



# SUNSHINE SOCIAL AND MEDICAL CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



“

Every child has the right to sleep on their pillow at night with peace in their hearts, love, security, and protection.

- Christina Noble OBE -



## APPENDIX

OUR VISION, MISSION, VALUES	04
PROGRAMME OVERVIEW	05
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	06
PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION	07
GLOBAL MALNUTRITION & MORTALITY STATISTICS	15
OUR YEAR	16
OUR STORIES	18
Thank You From a Parent	18
Life-changing Experience of a SSMC Volunteer	19
Helping a Child with Cerebral Palsy Thrive	20
Providing Hope for the Most Vulnerable	21
Testimonial From Our Donor: Huyen Le, Human Resources - GAP	22
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	23
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	27

## ABBREVIATIONS

IMU	Intensive Monitoring Unit
RCU	Residential Care Unit
CNCF	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City
SSMC	Sunshine Social & Medical Centre
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs
CCH	City Children's Hospital
CH2	Children's Hospital Number 2





# 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 physical, medical, educational, and emotional 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.

# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	1991
<b>LOCATION</b>	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	To provide orphaned and disadvantaged children access to high-quality comprehensive care so they can reach their full potential.
<b>BENEFICIARIES</b>	Children aged 0 to 6 years who are abandoned/orphaned or from impoverished families who suffer with malnourishment, cerebral palsy, hydrocephalus, and other varied poverty-related conditions; infants who are physically or developmentally impaired; and children who do not have access to preschool education.
<b>LOCAL PARTNERS</b>	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA)

## CNCF ACCOUNTABILITY

CNCF is responsible for funding. SSMC is jointly run with MOLISA, the CNCF Director of Operations is the Co-Director of the SSMC along with the Director appointed by MOLISA.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Daily monitoring visits on site at SSMC are conducted by CNCF's Vice Director. Information and updates about the children's wellbeing are collected through these daily visits. Regular meetings with the Director, SSMC, MOLISA and staff are held to provide project updates and to discuss any challenges. CNCF SSMC staff also have weekly meetings. Monthly and semi-annual reports prepared by our local partners and CNCF staff are provided to MOLISA and the CNCF Board of Management. An Annual Review and Annual Operation Report of the programme are also made available stakeholders. An annual evaluation of the programme is conducted by our local partner and CNCF staff for future planning.

## ACTUAL COST 2019

USD \$369,207

## REPORTING PERIOD

January – December 2019

## 2020 OBJECTIVES

- To provide medical check-ups and on-site treatment for 90 children with malnutrition and disabilities
- To provide pre-school education for 55 disadvantaged children
- To provide medical treatment for at least 6,000 disadvantaged community children
- To provide health talks for at least 400 parents



REPORT 2019

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019, the Sunshine Social & Medical Centre (SSMC) continued to provide healthcare, nutritional care, physiotherapy-based rehabilitation, psychosocial care, preschool education and day care services to babies and children who are orphans or come from impoverished families.

## 62 RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN (AGES 0 TO 6)

In 2019, the SSMC provided an international standard healthcare to 62 residential children (ages 0 to 6) suffering from malnutrition, hydrocephalus cerebral palsy, down syndrome, respiratory and gastrointestinal ailments and other neurological, visual and physical impairments.

## 1,964 PHYSIOTHERAPY SESSIONS

In addition to receiving acute medical care, 12 children with physical disabilities attended 1,964 physiotherapy sessions. The care provided by the SSMC's full-time physiotherapist is critical for the long-term development of the children and is not typically accessible to disadvantaged children living in poverty.

## 6,682 TREATMENTS TO CHILDREN

SSMC's satellite outpatient clinics in Ho Chi Minh City and surrounding provinces provided 6,682 treatments to children ages 0 to 16. In addition, we provided 4 community health talks for 437 attendees. Our outpatient and medical outreach programmes continue to make a huge impact on individual and community health.

## 73 CHILDREN ATTENDED KINDERGARTEN

This year, 73 children received early childhood education at SSMC's Son Ca Kindergarten.

Collectively, our programmes continued to provide access to high quality education to children who would otherwise be excluded from the educational system and whose parents would not be able to engage in employment opportunities.

# PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Sunshine Social & Medical Centre (SSMC) is where the Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) began its life-changing programmes and remains to this day the heart of the Foundation.

