




# **Tay Ninh Residential Centre for Visually Impaired Children - Annual Report 2016**



**CONTENTS**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**ABBREVIATIONS**

**PROGRAMME OVERVIEW**

**PROGRAMME BACKGROUND**

**OUR YEAR**

**2016 Highlights •**

**Programme Activities •**

**OUR STORIES**

**FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**

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.



**ONE** person can make a difference. **YOU** can make a difference.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank our following donors for supporting this Programme:

- Argon Masking (USA)
- Berwin Leighton Paisner (HK)
- Australian International School (HK)

By supporting our Tay Ninh Centre for the Visually Impaired, you are helping to give some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children an education and lifeskills that allow them to lead independent lives.

We also thank our local government partner, the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) of Tay Ninh Province, who make it possible for us to implement the programme successfully.

**ONE** person can make a difference. **YOU** can make a difference.



## ABBREVIATIONS

CNCF	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CWD	Children With Disabilities
DOLISA	Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
DOET	Department of Education and Training
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training
VND	Vietnamese Dong (currency)
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USD	US Dollar



Children living in Tay Ninh Centre especially love music singing and dancing

**ONE** person can make a difference.**YOU** can make a difference.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

<b>Established</b>	1999
<b>Location</b>	Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam
<b>Objectives</b>	To provide visually impaired children with shelter, food, healthcare, education, rehabilitation and vocational and life skills training so they can become self-sufficient and successfully integrate into the community when they leave the Centre.
<b>Programme components</b>	Residential Care, Healthcare, Rehabilitation, Education, Vocational and Life Skills Training
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	Children (ages 6 to 18 years) with visual impairments who come from underprivileged families residing in the Tay Ninh Province. In addition, one child currently at the Centre is from Ca Mau Province.
<b>Local Partners</b>	The Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) of Tay Ninh Province
<b>CNCF involvement</b>	Directly responsible for funding and financial management, providing management and technical support to implement the project and facilitating extra-curricular activities and life skills training.
<b>CNCF staff</b>	Ms. Son Thu Trinh, Director of Operations Ms. Hoang Tu Uyen, Vice Director Ms. Nguyen Ngoc Minh Ngan, Programme Manager
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	Because CNCF is directly responsible for the financial management and funding, as well as provision of technical support, the CNCF Programme Manager conducts official monitoring visits to the Tay Ninh Centre at least every month. Information and updates about the children are collected through project visits (scheduled and unscheduled) and timely support in different areas is provided where necessary. Meetings with the local partners and Tay Ninh Centre staff are held for project updates and to 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 results of the project and an Annual Report is published.
<b>2016 Actual Costs</b>	66,406.11 USD
<b>Future plans</b>	The goals for 2017 are to promote activities aimed at diversifying the models of rehabilitation and vocational course options and to build capacity of the local staff by increasing their participation in external workshops and internal training courses.
<b>Reporting period</b>	January–December 2016



**ONE** person can make a difference. **YOU** can make a difference.

## PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

Tay Ninh Province is located approximately 100 kilometres southwest of Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC). A largely rural province, it lies in the northern Mekong Delta, surrounded on three sides by Cambodia. Its current population is around one million.<sup>1</sup>

Tay Ninh was the scene of extensive military action during the Vietnam War. Approximately 700,000 gallons of defoliants (Agent Orange) were sprayed in the province during the 1960s, covering land area of 933 square kilometres (23% of the total area of the province).<sup>2</sup>

After the war, there was an increased incidence of serious eye deformities and blindness among children born in Tay Ninh. The still-prevalent high incidence of visual impairment within the community is now attributed to several factors including the lasting effects of the use of chemicals during the war, inadequate health education and monitoring, inadequate access to medical care and malnutrition (including malnutrition during pregnancy).

Many children born with visual and other impairments in Tay Ninh come from families facing economic hardships. These children are made even more vulnerable because of their disabilities and they often face discrimination and/or exclusion from their families or the local community. Our founder, Christina Noble, established the Tay Ninh Centre for Visually Impaired Children in 1999 to provide a secure and caring environment for these vulnerable children.



