




ANNUAL REPORT 2017
**TAY NINH RESIDENTIAL
AND EDUCATION CENTRE VIETNAM**



"My philosophy isn't just about mending bodies. It's about restoring people's independence, giving them a life, not just an existence. It's about respect and love and dignity. Those are the things we owe our children."

Christina Noble OBE

APPENDIX

OUR VISION, MISSION, VALUES	01	<i>Social Skills Development</i>	21
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	02	<i>Recreational Activities</i>	23
PROGRAMME OVERVIEW	03	OUR STORIES	26
PROGRAMME BACKGROUND	05	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	29
OUR YEAR	06	FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	30
2017 Highlights	06		
PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES	07		
Healthcare	07		
<i>Annual Medical Check-Ups and Medical Conditions</i>	07		
<i>Monitoring</i>	07		
<i>Health and Hygiene Awareness and Training</i>	09		
Education	10		
<i>Formal Academic Education</i>	10		
<i>Vocational Training</i>	14		
Personal and Social Skills Development	17		
<i>Rehabilitation Tuition Programme</i>	17		
<i>Life Skills Training</i>	19		

ABBREVIATIONS

CNCF	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
DOLISA	Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs

OUR VISION, MISSION, VALUES

Vision: A united world where children are free from suffering, poverty, exploitation, fear, and oppression. Where children are aware of their fundamental human rights.

Mission: The Christina Noble Children's Foundation is dedicated to serving the emotional, physical, medical and educational needs of vulnerable children. We believe that every child deserves love, respect and freedom from all forms of exploitation. We establish long-term relationships with the children we support and empower them to live happy, emotionally rich, and independent lives.

Values: Our values represent our beliefs and guide how we behave. They are: Love, Compassion, Respect, Honesty, and Integrity.

Photo: Founder Christina Noble 1989



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2017, the Tay Ninh Centre for Visually Impaired Children in Vietnam continued to provide 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.

This year 55 children (ages 6–17) lived at the centre. All resident children are partially (28) or totally (27) blind. In addition, approximately one-third of the children face additional challenges such as mental health problems, hearing impairment, or other physical disabilities.

This year, thanks to the Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation, the centre's computer room was equipped with fourteen new computers with software designed for the visually impaired. In addition, a new curriculum was put in place to help children develop their computer and IT skills.

In 2018, our aim is to maintain the quality of existing services and facilities, diversify the models of rehabilitation and vocational course options, build capacity of the local staff, and create a database to follow-up with children discharged from the centre. We are also hoping to be able to refurbishment of the Centre.

Since inception in 1999

1,233 CHILDREN

have been supported by the

Tay Ninh Residential and Education Centre



2017 Operating Costs: \$59,143.86 USD



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

ESTABLISHED

1999

LOCATION

Tay Ninh province, Vietnam

OBJECTIVES

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

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

Residential Care, Healthcare, Rehabilitation, Education, Vocational and Life Skills Training

BENEFICIARIES

Children (ages 6–18) with visual impairments who come from underprivileged families

LOCAL PARTNERS

Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) of Tay Ninh province

CNCF INVOLVEMENT

Directly responsible for funding and financial management, provide management and technical support for project implementation, and facilitate extra-curricular activities and life skills training

CNCF MANAGEMENT

CEO: Ms Helenita Noble; Director of Operations: Ms. Son Thu Trinh; Vice Director: Ms. Hoang Tu Uyen; Programme Manager: Ms. Nguyen Ngoc Minh Ngan

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Because CNCF is directly responsible for 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 once every two months. 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/or 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 distributed to all stakeholders.

2017 ACTUAL COST

USD \$59,143.86

2017 PRIMARY PROJECT FUNDING

Anonymous Foundation - (USA)
Berwin Leeighton Paisner (Hong Kong)
Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation (USA)
St James Place Foundation (UK)

FUTURE PLANS

In 2018, our aim is to maintain the quality of existing services and facilities, diversify the models of rehabilitation and vocational course options, build capacity of the local staff. It is also in our plans to identify companies that can help either pro-bono or part pro-bono with refurbishment works of the Centre to ensure the children are in a safe and comfortable environment.