Vietnam's third generation of children are still experiencing the lasting effects of the American-Vietnam War. Over 20 million gallons of dioxins were dropped between 1962 and 1971 and while the war is long over, these dioxins remain in the ecosystems in many areas of Vietnam. Far too many children that arrive at SSMC continue to suffer the consequences of this long-ago war.

The aim of the SSMC is to provide healthcare, nutritional support, physiotherapy-based rehabilitation, psychosocial care, pre-school education and day care services to infants and toddlers who are orphaned and abandoned or come from significantly disadvantaged families.

All children are covered under an annual health scheme that includes a health check, dental check and eye examination. Each child receives regular health assessments and, when needed, treatment and rehabilitative care to address specific medical and social needs. Children requiring more specialised treatment are referred to the two main paediatric hospitals located in HCMC (CCH, CH2) with whom we have close working relationships. In addition, education is provided for children with disabilities in the form of special needs classes and the kindergarten provides early childhood education to children from impoverished families.

**Throughout its 28 years of operation, the SSMC has provided:**



**MORE THAN  
3,000**

**VULNERABLE CHILDREN**  
with full-time residential care



**OVER  
2,000  
CHILDREN**

with early childhood education  
at our kindergarten (Son Ca Songbird Unit)



**HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS**  
with free examinations and treatment at our outpatient clinic



In 2015,  
the Sunshine Social and Medical Centre  
received the highest accolade  
bestowed by the Vietnamese Government,  
the prestigious Labour Order Medal.

SSMC was recognised for excellence in service and care and for providing an integrated programme of services for abandoned babies, street children, sick and malnourished infants, and their parents.

# PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The SSMC provides an international standard of care through the Intensive Monitoring Unit (IMU), Residential Care Unit (RCU, Hoa Mi Nightingale Unit) and Day Care Unit (Son Ca Songbird Unit).

## **Intensive Monitoring Unit (IMU) & Residential Care Unit (RCU; Hoa Mi Nightingale Unit)**

Children in the IMU and RCU are between the ages of 0 and 6 years who suffer from a variety of conditions including malnutrition, cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, hydrocephalus, and visual impairments.

We provide on-site specialised and intensive healthcare to infants and children with severe medical conditions who are orphaned or come from poverty-stricken families. Medical care provided includes nutritional support, supplements, vaccinations, dental, eye check-ups and physiotherapy.

On admission, our experienced medical team assesses each child and designs a healthcare plan to address their specific needs. Their progress is monitored daily. On-site treatments such as physiotherapy and medications are provided. If the condition requires surgical intervention or more specific treatment, we refer the children to the appropriate paediatric hospital in HCMC.

All children are covered under a medical scheme that includes a general health check and dental and eye examinations. We hold weekly case conferences to assess each child's progress over our three areas of care: health, education and social well-being. Their development is also reviewed quarterly by the medical team including physiotherapists, speech therapists and nursing staff.

Malnutrition is still a very common health condition among children from poor families due to the parents' limited knowledge of nutritional care and their inability to provide the appropriate and necessary diets for their children. Almost all children who arrive at the SSMC suffer from malnutrition and related health issues. Each child at the Centre receives an individually tailored dietary plan from our medical staff and is provided with well-balanced daily meals along with nutritional supplements (including Vitamin A).

All residential children receive Sabin, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Chicken Pox, Encephalitis, Typhoid vaccinations in accordance with the Ministry of Health's vaccination schedule.

Dental checks and eye examinations are organised for residential and day care children.







REPORT 2019

# PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

## Physiotherapy

The SSMC provides early intervention physiotherapy-based rehabilitation for children with cerebral palsy, hydrocephalus and developmental delays. The Centre has two full-time physiotherapists who work closely with our medical staff and are included in all case discussions.

To support our non-residential children who otherwise have no access to healthcare due to financial hardship, our physiotherapists conduct special training sessions for the parents or guardians of the children, so they can continue to provide on-going physiotherapy at home.





REPORT 2019

# PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

## Kindergarten (Son Ca Songbird Unit)

The Son Ca Kindergarten provides educational, nutritional and emotional development support to preschool children (ages 3 to 5) from the local community and some children living in the RCU. The day care support also assists the parents or guardians to attend or seek out employment knowing that their children's needs are being met in a safe and loving environment. Prior to enrollment, we conduct home visits to assess each family's circumstances and living conditions, allowing us to understand the needs and immediate requirements of each child coming into our care.

After enrolment, each child undergoes an extensive assessment that measures physical wellbeing, awareness, language, and speech development and ability.