<sup>1</sup>Department of Industry and Commerce, Tay Ninh Province

<sup>2</sup> Bailey, Charles: The Aspen Institute Agent Orange in Vietnam Program, People with disabilities and Tay Ninh Province March 2013

**ONE** person can make a difference. **YOU** can make a difference.



The Tay Ninh Centre functions as a residential and educational Centre for children with partial or total blindness. We provide the children with healthcare; education, including formal education, rehabilitation and life skills training; recreational activities; and vocational training. Our aim is to give the children the tools they need to discover their potential.

The Centre has the capacity to accommodate over 60 visually impaired children. It has been in operation for over 17 years and has gained the respect of the local authorities and community because of the incredible impact it has made in the community and the opportunities it offers the children.

Over 700 children<sup>3</sup> with visual impairments have expanded their capabilities at the Centre and have gone on to lead healthier and more independent lives. Over 100 children have graduated from the Centre and are now self-reliant. Furthermore, over 300 children, mostly comprising siblings of children who reside at the Centre, have been indirectly impacted in various ways.

<sup>3</sup>This number represents the cumulative number of children who have lived at our Centre. Please note that many of these children live at our Centre for many years.





Playing chess is one of the most favorite activities in free time.  
For fair play, children who are partially blind will cover their  
eyes with blindfolds



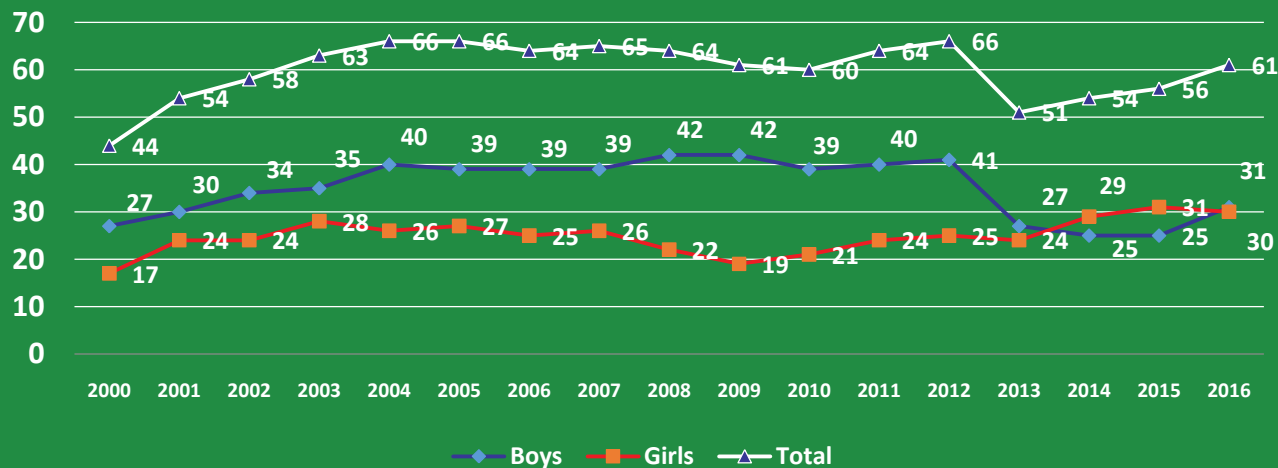
**ONE** person can make a difference. **YOU** can make a difference.

