



ANNUAL REPORT 2017
**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMME VIETNAM**

*"People are not there to survive,
but to be warriors."*

- Christina Noble OBE



ÍD. CHĂM SÓC ÁC BIẾT
TÊN BÉ (Name): NGUYỄN LÊ Đ
NGÀY SINH (Birthday): 26/02/2010
NGÀY VÀO (Admission date): 15/03/2011

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ABBREVIATIONS

CNCF	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
MAP	Medical Assistance Programme
MEP	Medical Exchange Programme

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 2017

In 2017, the Medical Assistance Programme (MAP) continued to provide financial support to children in need of urgent medical care. During the year, 38 children received financial support for medical treatments at our partner hospitals, Children's Hospital No. 2 and the Eye Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City.

Through the Medical Exchange Programme (MEP), a sub-project of the MAP, 35 children received medical consultations from visiting doctors from Ireland. In addition, one doctor from the Intensive Care Unit at Children's Hospital No. 2 travelled to Ireland for a 2-month training in Paediatric Intensive Care.

In 2018, MAP will aim to support 40 children in need of medical and financial assistance and conduct at least one health promotion activity.



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

ESTABLISHED

1999

LOCATION

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (Some beneficiaries also live in various provinces in the South East, Mekong River Delta, Central Highlands, and Central Coast of Vietnam)

OBJECTIVES

To provide financial assistance to children so they can receive medical care

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

Financial assistance to children in need of medical treatment; provision of psychological counselling and healthcare information to children and their families; Medical Exchange Programme that improves skills, knowledge, and expertise of Vietnamese paediatricians

BENEFICIARIES

Children living in poverty who need medical care. Vietnamese paediatric doctors and surgeons

LOCAL PARTNERS

Children's Hospital No. 1 Children's Hospital No. 2, Eye Hospital HCM City

CNCF INVOLVEMENT

Fully responsible for funding, programme management, monitoring, and evaluation

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

CNCF STAFF

Director of Operations: Ms. Son Thu Trinh; Vice
Director: Ms. Hoang Tu Uyen; Programme
Coordinator: Ms. Bui Thi Ngoc Huong

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Because CNCF is directly responsible for funding and programme management, regular monitoring and evaluation activities are conducted by the MAP team. The team conducts regular meetings with the families of the children to follow up on the health of the children and offer additional support. Monthly meetings are held with local partners. The MAP database and records are regularly updated. 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. An annual evaluation is conducted at the end of the year that covers all areas of programme implementation including human resources, finance, management, activities, database, and future plans. The most recent internal evaluation was conducted in October 2017

2017 OPERATION COSTS

USD \$24,337

2017 PRIMARY PROJECT FUNDING

British Business Group (MAP)
Acelity L.P.Inc

FUTURE PLANS

In 2018, we aim to support 40 children in need of medical and financial assistance and conduct at least one health promotion activity

REPORTING PERIOD

January - December 2017

PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

The Medical Assistance Programme (MAP) grew out of necessity and from the intuition of our Founder, Christina Noble. Christina and her team identified a very real and urgent need for immediate and direct financial assistance to allow poor children in Vietnam to receive medical care. Since its inception, the MAP has helped 2,240 children receive the medical care they need.

Despite economic expansion, the gap between Vietnam's rich and poor continues to grow. High inflation has resulted in soaring prices leaving the poor struggling to pay for necessities such as food, water, transportation, and healthcare. Families struggling to survive are often susceptible to illness or accidents because of their living conditions and work environments. They often cannot afford even the most basic medical care.

For Vietnam's poorest residents, medical care is prohibitively expensive. A visit to the emergency room can cause financial ruin. But, even worse, families without medical insurance who cannot afford the cost of medical treatment, can be turned away from hospitals. Approximately fourteen per cent of Vietnamese residents do not have government health insurance.

Thanks to the very generous support of our donors and sponsors, our MAP provides financial support to Vietnamese children (up to age 16) whose families are unable to pay for urgent medical care. The financial assistance we provide is used to pay for life-saving surgical procedures, post-operative care, basic medical treatment, social support, and health insurance.

Our Medical Exchange Programme (MEP), designed to help establish best practice in all areas of paediatric surgery in Vietnam, is coordinated through the MAP. The MEP was established in 2004 in partnership with Professor Martin Corbally and the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland to bring world-class medical expertise to Vietnam, while also bringing local Vietnamese medical staff to Ireland for training. The investment this programme has made to bring top-level international doctors to Vietnam and build capacity of dedicated Vietnamese surgeons and medical teams has led to an enormous improvement in the quality of healthcare services available and accessible to all Vietnamese people.

Photo: Founder Christina Noble
www.cncf.org



OUR YEAR

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017, 38 children were referred to and supported by the MAP. This was 58% lower compared to 2016 because of decreased funding. Children's Hospital No. 2 referred 30 cases (79%) and Eye Hospital referred 7 cases (18%). One case was referred to MAP through another CNCF project.