Our classes follow the Vietnam National Curriculum for early childhood education; however, our teaching methods are modified to meet our children's learning needs.

REPORT 2019

# PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

## Special Needs Education

We also provide special needs educational classes to develop the language and non-verbal communication, fine and gross motor skills and decision making skills of our residential children with developmental delays.

## Outpatient Clinic and Outreach Programme

The Outpatient Clinic, located on the first floor of the SSMC, provides poor children and their families with high-quality paediatric consultancy, treatment and social support. We also provided consultations to parents on malnutrition and physiotherapy treatments. Though the clinic was closed in 2019, we continued to provide health check-ups for students from our Sunshine School and a nearby kindergarten.

In order to support families who live in outlying districts and other provinces, we extended our services to the community via our Community Outreach Programme. We conducted outreach trips to some of the poorest districts in HCMC (District 8, District 9, Tan Phu District and Can Gio District) and Ben Tre province to provide treatments and medical consultations to families in need. Large numbers of migrants from varied parts of Vietnam live in these provinces in below average conditions. Malnutrition rates among these communities are also extremely high compared to the national average.



REPORT 2019

# PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

## Health Talks

Ensuring we support families to develop further knowledge and empowerment CNCF facilitates health talks to provide basic medical knowledge to parents. A survey is conducted at the end of each talk to evaluate their understanding of the information provided. This is to ensure families are retaining the information and leave with a greater understanding of the topic and are able to implement the knowledge in their own homes.

## Events and Excursions

CNCF understands the importance of social engagement and integration of children into community on their overall wellbeing and development. We ensure children have access to and participate in varied outings, and activities with CNCF Volunteers and facilitated celebrations and events such as Lunar New Year Celebration, Children's Day Celebration, Mid-autumn Festival Celebration, Christmas Celebration.

## Staff Training & Workshops

Ensuring a high quality of service is very important in all CNCF programme delivery. Our SSMC staff regularly attend training and workshops focusing on topics such as child care, therapeutic care and rehabilitation support. Staying up to date with current learnings ensures our children get the best quality care.





# GLOBAL MALNUTRITION & MORTALITY STATISTICS

Having access to high quality health care is crucial for a child's survival, health and development. The figures below indicate a significant need for action to improve infant and child mortality, healthcare along with nutrition so every child has the best start in life.



**144 million** (21,3%) children under the age of 5 had stunted growth and 47 million (6,9%) suffered from wasting (acute malnutrition) of which 14.3 million were severely wasted. <sup>[1]</sup>




- **20 - <30%** (High) of children under 5 are stunted (low height for age) <sup>[2]</sup>
- **5 - <10%** (Medium) of children under 5 were wasted (low weight for height) <sup>[3]</sup>
- Under-five mortality rate is **21 deaths per 1,000 live births** <sup>[4]</sup>
- Infant mortality rate is **16 deaths per 1,000 live births** <sup>[5]</sup>



# OUR YEAR

CNCF recognises the importance of providing quality health care to vulnerable children who otherwise would not have access to such support. Through our life-saving programmes we enable children to have the best start to life and ensure sustainable change through education, physical and nutritional support that have positive impacts of the child's long-term development.

**62**   
**Residential Children**  
(ages 0 to 6) were cared for  
at IMU and RCU

**54**  
**Children**  
were diagnosed  
with malnutrition

**41%**  
**Children**  
recovered from  
malnutrition



**73 Children**  
(ages 3 to 5) attended  
Kindergarten (Son Ca)

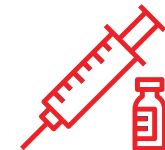
**65%**  
**Children**  
achieved Excellent  
education performance

**31%**  
**Children**  
achieved Good  
education performance

**4%**  
**Children**  
achieved Average  
education performance



**1,964**  
Physiotherapy Sessions  
were provided to 12 children



**172**  
Vaccinations  
were provided



**95**  
Case Conferences  
were organised



**453**  
Vitamin A supplements  
were provided



# OUR YEAR



**6,682**

treatments were provided to children (ages 0 to 14) through health checks at CNCF in District 3 and outreach medical trips in outlying districts and provinces.



**5,128**

treatments during Outreach Trips in District 8, District 9, Tan Phu District, and Can Gio District, HCMC.

**1,311**

treatments during Outreach Trips in Ben Tre Province.

