



ANNUAL REPORT 2020
**BLUE SKIES
KINDERGARTEN
MONGOLIA**

“

The most important way to get something done is to make it happen with peace, dignity and unconditional love.”

- Christina Noble OBE -



APPENDIX

OUR VISION, MISSION, VALUES	04
PROGRAMME OVERVIEW	05
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	06
OUR YEAR	07
PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION	09
MONGOLIA STATISTICS	18
OUR STORIES	19
More Than A Kindergarten	19
The Foundation Of A Brighter Future	20
Thank You From A Parent	21
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	23
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	26

ABBREVIATIONS

CNCF Christina Noble Children’s Foundation





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 (CNCF) is dedicated to serving the physical, medical, educational and emotional needs of vulnerable children. We believe that every child is an individual who deserves love, respect and freedom from all forms of abuse and exploitation. We establish long-term relationships with the children we support and empower them to live happy, emotionally rich, and independent lives.

Values: Our values represent our beliefs and guide how we behave. They are love, compassion, respect, honesty, and integrity.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

ESTABLISHED

2000

LOCATION

Songino Khairkhan,
Ulaanbaatar

OBJECTIVES

This programme aims to create a safe, secure and happy environment where disadvantaged children can develop socially and emotionally whilst learning basic literacy and numeracy skills for primary school entry, in addition to cultivating healthy life habits, confidence, self-esteem and the ability to think creatively

BENEFICIARIES

Children under primary school age who are residents at CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village and those living in poverty in the surrounding Songino Khairkhan district area

LOCAL PARTNERS

Songinokhairkhan District Authority, the 40th Micro-district Authority of Songino Khairkhan District, the 14th Health Centre of Songinokhairkhan District, Enkhiin Urguu-2 Family Clinic, Mongolian Welfare Kindergarten's Association, Gatsuurt LLC, Oyu Tolgoi LLC, Mon-Gen Private School, Erdem Tugs School, Ikh Tenger Arslan Club

CNCF ACCOUNTABILITY

CNCF is entirely responsible for funding and programme management, monitoring and evaluation

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Regular meetings are held between the CNCF Kindergarten Team and the CNCF Ger Village Management and Psychosocial Teams. Monitoring visits are conducted by CNCF's Director of Operations during programme activities to discuss any challenges and programme developments with the Kindergarten staff. All children meet regularly with CNCF's Doctors for health check-ups. The National Authority conducts government inspections to ensure child safety practices are in place and the National Inspection Agency, as well as health and fire safety inspections by the local district authorities are also conducted regularly. A monthly report is completed by the programme manager and an annual report is made available to all stakeholders

2020 ACTUAL COSTS

USD \$34,017.78

REPORTING PERIOD

January – December 2020

2021 OBJECTIVES

- To continue providing vital services that support the educational, social, physical, and psychological development of the children in our care and empower their families to lead fulfilled and productive lives
- To update the Montessori curriculum and improve the study standards and environment
- To implement the Healthy Mongolian Child Programme throughout the year, and new curriculum adapted to the children's age and physiology

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2020, CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten continued to provide a secure and loving environment for children to develop socially and emotionally whilst learning basic literacy and numeracy skills in preparation for primary school.

Early in the year witnessed the closure of all educational facilities in Mongolia as a precaution to mitigate the risk of spreading the global COVID-19 virus. Blue Skies Kindergarten activities were suspended and the enrolment of children living in the community was halted. However, CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village residential children under 10 years old were able to attend the Kindergarten which is located inside the Village. During this time, all Kindergarten children were provided with immune boosting supplements and actively engaged in physical exercises to maintain their health. In June, after 4 months of a COVID-19 national lockdown, our team was able to conduct home visits to 5 desperate Kindergarten families and provide them with much needed food supplies for their survival. As educational facilities opened again in September, the Blue Skies Kindergarten resumed its children's enrolment with safety regulations in place. Public events such as the school year opening and parents meetings were unable to take place due to restrictions. Educational activities were then halted again in November after a reported local transmission. Our team continued to remain in close contact with the children and their families via phone calls to offer timely support where needed. View CNCF's COVID-19 Emergency Relief report [here](#).