After completion of medical treatment, 26 children received additional monetary and/or social support during recovery.

This year, through the MEP, 35 children received medical consultations: 29 were treated for oncological conditions, 3 were treated for cardiac conditions, and 3 were treated for general diseases. Among these, 21 were operated on by Irish surgical teams: 17 children with oncological problems, 1 child with heart disease, and 3 children with general conditions. In addition, one Vietnamese doctor from the Intensive Care Unit at Children's Hospital No. 2 travelled to Ireland for a 2-month training in Paediatric Intensive Care.

Medical Exchange Programme

35
received medical consultations

29
treated for oncology conditions

3
treated cardiac conditions

3
treated for general conditions

Of above

21
operated on by Irish Surgeon Team

17
oncology surgery

1
heart-disease surgery

3
general conditions

1
Vietnamese Paediatric Doctor
Travelled to Ireland for 2-month training in Paediatric Intensive Care Crumlin Hospital Dublin.

Medical Assistant Programme

38
received CNCF Medical Assistance

30
referrals 's Hospital No 2

7
referrals from HCM City Eye Hospital

1
referral from CNCF Sunshine School

26
received monetary and/or social support post-operative

Following Paediatric conditions were treated in 2017



Appendicitis – Diabetes



Bacterial Meningitis



Benign Tumour of the External Left Ear



Brain Haemorrhage



Cataracts



Craniosynostosis



Endocarditis



Inguinal Hernia



Japanese Encephalitis



Liver Abscess



Meningitis



Multiple Traumas Due to A Traffic Accident



Necrotising Pancreatitis – Choledochocoele



Patent Ductus Arteriosus - Pneumonia



Pleural Effusion



Ptosis - Right eye



Purulent Pericardial Effusion
– Pleural Effusion



Scoliosis



Right Thighbone Fracture
– Hip Fracture Due to a High Fall Accident



Single Ventricle Defects



Subdural Hematoma



Tetralogy of Fallot



Thermal Burn – Degree 3 – Skin Graft



Thermal Burn 30% – Degree 2



Thermal Burn 50% – Degree 2



Tricuspid Valve Regurgitation
– Pulmonic Stenosis



Ventricular Septal Defect



Ventricular Septal Defect – Atrial Septal Defect
– Pulmonary Artery Stenosis – Heart failure

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

REFERRAL AND SELECTION

Our partner hospitals refer any child they believe needs assistance to us; however, we further screen these families, and this year, 79% of referred cases were admitted to the programme. Typical reasons we did not support cases were that our assessment of the child's family's home circumstances did not meet our eligibility criteria (i.e., we determined the family could afford to pay the medical costs) or the child's hospital fee was covered by a donation made directly to the hospital.

OPERATION CHILDLIFE AND ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS PARTNERSHIP

Medical Exchange Programme

The goal of the MEP is to establish best practices in all areas of paediatric surgery in Vietnam. We are incredibly proud of our MEP and the great relationship formed over many years with Professor Martin Corbally, the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland and Operation Childlife. The investment this programme has made to bring highly acclaimed international surgical teams to Vietnam and build the capacity of dedicated Vietnamese surgeons and medical teams has led to an enormous improvement in the quality healthcare services available and accessible to all Vietnamese children and people.

CNCF continues to work in partnership with Operation Childlife (OCL) and Children's Hospital No 2 to improve surgical, medical, anaesthetic and nursing practice in the care of children with congenital and acquired disease. OCL started out as a small group of paediatric surgeons led by Professor Martin Corbally from Royal College Surgeons in Ireland who were invited to HCM City in 2004 by Christina Noble to bring complex paediatric surgery to Vietnam that were otherwise unavailable.

From 2006 to 2017, CNCF's MEP with OCL have helped to 27 doctors from Children's Hospital No.2 HCM City travel to Ireland for 3-6 months at a time to learn new modern surgical techniques at Our Lady's Children's Hospital in Dublin.





Photo: Professor Mark Ryan Radiologist Operation ChildLife



Photo: Professor Martin Corbally and medical staff at Children's Hospital No 2



Photo: Surgeons Consultation

Testimonial from Professor Martin Corbally

Operation ChildLife (OCL) is most grateful for the continued partnership of the Christina Noble Children's Foundation. This partnership has existed since 2004 and is part of a long-term commitment to improve surgical, medical, anaesthetic and nursing practice at Children's Hospital #2, HCMC.

All team members extended the level of complexity of surgery in both cardiac and cancer patients in Hospital #2. Through this engagement over 1200 open heart procedures have been performed by the local surgical teams and more than 2000 non-invasive cardiological procedures safely carried out. In addition the local surgical teams have gained significant skill in the management of children with cancer and are skilled in the performance of complex liver, kidney and abdominal surgery.

Operation Childlife, as a registered Irish Charity, works to improve surgical, medical, anaesthetic and nursing practice. All members give their time and expertise freely and are committed to the delivery of safe and expert care.