**241**

treatments at CNCF, District 3, HCMC for students from Sunshine School and a nearby kindergarten.



**1,170**

treatments for malnutrition were provided.



**59**

gift packages were distributed during Lunar New Year Celebration.



**4**

health talks were organised.  
**437 parents** attended.



**99**

SSMC staff attended 11 training/workshops on child care, rehabilitation support and speech therapy.





REPORT 2019

# OUR STORIES

## Thank You From A Parent

"I am the mother of Anh. After sending her to the Centre for more than two years, I realise that my daughter has been developing much more, she is more agile, etc. The care-givers are very kind and enthusiastic, taking care of my little child very well. Thanks to this centre, I can go to work without worry. Without this centre, I would be able to neither work nor do anything as there is no school free for me to send my disabled daughter to. Hence, I greatly appreciate the Centre, the care-givers and other staffs here."

\*Name and identities changed to protect privacy.

REPORT 2019

# OUR STORIES

## Life-changing Experience of A SSMC Volunteer

“Volunteering at the Christina Noble Children's Foundation was a life-changing experience. I saw first steps, heard first words and felt an immense amount of love at CNCF. The carers look after the children like their own and the volunteers become their best friends. The amazing children and the staff at CNCF taught me so much and inspired me in ways I never thought were possible. There is no doubt in my mind that they have helped me to grow and I can't wait to go back one day.”

- Maizie Gardiner upon volunteering at SSMC





REPORT 2019

# OUR STORIES

## Helping a Child with Cerebral Palsy Thrive

Mai\* is one of three children in a poor family from Ben Tre province. She was born in 2014 with cerebral palsy.

During an outreach trip in 2018, SSMC doctors examined Mai and referred her family to SSMC. Mai moved into the Centre later that year. Because of her cerebral palsy, she was unable to stand or walk. Her psychomotor development level was that of a 12-month-old child even though she was more than four years old.

Over the past year, SSMC physiotherapists helped Mai begin to undo some of the damage she had suffered from lack of adequate medical care. Their first aim was to prevent permanent damage, correct posture, and stretch and strengthen the limbs. Mai was fitted with leg braces at a local hospital. After just two months, Mai was able to stand for two minutes without support. In 2019, she underwent a procedure to reduce muscle stiffness and had surgery to correct her arm deformity.

Since arriving at SSMC, Mai has been carefully cared for and received an energy-rich diet. She has now recovered from malnutrition. She has also made significant progress in her motor skills. She can now walk independently and continues to work with physiotherapists to improve her gait and to prevent deformation of her arms.

The care Mai receives at SSMC has also allowed her mother to return to work to help stabilise the family's financial situation. The SSMC is one of the only facilities in Vietnam that provides the high-quality, holistic care that children like Mai need to live a better life. Thanks to Mai's dedication and the work of the SSMC medical team, Mai and her family can look forward to a much brighter future.

\*Name and identities changed to protect privacy.

# OUR STORIES

## Providing Hope for the Most Vulnerable

Ngoc\* was born in September 2017 with Down Syndrome and pneumonia. She was abandoned by her parents and was transferred to the Social Protection Centre in Long An province when she was just 2 months old. Ngoc was admitted to the SSMC in March of 2018 for intensive care treatment and rehabilitation.

When she arrived at the SSMC, Ngoc was severely malnourished, vomited after feeding, and had a persistent cough. She knew how to roll over but her muscles were weak, and her motor skills were that of a 3-month-old.

SSMC physiotherapists worked tirelessly with Ngoc and when she was 14 months old, she was able to sit independently. Six months later, after more intensive physical therapy, she began to walk with the support of walls and cots. After several months working on building her leg strength, Ngoc can now walk for longer periods of time with support and stand while leaning against a cot. The next goal for Ngoc is to walk on preventing permanent muscle impairment and continue increasing muscle strength in her legs.

Without the intensive care provided by the team at the SSMC, Ngoc would not have been able to make such impressive progress. Her life will continue to be changed for the better by our compassionate and skilled medical team.

\*Name changed and identities to protect privacy.





REPORT 2019

# OUR STORIES

## Testimonial From Our Donor: Huyen Le, Human Resources - GAP

"I've known about the Christina Noble Children's Foundation since 2003 when I was working for an Australian company. My former manager was impressed with the hard work and commitment that Christina has dedicated in such a small foreign country like Vietnam. The admiration for this beautiful soul has later been shared with other employees in the company, included me.