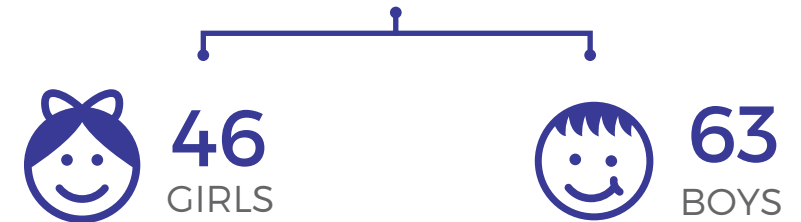
In 2021, we will continue providing vital services that support the educational, social, physical and psychological development of the children in our care.

In 2020,



109
CHILDREN

received holistic care and education
at CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten



71 CHILDREN
enrolled in
the spring term

65 CHILDREN
enrolled in
the autumn term



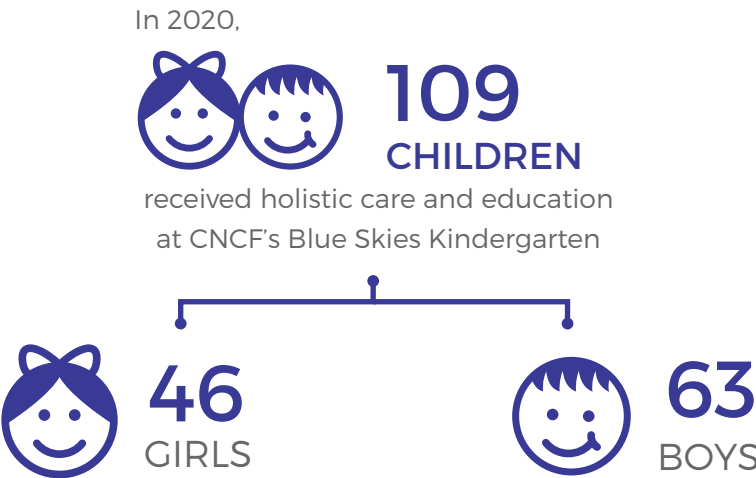
Since inception,

1,194
CHILDREN

have been supported with
holistic educational, emotional
and healthcare support at
CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten,
laying the groundwork for their
Primary School education

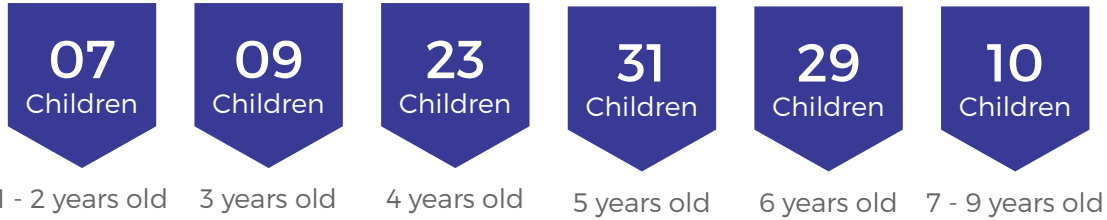
OUR YEAR

CNCF recognises the importance of a holistic approach to support the intellectual, social and emotional development of every child. For many children who come from disadvantaged backgrounds shaped by poverty, neglect and abuse, CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten is a safe and positive environment where they are enabled to develop their physical, personal, social and emotional wellbeing, laying the foundation for essential cognitive aspects of their learning and development.



During the lockdown and summer, Ger Village children aged over 7 years old and children of CNCF staff attended summer classes.

Age Group



OUR YEAR

Education Outcomes



28
CHILDREN
graduated from
the Kindergarten

Healthcare



51
CHILDREN
received primary
health check-ups



29
CHILDREN
received flu
vaccinations

Life Skills Trainings, Health Talks & Excursions



45
CHILDREN
attended 6 health talks
and trainings on personal hygiene,
storytelling, and horticulture



13
CHILDREN
attended an outdoor picnic
at the Terelj National Park

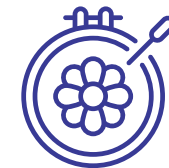


**40 CHILDREN &
10 PARENTS/GUARDIANS**
took part in CNCF's Golden Autumn
outdoor excursion

Additional Family Support



05
**FAMILIES
IN CRITICAL NEED**
were provided with emergency
food supplies in June



08
PARENTS
of Kindergarten children
attended Embroidery class.
03 PARENTS continued
practising and making
a living from embroidery

Staff Training



04 **KINDERGARTEN STAFF**
attended 6 trainings and workshops on
Montessori education, childcare and self-development



REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) expanded its work to Mongolia in 1997 with the establishment of the Blue Skies Ger Village, a residential care facility for children who come from disadvantaged backgrounds shaped by poverty, abuse and neglect. In 2000, the Blue Skies Kindergarten was established to support the educational and emotional development of our preschool children (ages one to six) residing at the Ger Village; later expanding its reach to the disadvantaged children living in the community in 2002 with the construction of a new building, in response to the growing population and needs of the local area due to immigration.