OCL is pleased to report sustained success in its engagement with Children's Hospital #2 in both the medical and surgical treatment of children with congenital cardiac disease and cancer. It is our continued privilege to be in partnership with the Christina Noble Children's Foundation.

– Professor Martin T Corbally. Head of Pediatric Surgery, RCSI & Operation Childlife



Photo: Professor Corbally

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The British Business Group Vietnam (BBGV) is delighted to be a long-term supporter of the excellent work undertaken by the CNCF Medical Assistance Programme. Being one of the longest beneficiary of BBGV grant funding is a clear indication of the quality and service that CNCF provides to the children and families they assist. The care and commitment the staff provide to the children is clear as soon as you engage with CNCF. Clearly the needs of the children is the main priority for CNCF and this permeates throughout the whole organisation. Recent governance changes have also demonstrated that CNCF take a long term and serious view of 'business' continuity and the changes implemented were approached in a very professional and transparent fashion. They have an excellent understanding of the difficult social issues that they are helping to address within Vietnam, and they provide quality reports as to how the funding received is allocated and the real benefits it brings. It is always a pleasure to work with CNCF and BBGV wishes them every success for the future.

– **British Business Group Vietnam (BBGV)**

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CNCF are always enthusiastic, solicitous, caring and dedicated in solving problems quickly and conveniently for child patients from very poor families who are unable to afford their medical bills. I am very thankful for what CNCF and their dedicated team in particular have been doing for children from very difficult circumstances and providing them with an opportunity to obtain a brighter future.

Dr Nhung – Chief of Paediatric Department, HCMC Eye Hospital.



OUR STORIES

Phu was a just a 2-year-old boy, and the youngest of a very poor young couple from Ninh Thuan Province. In June 2017, a fire destroyed their house with the mother and 2 children inside. Phu's mother very unfortunately died in the fire. Phu and his brother were referred to Children's Hospital No. 2. Phu, suffered from 2nd degree Thermal Burns, only his left leg remained unscathed. Phu's brother also suffered burns however not as serious.

After a long fight back, Phu was discharged in September 2017. Phu's grandmother sent sincere thanks to the Foundation and other donors supporting her grandchildren with the hospital fees.

“

I thank CNCF and the kind donors who helped my grandchildren with hospital fees at this very sad time in our lives. Your support eased our pain. We are forever grateful that you cared enough to want to help us.

– *Phu's Grandmother.*

”

11-year-old Vy was diagnosed with Scoliosis at birth. In grade 2, Vy's condition became more serious, however at that time her father was diagnosed with Lymphoma in the abdomen and payment for medical treatment for him was prioritized by the already very poor family. In July 2017, Vy's condition seriously deteriorated and she was referred to Children's Hospital No. 2 in HCM City, however Vy's family did not have the money to pay for the surgery she desperately needed. Vy's brother had already stopped schooling at grade 10 to work as a brick layer to earn money to help cover the monthly hospital fees for their father's cancer treatment. When CNCF heard about the family's situation we stepped in to help the family pay off some of their medical bills for Vy alongside other kind donors who had heard of their story also.

Vy was successfully operated on 7 November 2017, and was discharged 9 days later. Sadly, Vy's father passed away on 6 December 2017, leaving the family with a debt well beyond their means of paying it back. CNCF continued to work with Vy's family.

“

Thanks to the financial assistance from such generous donors as the Foundation, our family could take the farmland back to cultivate and earn our living, as well as return all the debt to the lender that we had to loan money from to pay off the medical bills for Vy's Father.

– *Vy's Grandmother*

”

*Names changed for child protection



Photo: Post- Operative Care at CNCF's Out-patients

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With our heartfelt thanks to the following for their generosity and support of our Medical Programmes in 2017.

OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our long-term supporters British Business Group Vietnam who have been incredibly supportive of Medical Assistance Programme since 2001. We remain deeply re grateful for all your support. Thank you kindly to many individual donors who also supported MAP in 2017.

Thank you to Acelity/KCI Holdings for their funding support of our Medical Exchange Programme in full which enables CNCF to cover travel, accommodation and visa costs to bring in world class paediatric surgical teams who then provide free complex surgical and consultation services.

CHARITY PARTNERS

We are proud of our partnerships and remain most grateful to medical team leader Professor Martin T Corbally and all the medical team members from Operation Childlife and Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Bahrain. Our Lady's Hospital Dublin for facilitating and supporting incoming Vietnamese doctors.

Thank you also to our local partners, Children's Hospital No.2 and HCM City Eye Hospital who make it possible for CNCF to implement the programmes successfully.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Medical Assistance Programme costs 2017

Items	FY2017 in USD
Child care	9,423.27
Hospital fees	9,423.27
Administration	89.80
Postage	63.38
Travel	26.42
Project Management	14,824.27
CNCF staff salary	10,655.03
MGT fee+ Others	4,169.24
<u>TOTAL COST</u>	<u>24,337.34</u>

Medical Exchange Programme costs 2017


Items	FY2017 in USD
Travel/Accommodation/Visas Paediatric Surgical Team	15,000. 00


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:

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