Since then, I've chanced to meet with many other charity organisations, but CNCF remains the most remarkable to me. CNCF has become the name I would automatically associate with and refer to whenever someone asks or talks about charity organisations. Christina Noble has not only supported children and families in need but also inspired her staff and volunteers. I have met many CNCF members who have worked for CNCF for several years. If it were not a good organisation, employees would not have stayed that long and become attached to the Foundation, especially when their income, in my opinion, is humble. Through the many times working with CNCF, I truly admire the kindness and compassion of the leaders and team members here, who have silently contributed their part to society, for which I have great respect and appreciation."

- Huyen Le, GAP -

REPORT 2019

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

---

The total cost of running the Sunshine Social & Medical Centre in 2019 was

**USD \$369,207**

---

Heartfelt thanks to our kind donors who enable CNCF to keep this project operating and also to those who generously support with gift and time in-kind which enables us to keep our costs down.

---

Our audits are available online at [www.cncf.org/finance-policies/](http://www.cncf.org/finance-policies/)



# SUNSHINE SOCIAL AND MEDICAL CENTRE EXPENDITURES IN 2019

Description	Dec YTD 2019
Medicines	6,445.23
Medical tests	341.24
Medical supplies	6,421.27
Medicine for outpatient clinic	3,136.52
Forms & medical records	47.45
Bed linen and nappies	1,237.83
Food Items	33,843.91
Food supplement for out patient clinic	8,271.10
Fuel for kitchen	999.81
Purchase of equipment	895.17
Epidemic prevention & control (Purchase of paper towels, antibacteria solution, mosquito sprays)	218.03
Out patient clinic awareness activity (Parent talks)	510.98



**Description****Dec YTD 2019**

Children's festival

210.84

Decoration for Children's events

736.21

Teaching aids

**256.49**

Basic Salaries x 47 staff

106,558.61

CNCF Project Manager Salary

9,998.425

CNCF Healthcare Manager Salary

9,998.425

Local partner costs

720.28

Allowances

83,774.75

Staff benefits

4,592.44

Social, Health Insurance &amp; Labour Union

28,270.97

Night shift

20,436.67

Staff training

760.77

Staff uniforms

898.55

**Description****Dec YTD 2019**

Office equipment

3,714.19

Office supplies

37.96

Utilities (electricity)

13,943.94

Telephone

805.70

Petrol &amp; transportation

1,839.48

Garbage collection

100.79

Repair &amp; maintenance (equipment)

221.74

Repair &amp; maintenance (building)

5,985.15

Rental costs (cleaning service)

7,717.07

Travel

3,040.98

Miscellaneous

2,026.61

Others

191.0

**TOTAL COST****369,206.58**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your donations to our Sunshine Social & Medical Centre (SSMC) allows us to provide an international standard of comprehensive care to orphans and children from extremely poor families who suffer from poverty-related health issues. With your support, the children receive the opportunity to enjoy a happy childhood in a safe and secure environment surrounded by love and access to medical and nutritional care, physiotherapy, psychosocial care and education, which they would not have had otherwise. By providing the care that the children are desperately in need of, their parents or guardians are empowered to earn a living and build a sustainable future for their families.

We want to give thanks to the dedicated team at City Children's Hospital and Children's Hospital No.2 for joining our efforts to change our children's lives. Heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation to our primary project donors listed below for funding the annual operation costs of our Sunshine Centre.

- Allen & Overy (VN)
- Anonymous Foundation (USA)
- Bel Foundation (FR)
- CNCF Ireland/Cyclathon Dublin to VietNam (IE)
- PayPal POWr (USA)
- Premier Oil Vietnam Offshore B.V (VN)
- SEA Consortium Private Limited (SG)
- SHOEfabrik (VN)

Thank you also to the companies and the kind individuals who donated additional funds and also those who gave generously with gift-in-kind donations. Your support ensures our children receive the all-round holistic childhood that they so deserve and thus remaining true to our Founder's philosophy.





For more information on this report and our CNCF projects in Vietnam please contact:

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

 +84 283 932 6484

 international@cncf.org

 www.cncf.org

 @ChristinaNobleChildrensFoundationInt

 @CNCF\_int

 Christina Noble Children's Foundation

Written by: Bianca Joyce, Huong Hoang & Andrew Knott

Graphic Design by: Chi Nguyen

Imagery: Piers Birtwistle & Fred Wissink

Info Graphic: flaticon.com