## OUR YEAR

### 2016 Highlights

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

### Number of Children at Tay Ninh Centre for the Visually Impaired



## TAY NINH CENTRE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN VIETNAM 2016 Highlight



**61**

Children with visual impairment resided full-time at the Centre



**39**

Children received education (primary, secondary, high school and university)

**50+**

Children received vocational training

Number of Children Attending Vocational Classes



**50**

Children had an annual health check

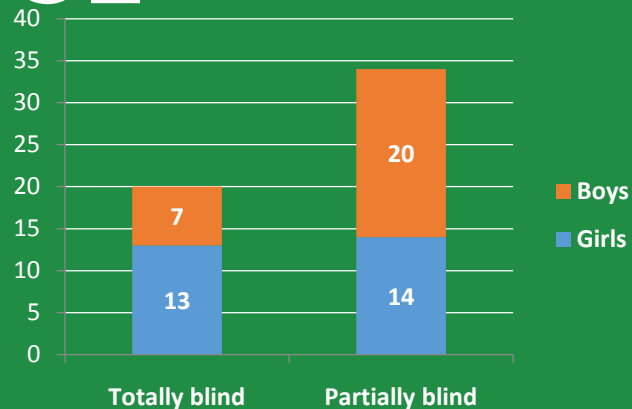
- ✓ Events and performances
- ✓ Field trip and visits
- ✓ Celebration

**30+**

**ONE** person can make a difference. **YOU** can make a difference.

**61**

### Residential children at Tay Ninh Centre



- In 2016, the number of children at our Tay Ninh Centre for visually impaired children increased slightly, with the number of boys and girls almost equal.

- This year, 3 boys and 4 girls left the Centre for different reasons, all of them are well equipped to live independently or practice self-care. Two children moved back with their families at the family's request and the others started working. The Centre will continue to follow up closely with these children for at least 6 months to make sure they are able to live independently.

- 5 new partially sighted children joining the Centre were diagnosed with nystagmus. 2 boys also suffer from mental impairments. All of them were identified by our local staff before being accepted by the Centre.

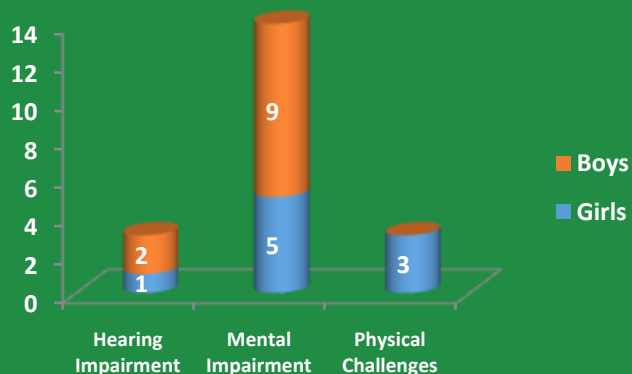
- Rehabilitation teaching was one of our successes in 2016. The children were able to complete in-house activities and travel safely and effectively. We used flexible teaching methods to help the children learn to live independently and navigate difficult terrains such as rivers and narrow bridges.

**21**

Children have visual impairment plus hearing impairment and are also mentally or physically challenged

34%

**9 girls and 12 boys** have visual impairment and disability/impairment





**ONE** person can make a difference. **YOU** can make a difference.

## PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

### Healthcare

All the children at the Centre receive healthcare including:

- Annual health check-ups
- Regular monitoring of the health and hygiene
- Timely medical assistance when required
- General health and hygiene training

#### ***Annual medical check-ups and medical conditions***

In 2016, 50 children received general medical check-ups at Hoan My Hospital, a well-known local hospital. In general, there were no new serious conditions. 40% of the children had common worm infections before the second stage of annual worming. Besides deworming treatment for these children, all children living in the Centre were provided with personal hygiene training that include wash hands before meals and after using the toilet facilities or playing outside, change and clean their sleeping kits regularly and to leave shoes outside the room. The number of children with fatty liver disease was the same as in 2015. However, one of two children who suffered from kidney stones has recovered. During the first half of 2016, one boy had a middle-ear infection and was treated at the hospital. One girl who has a serious heart condition continues to receive check-ups twice a month at a hospital in HCMC and receives daily medication.