Most children who attend the Kindergarten live in the 7th sub-district of Songino Khairkhan, where unemployment rates are high and living conditions are extremely poor. Many of these children come from single-parent homes struggling to survive without any financial or social support. Lacking the means to enrol their children in school, many parents have no option but to go to work and leave their young children unsupervised, often locked inside their homes in unsafe conditions. By providing a safe learning environment for these children, we enable the parents to seek employment knowing that their children are cared for and receiving education, nutritious meals and healthcare, giving them the best possible start to life.

In addition to permanent Ger Village children and children from the local community, children temporarily staying at the Village are also enrolled in the Kindergarten whilst we work to locate their parents or find them permanent housing.

Our curriculum follows the national preschool educational system and focuses on each child's social and physical development through extracurricular activities such as outdoor excursions, arts and crafts. Each student also receives healthcare and personal development support. Life skills training is provided to the children's parents and guardians, enabling them to improve their quality of life and create a positive home environment.

To date, CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten remains the only free kindergarten in the local district providing children with holistic educational, emotional and healthcare support whilst laying the groundwork for their Primary School education.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Education

The children are assigned into two age-specific groups, each with different education programmes. Our Kindergarten curriculum is aligned with the Ministry of Education's national preschool curriculum with a focus on topics including Family, Seasons, National Holidays, Tradition, Transportation, Animals and Nature.

Educational activities include physical exercise and health education; singing and storytelling; team games, group discussions and sharing ideas; creative arts such as Painting, Origami, Crafts, and Sculpting with play dough; Information Technology (IT) and Science; Role Play, Drama and regular rehearsals in preparation for performances at special events and celebrations. These learning activities support the following six developmental focal points:

- Physical Health: Movement and sensory skills
- Communication & Literacy: Listening, speaking, literacy skills (reading, writing, comprehension, expression) and non-verbal communication skills
- Artistic Expression & Creativity: Expression of inspirations and feelings through drawing, painting, dance, singing, poetry, sculpture, movement and storytelling
- Cognitive Processing: Learning, developing memories and understanding surroundings
- Emotional Intelligence: Recognising, healing and managing emotions
- Social Connections: Cooperating skills and relationship development and maintenance



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Montessori Introduction

CNCF has developed a child-focused Montessori education plan, which aims to develop all aspects of each child and strengthen their relationships and community connections. Our team has also implemented a variety of activities supporting the Montessori approach based on self-directed activities, hands-on learning and collaborative play. Kindergarten children are divided into two groups based on their age and capabilities, each with different responsibilities including preparing tables, tidying up the classroom and watering plants.

All requirements regarding to Montessori education plans, classroom environment and teacher training must receive curriculum approval by the Mongolian Education Authority. Our Kindergarten Teachers are under a Montessori study plan and training, and will be graduating in April of 2021. CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten has become the first Montessori welfare Kindergarten in Mongolia in which all services are free and available for all children living in abject poverty.

Healthcare

Every child has the right to quality healthcare for the best start to life. All Kindergarten children are provided with nutritional support, supplements as well as health check-ups and specialised screenings that support healthy childhood development. Each child is examined by CNCF Doctors upon their enrolment to the Blue Skies Kindergarten. Medical details are recorded for future monitoring and treatments are provided for any existing conditions.

Many of our Kindergarten children suffer from malnutrition, stunted growth and rickets as a result of the impacts of extreme poverty. It is therefore crucial that they receive wholesome and nutritious meals at our Blue Skies Kindergarten. We provide each child with three healthy meals a day and snacks including fresh fruits and vegetables grown in CNCF's Ger Village greenhouses.