REPORTING PERIOD

January - December 2017

PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

Tay Ninh is a province in the Southeast region of Vietnam located approximately 100 kilometres from Ho Chi Minh City. It was the scene of one of the fiercest battles during the American-Vietnam War where a large amount of defoliants was scattered. After the war, many children were born with serious eye deformities and blindness. The high incidence of visual impairment in the community has been attributed to several factors including the use of defoliants such as Agent Orange, inadequate health education and monitoring, inadequate access to medical care, and malnutrition.

Established in 1999, the Tay Ninh Centre for Visually Impaired Children functions as both a residential and educational centre, providing children with long-term residential care, food, healthcare, education (including formal education, rehabilitation, and life skills training), recreational activities, and vocational training. The Tay Ninh Centre is the only facility offering services and support to visually impaired children in the province of Tay Ninh.

The centre can accommodate over sixty visually impaired children. In its nearly twenty years of operation, the centre has gained the respect of the local authorities and people because of the incredible impact it has made in the community and the opportunities it offers the children. To date, the Tay Ninh Centre has supported 1,233 children.

Since inception in 1999

1,233 CHILDREN



have been supported by the

Tay Ninh Residential and Education Centre

Photo: Christina Noble built
the Tay Ninh Centre in 1999

*This number represents the cumulative number of children who have lived in the Centre since the programme's inception. Please note that many of these children are residential for many years, if not throughout most of their childhood.



OUR YEAR

2017 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.

At the end of 2017, 55 children (28 boys and 27 girls) lived at the centre. All resident children are partially (28) or totally (27) blind. In addition, approximately one-third of the children face additional challenges such as mental health problems, hearing impairment, or other physical disabilities.

This year, thanks to **the Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation**, the centre's computer room was equipped with fourteen new computers with software designed for the visually impaired. In addition, a new curriculum was put in place to help children develop their computer and IT skills.

55 CHILDREN

28 boys and 27 girls
lived in centre

28 CHILDREN

partially blind

27 CHILDREN

totally blind

14 NEW COMPUTERS

for Computer Lab

1 CHILD

won gold and silver
at the National Para Games for swimming

1 CHILD

won 1st place
at National Junior Talent Show



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

HEALTHCARE

All children at the centre receive healthcare including:

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

Annual Medical Check-Ups and Medical Conditions

In 2017, resident children received general medical check-ups. Nine children were referred to hospitals for treatment of conditions such as epilepsy, tooth inflammation, and digestive disorders.

113 CASES

were treated by
the infirmary

9 CHILDREN

were referred to hospitals for treatment of
conditions such as epilepsy, tooth inflammation,
and digestive disorders

Monitoring

A full-time nurse oversees the infirmary room and is responsible for monitoring the children's health and personal hygiene. In 2017, the infirmary treated 113 cases. In addition, one staff member oversees cleaning and two staff members oversee nutrition, food preparation and cooking. Collectively, these staff members ensure that all children living at the centre live healthy lives.

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 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.





Health and Hygiene Awareness and Training

Monthly sharing sessions on health topics are conducted by the nurse and centre staff. In 2017, topics covered included nutrition, hygiene when eating and preparing food, puberty, and prevention of dengue fever. In addition, the children are taught 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 tasks and encouraged to clean their living spaces.

In 2017, topics covered:



Nutrition



Puberty



Personal hygiene



Daily cleaning tasks in the home



Dengue fever



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 Tay Ninh Centre have had little or no education because their abilities were 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 the 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 all other children. This is a great opportunity for the children, but also a challenge for the staff at the centre because they must 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 tutoring.

In 2017, 37 children enrolled in school at different levels depending on their abilities. For the 2016/17 academic year, 19 children were graded as good/excellent students, while only 1 child had below average results.

In 2017,
37 CHILDREN
enrolled in school
at different levels

For the 2016/17 academic year,
19 CHILDREN
were graded as
good/excellent students

17 CHILDREN
were graded as average

1 CHILD
was graded below average

18 CHILDREN
were given extra tutoring







Vocational Training

The vocational training programme includes computer, music, handcraft, and massage classes.