Children receive regular health monitoring and eye check-ups

**ONE** person can make a difference. **YOU** can make a difference.

### ***Regular monitoring***

A full-time nurse oversees the infirmary room and is responsible for monitoring the children's health and personal hygiene. In addition, one staff member oversees the management of cleaning and two staff members oversee management of cooking. We also check food and water sources carefully. Moreover, consumption of raw and uncooked vegetables is kept to a minimum.



Collectively, these staff members ensure that all children living at the Centre are living in a healthy environment.

The condition of each child's eyes is closely monitored. This is particularly important for children who are partially blind and face the risk of gradually losing their full vision.

Children with physical challenges regularly attend physiotherapy sessions conducted by Centre staff. There they practice simple movements such as holding objects in their hands and stretching and bending to improve flexibility. Children who are prone to being overweight follow daily exercise programs and receive low-cholesterol meals.

### ***Health and hygiene awareness and training***

Sharing sessions on health topics are conducted by the nurse and Centre staff. In 2016, topics covered included personal hygiene, prevention of common diseases, acute diarrhoea, dengue fever and use of medicines. In addition, the children are regularly reminded and shown how to wash their hands and brush their teeth properly to avoid getting or spreading germs.

As a part of their life skills training, children are assigned daily living tasks and are encouraged to clean their living spaces.





General health check at Hoan My Hospital

**ONE** person can make a difference. **YOU** can make a difference.

## Education

### *Formal Academic education*

Education is central to the development of every child and is even more vital for children with physical and mental limitations. For these children, education is often the key to an independent life. Most of the children entering the Centre have had little or no education because their abilities are underestimated. Moreover, the families of these children are often overburdened with financial challenges and are unable to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills necessary to care for and educate their visually impaired children.

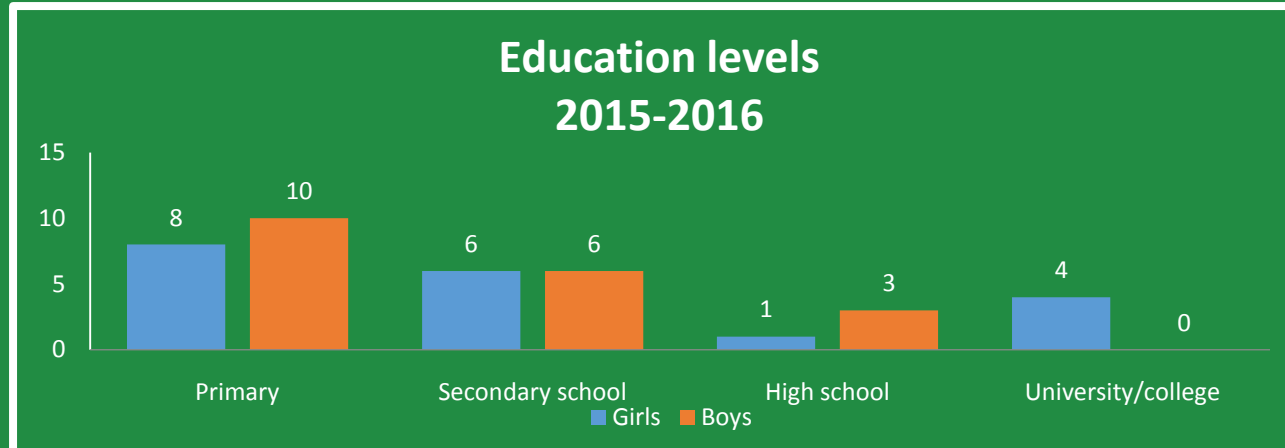
Our greatest responsibility is to prepare our children to integrate into their communities; helping the children prepare to enrol in mainstream schools is an important step. After graduating from the primary school for children with special needs, most of the children living at the Centre attend the local secondary schools where they receive the same education as non-disabled children. This is a great opportunity for the children, but also a challenge for the staff at the Centre because they have to convince the Department of Education in Tay Ninh Province and the schools on a case-by-case basis that the children are able to study in a mainstream school. We commit to converting lessons and examinations into Braille/text and to provide children with poor performance extra tuition.