A child is referred to a specialist hospital or clinic for further support if a health issue cannot be resolved on site. All children from the Kindergarten receive check-ups from doctors who visit our Ger Village throughout the year.

Our children are also empowered to form healthy habits such as regular morning exercise and personal hygiene skills. Health talks are also organised to provide our children with basic knowledge for self-protection.

This year when the Kindergarten' activities resumed as restrictions were lifted, all children received health check-ups and daily temperature checks. Health talks on the importance of wearing face masks and washing hands were facilitated by CNCF Doctors and the district's Family Clinic using age-appropriate information and techniques.

Summer Holiday Kindergarten Programme

School summer holidays can leave many parents with no other option but to stay at home to care for their children with no income generated, or to go to work and leave their young ones at home unsupervised. Alternatively, some children have to accompany their parents to work, where they spend long periods of time in dangerous and unstimulating environments.

To support the children's continued growth and to encourage the employment of their parents, the Blue Skies Kindergarten remains open during summer holidays for children in need living at the Ger Village, children of CNCF staff members and those living in the local community, whose parents are unable to provide proper care during the long break. The summer school curriculum consists of fun outdoor and creative activities, storytelling and play, empowering our students to gain a greater social understanding and giving our young people exposure to different experiences. In 2020, only Ger Village children aged over 7 years old and children of CNCF staff attended summer classes due to lockdown restrictions.





REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Primary School Preparation

Our Ger Village Primary School Teacher spends an hour assisting our older kindergarten children in their preparation for primary school entry. The lessons take place in our Ger Village library where the children are able to develop their speaking, listening, reading, writing and numeracy skills in a focused environment.

Life Skills Training

To facilitate our children in forming healthy habits, trainings on oral and hand hygiene and the importance of face masks were conducted by our Kindergarten Teachers and CNCF Doctors this year. Activities to support the children's immune system and wellbeing were also organised in summer classes, which included an outdoor picnic and regular exercises.

English storytelling sessions was conducted by CNCF volunteer Atula, and an introduction to greenhouses and vegetables was organised by our agronomist to equip children with knowledge on Ger Village horticulture.

An Embroidery class taught by our volunteer Dulamjav was opened for guardians of Kindergarten children. 8 mothers and guardians participated in the class and learned how to do embroidery and make accessories. With the skill learned and their great commitment, 3 mothers were able to earn a stable income by embroidering for local clothing stores, supporting their families.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Events & Activities

Due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions and safety measures, public gathering events including the International Children's Day celebration, New Year's celebration, academic festival and parent-teacher meetings did not take place. However, we were able to organise outdoor excursions and events when restrictions were lifted in September.

Hair Cutting Ceremony

Having the first haircut is immensely important in Mongolian culture. The ceremony symbolises the transition to childhood and usually takes place when the child is between the ages of 2 and 5. This year, 1 girl had the traditional Haircut ceremony organised by the Ger Village team. This experience enables the children to gain more knowledge on cultural traditions and beliefs.

Competitions

Our children enjoyed a day of sports spirit in November when a sports tournament of basketball, volleyball and table tennis was organised with the participation of CNCF staff, parents/guardians of the Blue Skies Kindergarten children and Blue Skies Ger Village children and 2 other welfare kindergartens in the community. Our Ger Village staff won the title whilst a member of the maintenance team was chosen as 'Best Player'.



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Events & Activities

Golden Autumn Trip

Outdoor excursions are organised for our children to support the stimulation of their learning and enable them to develop social skills. Exposure to diverse environments and experiences enables children to have a better understanding of nature and their surroundings.

In 2020, our kindergarten students took part in an outdoor excursion to learn more about nature. The Golden Autumn trip to the nearest birch forest took place in October with the participation of 40 young kindergarten children and 10 parents/guardians. Our children were thrilled to participate in activities such as learning about new fruits and vegetables and collecting fallen leaves and cones which they used to make crafts.

Outdoor Picnic

In June, 13 children from our Kindergarten summer class participated in an outdoor picnic by the riverside of Terelj National Park. The children enjoyed a fun day as they spent time playing by the river and competing in relay races.





REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Maintenance & Improvements

Maintenance work was carried out throughout the year. The Kindergarten was also renovated with new furniture and decorated with teaching materials and toys to meet Montessori standards. Improvements at the Blue Skies Kindergarten in 2020:

- The Kindergarten's floor was refurbished
- The entrance was refurbished, and new ceiling installed
- New furniture was fitted in the classroom

The refurbishment of the youngest age group's room was delayed due to COVID-19 lockdown measures.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Partnerships

By working to continuously improve our programme delivery and develop the programme's capacity to reach more children in need, we aim to strengthen partnerships with the local authorities and the kindergarten community as well as staying up-to-date with the latest policies and procedures of the Mongolian educational system. The profound impact of the Blue Skies Kindergarten has also inspired positive engagement from the local community, with donations of food supplies and stationery, as well as funding for an outdoor sandpit for our children.

Staff Training

In 2020, our Kindergarten Team attended two training sessions delivered by CNCF's Psychosocial Team, providing knowledge on self-care, stress management and healthy wellbeing. Trainings on child-friendly environments, self-development and kindergarten enrolment were also facilitated by the educators of the Good Neighbours Organisation and the Education Department specialist of Songinokhairkhan district authority.

Our Kindergarten Teachers attended weekly Montessori training sessions to become certified Montessori teachers equipped with the latest knowledge and skills to ensure the quality childhood development of each child.

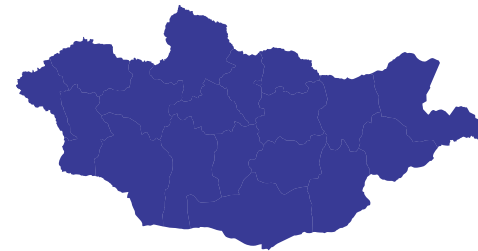




REPORT 2020

MONGOLIA STATISTICS

Access to high quality early childhood education and healthcare facilitates a healthy physical, social, and emotional development crucial to the long-term development of every child. Instabilities faced by children who come from impoverished backgrounds in their early years have negative consequential impacts on the child's psychological and physical growth. The needs for holistic childcare services which are available to all children regardless of their circumstances is imperative.



- The population of Mongolia was **3,225,167** ^[1]
- There were **385,681 Children** aged 0 – 4 in Mongolia in 2019 ^[2]

Around **263,333 Children** were enrolled in pre-school institutions.

- **1,439 kindergartens** perform operations in Mongolia ^[3]
- The infant mortality rate is **13 deaths per 1,000 live births** ^[4]

The under-five mortality rate is **16 deaths per 1,000 live births** ^[5]

[1] World Bank, 2019
[2] & [3] National Statistics Office Of Mongolia, 2019
[4] & [5] United Nations Children's Fund, 2019

OUR STORIES

More Than A Kindergarten

Itgel* lives with his parents and siblings in a ger (a traditional Mongolian home) near Ulaanbaatar's main landfill site. Itgel's father is the sole breadwinner in the family working as a security guard, whilst his mother stays at home to care for the children. Due to the economic impact of the global pandemic, Itgel's father lost his job a few months ago and the family has to live off the limited monthly government social welfare allowance. Struggling to put food on the table, Itgel's parents were devastated that they could not afford an education for their children.

When Itgel was enrolled at CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten in September this year, he was extremely shy and often distant from his classmates. Itgel was also unable to eat or perform hygiene tasks independently. The holistic education system and activities facilitated at the Kindergarten has helped Itgel to adopt new skills and develop each day. Within three months, Itgel has made great strides in his social skills and he is now able to greet his teachers and make new friends. Our Kindergarten teachers also worked to support Itgel with his confidence and self-expression and he is now able to communicate his needs. Itgel loves to sing in music classes and is an amiable friend to other children. Thanks to the support provided by CNCF, Itgel has flourished into a healthy child equipped with essential skills and knowledge, he would otherwise not have had access to.

*Name and identity changed for child protection





REPORT 2020

OUR STORIES

The Foundation Of A Brighter Future

Udval* lives with her family on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar city in extremely challenging circumstances. Udval's parents were herders with no access to prior education. As Udval's mother looks after her 1-year-old sibling at home, her father takes on seasonal labour jobs at a construction site during the summer to earn a living, their meagre income was not enough to cover the costs of basic necessities for the family. It was a huge relieve for the family when Udval was enrolled into CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten.