A big development in 2017 was the outfitting of a new computer room at the centre. Thanks to a grant from the **Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation**, the computer room now houses fourteen new computers with special software designed for the visually impaired. A new specialised curriculum to teach visually impaired students computer/IT skills was also implemented.

Students also participated in classes in handicrafts (the making of small beaded items such as handbags, vases, and bracelets), massage therapy, English language, and music.

The computer room houses

14 NEW COMPUTERS

with special software designer for visually impaired



Handcraft



Massage



Music

EN

English





Blind Massage is very popular and highly respected in Asia. Many graduates have pursued a career in Massage enabling them to become economically self-sufficient



Many graduates have pursued a career in Music enabling them to become economically self-sufficient



PERSONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

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



Washing clothes



Cooking



Using electrical outlets and appliances



Folding blankets and garments



Mobility skills



Daily living skills



Social skills



Rehabilitation Tuition Programme

This programme teaches daily living skills, mobility skills (e.g., road safety awareness), and social skills. Children learn to orient their bodies 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 model house. The model area has a living room, one bedroom, and a corner kitchen and is equipped with basic household facilities.

This year, 29 students attended the rehabilitation classes.

29 STUDENTS
attended the rehabilitation classes



Life Skills Training

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

We organise sharing sessions on issues related to behavioural development, positive attitude, and modern social problems. This year, specific topics covered included gaming addiction, independent thinking, and showing respect to others. Children also learn about success stories of disabled people and updated policies and specific solutions to difficulties faced by the visually impaired community.



Gaming addiction



Independent thinking



Respect for others



Motivational stories of
successful disabled people



National policies on disabilities



Meditation



Finding solutions in
challenging environments





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 2017, the centre welcomed 41 local community visitors and 9 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. 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 by local groups outside the centre.

This year, students performed at the Sing for Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange meeting, New Year's celebration, and the International Day of Happiness.

In 2017, we welcomed:

41

Local Community Visitors

9

Groups of International Visitors

21



Photo: Hale School
Perth Australia visit

ĐẢNG CỘNG SẢN VIỆT NAM QUANG VINH MUÔN NĂM



UWCSEA Hong Kong visit

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.

In addition, this year children participated in a variety of events and contests.

1 child participated in a swimming competition at the National Para Games 2017 and won 1 gold medal and 1 silver medal

20 children attended a camping contest at Nhat Trang and received awards for vocal group, vocal solo, chess, and beach volleyball

46 children attended a camp for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities

2 children attended a storytelling contest

2 children attended a creativity in science and technology contest

2 children attended the Teacher's Day contest and earned second and third place prizes

1 child participated in Junior Talent 2017 and earned first place

All children attended celebrations at the centre for the Tet holiday, Children's Day, Mid-Autumn Festival, and Christmas



Swimming Competition



1 Gold Medal



1 Silver Medal



Camping contest



Science contest



Chess award



Storytelling award



Beach volleyball award



Tet holiday





Because children suffer from different levels of visual impairments, eye masks are worn to ensure a fair game



Tet Celebration

OUR STORIES

Rising Star

Quynh's* parents were unable to care for her and left her with her grandmother when she was a young child. After several years spent moving between the homes of her grandmother and aunt, the local Tay Ninh Centre staff approached her because she had vision problems and persuaded her to move to the centre so she could receive better care.

Despite some early struggles, after a couple years living in the centre, attending school, pursuing favourite activities like dancing and singing, and having adults and peers she trusted and could share her feelings with, Quynh has become a lovely and confident girl.

Last year, Quynh earned the incentive award at the Hoi Thi Sang Tao Khoa Hoc KyThuat - Creativity in Science and Technology Contest. Not only was this a great honour, it allowed her to enter a well-known high school without taking entrance exams.

Thanks to her hard work and the support provided by the Tay Ninh Centre, Quynh's future is bright!

“

I was moved to tears when I was approached by the centre offering help to my daughter. You brought her out of darkness and gave light to her soul. When I visit Quynh, I always feel I made the right decision to send her to the centre. She is taken care of from basic needs such as food, clothes, and a warm and safe place to live, to higher needs of equal opportunity to learn and play. This is my dream come true.

