaurant for a daily wage of US\$6. The family are in debt for US\$500 and they are committed to paying US\$4 in daily instalments.

Mai loves school and is very committed to her studies. She is now sixteen years old and in fifth grade. If her schooling had not been interrupted, she would be in tenth grade. Mai was voted by her peers to be class monitor. Her academic performance the past two years has been excellent and she participates in many extracurricular activities including piano, art, dance, and choir. Her teachers consistently compliment her attitude toward learning. She also helps the younger students in her classes and serves as a mentor to many of them. In addition, Mai served as MC for many of the school's events in 2016 and a painting she made was presented to the Vice President of Vietnam during her visit to the Sunshine School.

Mai asked us to thank all CNCF's sponsors for allowing her the opportunity to go to school. From the very first day, she has enjoyed her time at the Sunshine School so much. We are so proud of Mai's achievements and we will continue to support her so she can continue to chase her dreams.





Huong (name has changed for child protection) - Grade 6

Huong is one of nineteen fifth graders who passed their final primary exams in May 2016.

Huong's father left when her mother was still pregnant with her. Her mother remarried and Huong moved to live with her diabetic grandmother. Huong was admitted to the Sunshine School in grade 1. Her grandmother, who recognised the value of education, realised that she could not afford to send her granddaughter to a mainstream school.

Unfortunately, Huong's grandmother passed away two years ago. Huong now lives with her mother, step-father and two siblings who are nine and two years old. After giving birth to her second child, her mother was diagnosed with HIV. She is now taking medicine daily to control the disease. Her mother sells lottery tickets, earning around US\$5 a day. Her step-father is a

builder who earns around US\$10-15 a day, but his work is unstable. In addition, he also has two other children with his first wife to support. After school, Huong cares for her two-year-old brother so her mother can spend more time on her business.

Despite a difficult life, Huong's academic performance was outstanding. She was also an active participant in extracurricular activities where she could temporarily forget the hardship that she and her family have to deal with on a daily basis.

After finishing her primary education at the Sunshine School, she was referred to our Child Sponsorship Programme. The monthly financial support she receives has allowed her to continue to grade 6 in a mainstream secondary school. She still attends Taekwondo class at CNCF and sings with the Sunshine Choir when possible.

We are so proud of Huong's achievements and are happy that we can continue to support her education.



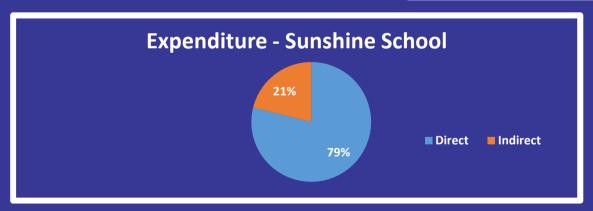
FINANCIAL OVERVIE

The operational cost of the Sunshine School was USD \$80,025.

The direct costs include the actual costs of running the Sunshine School including repairs and maintenance, providing education, life skills training, school supplies, heath check-up, recreational activities for the children and salaries of staff and teachers. Indirect costs include stationery, communication, transportation, security fees, water and electricity allocated to the project.

In 2016, there was an increase in indirect costs because the school social work programme was expanded and one case manager was added to the project management team.

Sunshine School Programme - Actual Expenses 2016				
NO.	ITEM	AMOUNT (USD)		
Direct Expenses				
1	School Supplies	8,542		
2	Life skills training	1,159		
3	Student annual health check-up	683		
4	Student Counselling	7,605		
5	Additional student support and family assistance	4,646		
6	Educational trips and Excursions	2,289		
7	School Events & Performances	2,029		
8	CNCF Staff Salary: Principle/Vice principle/Teachers/			
	(11 full time + 4 part-time)	35,041		
9	Staff annual health check-up	239		
10	Repair & maintenance	275		
11	Others	620		
Indirect Expenses				
12	Transportation	500		
13	Security Fees	2,168		
14	Administration	14,229		
	TOTAL	80,025		



It is only through the kind generosity of our sponsors that we are able to 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. 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 website: www.cncf.org | email: vietnam@cncf.org