"At the Kindergarten, I was able to learn much needed skills and education for my future. My favourite classes were music, exercise and horticulture, I enjoyed attending the classes very much. I was also encouraged to join in activities to develop my confidence and make many good friends. At home, I use the skills learned at the Kindergarten to support my mother with small house chores such as cleaning and preparing food. I'm very grateful to the care and support of my Kindergarten teachers. I'm thrilled to see that I have developed into such an outgoing, friendly, and active student. Now that I'm starting primary education at the 67th public school, I promise to study well and know that I will adapt quickly to the new school because I learned so many things and was very well-equipped at the Blue Skies Kindergarten. Thank you to CNCF and all of my teachers and friends for making great memories that will be with me forever."

- Udval sharing upon her kindergarten graduation -

*Name and identity changed to protect privacy



REPORT 2020

OUR STORIES

Thank You From A Parent

“CNCF and the Blue Skies Kindergarten are my family’s light at the end of the tunnel and I am extremely grateful for that. Life is immensely hard even though we are all doing our very best to survive. My husband and I are uneducated and have no stable jobs. Our lives rely on the inadequate income of selling cans and plastics which we pick up from a landfill every morning. We were unable to send our children to school for an education. Our source of income was stopped as we couldn’t go out to the dumpsite due to COVID-19 safety restrictions. Fortunately, just like in a fairy tale, we met a Teacher of CNCF’s Blue Skies Kindergarten and it was the beginning of a new chapter in our lives. My son Bayaraa* was enrolled in the Kindergarten this year where he can play with friends, have delicious and healthy meals, and most importantly, have a quality early childhood education that we could not afford otherwise.

Bayaraa had never been to school prior to this, we were elated to see how much our son loves to attend the classes, where he can play with joy and learn new knowledge. Moreover, he has developed independence and is very supportive to his siblings at home. Bayaraa is now helping me to look after and play with his younger brothers. Thank you very much CNCF for providing education to my child. We are greatly appreciative for everything you have done for us.”

- Mother of a Blue Skies Kindergarten Child -

*Name and identity changed to protect privacy



REPORT 2020

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The operation cost of the Blue Skies Kindergarten in 2020 was:

USD \$34,017.78

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.

Audit in progress at time of reporting.
Our audits can be found at:
www.cncf.org/finance-policies/



BLUE SKIES KINDERGARTEN EXPENDITURES IN 2020

Description	Expenditure 2020
Firewood & Coal	1,009.30
Electricity	1,164.25
Food for Children	2,431.96
Consumables	397.71
Festive/Birthday Celebrations for Children	34.74
Teachers' Stationery & Supplies	49.83
Equipment & Items	1,982.45
Maintenance & Improvements	175.96
Staff Salaries	23,382.78
Social Insurance	1,213.90
Staff Training	44.57

BLUE SKIES KINDERGARTEN EXPENDITURES IN 2020

Description	Expenditure 2020
Public & Staff Relations	564.54
Sewage Removal	410.25
Miscellaneous / Others	100.46
Depreciation	1,055.08
TOTAL COST	34,017.78

REPORT 2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your donations and support to the Blue Skies Kindergarten enable us to create a safe, caring and stimulating environment where children are provided with quality early childhood education and critical care. This support benefits the overall development and wellbeing of our children who come from poverty-stricken and disadvantaged backgrounds and would otherwise have no access to these services.

Thank you to our donors **Barton on the Sea Group, Joelle Broatch, Linda Kuczka, Miranda Marsh** and **Tim and Donna Parrish** for your support and contributions to the Blue Skies Kindergarten. Our sincere appreciation to the individuals not mentioned for your support with gift and time in-kind. Without support from our generous donors and supporters, we would not be able to provide these life-changing services and significantly increase the children's chances of a thriving future breaking the cycle of poverty for themselves, their family and future generations to come.





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

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

 +84 283 932 6484

 international@cncf.org

 www.cncf.org

 Christina Noble Children's Foundation

 @ChristinaNobleChildrensFoundationInt

 @CNCF_int

 Christina Noble Children's Foundation

CNCF Project Manager/Stats & Data: Munkhtuya Namjildorj & Amaraa Bor

CNCF Copywriter: Huong Hoang & Thuy Nguyen

CNCF Graphic Design: Chi Nguyen

CNCF Imagery: Piers Birtwistle & Elaine Holder

Infographics: flaticon.com