– *Quynh's Mother*

”



OUR STORIES



OUR STORIES

A New Life Through Music

Khuong* has been blind since birth. He was sent to the Tay Ninh Centre when he was five because his parents, manual labourers, did not know how to care for a blind child, let alone help him integrate into the community.

During the past ten years at the centre, Khuong has not only learned daily living skills, social skills, and road safety awareness, but has also been given the opportunity to discover and explore his passions. He loves music and it fills his life. He likes singing and playing drums and he enjoys learning to play every instrument. In addition to drums, guitar, and keyboard, he is skilled at tambourine, maraca, triangle, and more. He loves performing for others and often volunteers to sing and accompany others on guitar, especially for special events and festivals.

Last year, as the centre representative, Khuong attended many music contests and earned multiple awards. He received a first rank at the district level and second rank at the province level in the Junior Talent 2017 contest. For Teacher's Day, he attended a singing contest and received a second rank award. In addition to his music, Khuong is doing well at school and is well on his way to becoming a successful and independent adult.

“

Before coming to live at Tay Ninh Centre I thought that everything I can feel and experience in my life was just through songs from the radio. But since I came here when I was young boy, my world opened right up, and although I have been blind since I was born, I felt I could see. I have experienced much more of real life at the Centre, through learning Braille, playing musical instruments, singing, excursions and field trips. It is like magic to be able to live alongside my peers and the staff who have become my second family.

– Khuong - Child Resident

”

*Names changed for child protection



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

By supporting our Tay Ninh Centre for Visually Impaired Children, you help give some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children in Vietnam a brighter future.

Thank you to Anonymous Foundation (USA), Berwin Leeighton Paisner (Hong Kong) and St James Place Foundation (UK) for their support in 2017. Special thanks to the Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation (USA) for grant funding used to equip and modernise the computer lab.

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

Programme Donors:

Anonymous Foundation - (USA)
Berwin Leeighton Paisner (Hong Kong)
Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation (USA)
St James Place Foundation (UK)

GIFT AND TIME IN KIND

Audio Library for People HCM City
Australia International School - Ho Chi Minh City
Crown Relocations Vietnam
GAP (agriculture company) Vietnam
Hale School Perth - Australia
HCM City General Library
Li & Fung Foundation - Hong Kong & Vietnam
NIKE Hong Kong
Noble Transitioners Dublin
Raelene Quinn - Australia
Ringwood Secondary School and PSW Uniform Victoria, Australia
SHOEfabrik (Irmu Kreuzer) - Vietnam
UWCSEA – Singapore
Warren Weener - Hong Kong



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Items	FY2017 in USD
Food Items	16,951.63
Clothes	691.51
Educational expenses	6,472.336
Computer Lab	8,839.50
Medical care	949.89
Personal toiletries	1,256.40
Sleeping Kits	528.58
Recreational activities	24.67
Utilities (water, electricity, gas)	679.39
Repairs and maintenance	884.31
Miscellaneous	116.79
Salaries and contributions	21,748.38
<u>TOTAL COST</u>	<u>59,143.86</u>


The operational cost of the Tay Ninh Centre for Visually Impaired Children was in USD \$. Our 2017 audits are available upon request.


Thank you to all those who donated gifts and time in-kind throughout the year enabling us to keep our annual operating costs to a minimum.

***2017 Audit available upon request or online www.cncf.org**



If you are interested in supporting our humanitarian efforts please contact us:

 38 Tu Xuong street, Dist. 3, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

 + 84 28 3932 6484

 international@cncf.org

 www.cncf.org

 @ChristinaNobleChildrensFoundationInt

 @CNCF_int

 Christina Noble Children's Foundation International

Proof-reader and Editor: **Andrew Knott@CNCF**

Photos: **Piers Birtwistle@CNCF**

Design: **Pham Tho Hong Duong**, email: pham.tho.hong.duong@gmail.com

Icons adapted from **www.flaticon.com**

List of icon authors:

Freepick

mynamepong

Roundicons

Vectors Market

Smashicons