A child using Braille



**ONE** person can make a difference.**YOU** can make a difference.



In 2016, 19 girls and 20 boys enrolled in school at different levels depending on their abilities. Twenty-one children studied in mainstream schools, while others studied at the primary school next to the Centre.

For the 2015/16 academic year, 20 children were graded as excellent students, while only 2 children had below average results and had to re-take exams.





### ***Vocational Training***

The Vocational Training Programme includes computer, music, handicraft and massage classes.

In December 2016, in cooperation with our Volunteer Programme, a massage therapy course was organised at the Centre. Blind massage is very popular in Asia. A physiotherapist from France came to share modern techniques for general massage and special skills for leg and neck massage.



**ONE** person can make a difference. **YOU** can make a difference.

## Personal and Social Skills Development

Personal and social skills are foundational skills upon which other skills and proficiencies can build. This is particularly true for disabled children who may be isolated if they lack the necessary abilities to integrate into their communities.



### *Rehabilitation Tuition Programme*

This programme teaches daily living skills, mobility skills (e.g., road safety awareness) and social skills. Children learn to orient their body's movements and complete daily activities in these basic to advanced level classes.

To help children learn and practice daily tasks in the home such as folding blankets, washing clothes, cooking and using electrical outlets, an area in the Centre is set up as a normal house. The model area has a living room, one bedroom and a corner kitchen and is equipped with basic household facilities.

This year, 25 students attended the rehabilitation classes and 100% of the children passed the final examinations. All receive a white cane and are instructed how to use this mobility tool to move freely, even on difficult terrain.



**ONE** person can make a difference. **YOU** can make a difference.

## ***Life Skills Training***

Life skills education is an essential part of preparing the children to meet the challenges of everyday life.



Children enjoy interacting with visitors. This helps their social skills.

We organise sharing sessions on issues related to behavioural development, positive attitude and modern social problems to help the children develop a healthy and productive approach to life. In addition to these general topics, children also learn about success stories of disabled people and updated policies and specific solutions to difficulties faced by visually impaired people.

## ***Social Skills Development***

Children at the Centre have many opportunities to interact socially with local and international visitors. Most social interaction occurs during play times and organised activities 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.

In 2016, the Centre welcomed 10 local community organisations and 12 groups of international visitors. These groups organised interesting activities and shared their stories with the children. The children enjoy the opportunity to showcase their talents and always insist on treating guests to music recitals and dance performances. Visitors are also invited to participate in group dances or traditional games. Experiential learning helps the children acquire skills that will benefit them throughout their lives. In addition, as part of our efforts to help the children integrate into the community, we seek out opportunities for the children to participate in music performances, storytelling or competitions organised outside by local groups outside the Centre.

In the first half of 2016, many of the children at the Centre attended the "Giong Hat Hay" -Beautiful Voice Contest-to show off their vocal talents.

**ONE** person can make a difference. **YOU** can make a difference.



One of our new boys taking loving care of his very first Christmas gift - a remote control car.

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

The Centre has a library with books published in Braille, audio books on cassette tapes and CDs, tactile books and normal books. These books are provided by CNCF and other organisations including Audio Library for People with Visual Impairments through the Ho Chi Minh City General Library. The General Library sends an audio books car for the children at the Centre every quarter. Each teenage girl and boy has a mobile phone or radio, which they use to listen to favourite programmes, such as radio music channels and storytelling.

- 1 girl and 2 boys participated in a **swimming competition** at the National Para Games 2016 and achieved 3 silver medals and 1 bronze medal
- Several children attended a **drawing contest** organised by the local library and won 1 second prize and 1 third prize
- During the Tet holiday, the children **visited Long Hai Beach**
- On International Children's Day, 18 boys and girls were chosen to take part in the **music performance** for children with disabilities. The performance was organized at Hon Tam, NhaTrang.
- All Children visited **Vung Tau Beach** at Christmas, the children wrote letters to Santa and all of them received the gifts they wished for









M HỒI, CHIA SẺ VỊ  
NH THỊ TÂY MINH



**ONE** person can make a difference. **YOU** can make a difference.

## OUR STORIES

### *Bright Future*

Lam (name changed for child protection) was born into a very poor family of 11 children in Tay Ninh Province. His parents had to work hard as hired labourers to support their children, including five who are blind. It was all they could do to provide daily meals for 13 family members, let alone an education for the children. The children with normal vision soon had to work to support the family, while Lam and his blind siblings were left at home by themselves.



In 2000, Lam was admitted to the Centre. Soon, he found his motivation to go to school and develop his talent in music. After graduation from high school in Tay Ninh, he continued his studies at Ho Chi Minh City **Pedagogical University, majoring in Special Education**. While studying at university, Lam finished his course and returned to the Centre to work as an educator. He oversees the music classes where he teaches singing, guitar, electric keyboard and traditional instruments. In his free time, Lam also composes songs to encourage his students. One of his songs was performed by Centre children at a music competition at Hon Tam, Nha Trang and received the top award.

**ONE** person can make a difference.**YOU** can make a difference.

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

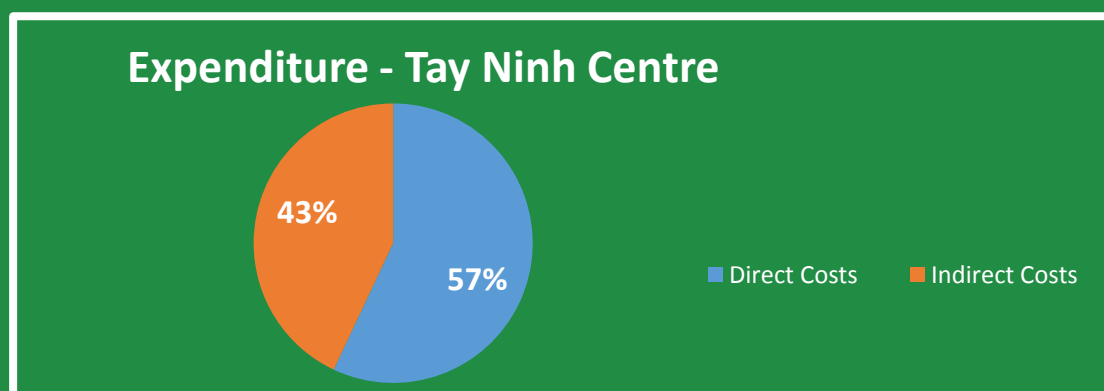
The operational cost of Tay Ninh Centre for Visually Impaired Children was 66,406.11 USD in the year 2016.

The direct costs included the actual costs of running the Centre including repairs and maintenance, cost of food and nutrition, medical and healthcare and provision of vocational and life skills training for the children of the Centre. The indirect costs included salaries of project staff, stationery, communication, transportation, security fees, electricity and water allocated to the project.

The project is funded by individual donors, corporate donors and institutional donors.

**Our 2016 audit is available upon request.**

Tay Ninh Centre – Expenditure 2016		
No.	Item	Amount (USD)
I	Operation fund	37,849.23
II	CNCF project manager salary	4,916.67
III	Transportation	421.74
IV	Office supplies	1,346.18
V	CNCF Operation Management	21,872.30
	<b>Total</b>	<b>66,406.11</b>



**It is only because of the generosity of all our sponsors and donors, that we are able to continue our work with some of Vietnam's most vulnerable children. Thank you for helping us to 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**

[www.cncf.org](http://www.cncf.org) | [international@cncf.org](mailto:international@cncf.org) | [vietnam@cncf.org](mailto:vietnam@cncf.org)

 **CNCF Vietnam** | **Head Office UK: + 44 20 738 8550** | [uk@cncf.org](mailto:uk@cncf.org)

