



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

**SUNSHINE SOCIAL
AND MEDICAL CENTRE
VIETNAM**

“

Love is so strong and powerful,
stronger than all the weapons
in the world. And it should be
given to everybody.”

- Christina Noble OBE -



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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
CRADC	Centre of Rehabilitation and Assistance for Disadvantaged Children





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	1991
LOCATION	38 Tu Xuong Street, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
OBJECTIVES	To provide orphaned and disadvantaged children with access to high-quality comprehensive care so they can reach their full potential
BENEFICIARIES	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
LOCAL PARTNERS	The Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA)

CNCF ACCOUNTABILITY

The Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) is responsible for funding. SSMC is jointly run with MOLISA, the CNCF Director of Operations is the Co-Director of the Sunshine Social & Medical Centre (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 to all stakeholders. An annual evaluation of the programme is conducted by our local partner and CNCF Management for future planning

ACTUAL COST 2020

USD \$366,445

REPORTING PERIOD

January – December 2020

2021 OBJECTIVES

- To provide check-ups and on-site treatment for 90 children with malnutrition, illness and disabilities at a time (130 children/year)
- To provide pre-school education for 50 disadvantaged children
- To provide medical treatment for at least 5,000 disadvantaged community children
- To organise health talks for at least 200 parents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2020, the Sunshine Social & Medical Centre (SSMC) continued to provide healthcare, nutritional care, physiotherapy-based rehabilitation, psychosocial care, and preschool education and day care services to babies and children who are orphans or come from impoverished families.

In spite of many challenges to the programme activities due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the team at SSMC managed to organise home visits to the families of the children enrolled in the programme who remained desperately vulnerable, to distribute much-needed emergency relief support. All residential children continued to receive quality 24-hour child care. During the social distancing period in early April 2020, all direct child care staff remained onsite at the Centre without returning to their homes to mitigate the risks of transmitting the virus, while indoor learning and playing activities were facilitated to support the children's physical and social well-being development. The Sunshine Social & Medical Centre has and continues to stringently maintain a high level of pandemic prevention and safety precautions.

ALL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

were safe during the pandemic with the drop-out rate of children in SSMC remaining at 0%. 49 Tet food packages were distributed and 17 families were provided with financial aid through CNCF COVID-19 Emergency Relief Funds.

47 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, were provided with quality healthcare support at SSMC.

2,651 PHYSIOTHERAPY
SESSIONS

were conducted for 23 children with physical disabilities, in addition to acute medical care. The care provided by the SSMC's two full-time physiotherapists are critical for the children's long-term development and are not typically accessible to Vietnamese children living in poverty.

50 CHILDREN ATTENDED
KINDERGARTEN

and were provided with an early childhood education. Furthermore, the reopen of the Special Education Class also brought great benefits to 10 children with intellectual disabilities.

3,413 EXAMINATIONS
AND TREATMENTS

to children ages 0 to 16 were provided through SSMC's satellite outpatient clinics in surrounding provinces. Our outpatient and medical outreach programme continues to make a huge impact on individual and community health.

Since inception, CNCF's Sunshine Social & Medical Centre has provided



1,556 VULNERABLE CHILDREN
with full-time residential care



2,355 CHILDREN
with day care services and early childhood education at our kindergarten (Son Ca Songbird Unit)




190,447 CHILDREN
with free examinations and treatments at our outpatient clinic





OUR YEAR

Working towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, CNCF recognises the vital role of achieving quality healthcare for all children, regardless of their backgrounds and circumstances. Through the Sunshine Social & Medical Centre, we ensure children are provided with a healthy childhood and quality early education for the best possible start to life.

47 
Residential Children
 (ages 0 to 6) were cared for
 at IMU and RCU (Hoa Mi Unit)

37 **Children**
 (79%) are from
 partnered
 orphanages

09 **Children**
 (19%) are from
 extremely
 destitute
 families

01 **Child**
 (2%) are from
 another province in
 Mekong Delta,
 Southern Vietnam

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals





42 children
 (aged 3 to 5) attended
 Son Ca Kindergarten


60%
Children
 achieved Excellent
 performance

38%
Children
 achieved Good
 performance

2%
Children
 achieved Average
 performance


08
Children
 from Hoa Mi Unit
 were enrolled in
 Son Ca Kindergarten
 for education


10
Children
 with intellectual
 disabilities attended
 SSMC's Special
 Education Class


100%
Children
 were protected
 and negative
 of COVID-19

OUR YEAR

Healthcare & Physiotherapy



2,651 PHYSIOTHERAPY SESSIONS
provided to **23 children**.

Among them, **19 children** (83%) made significant progress



03 CHILDREN
were supported with leg braces for gait adjustment

01 CHILD
was supported with arm braces



47 NEW RESIDENTIAL AND
DAY-CARE CHILDREN
were diagnosed with malnutrition.
At the end of 2020, **12 Children** completely
recovered from malnutrition



70 TURNS OF
VACCINATIONS
(including Sabin, Measles, Mumps, Rubella,
Encephalitis, Typhoid, etc.) were provided

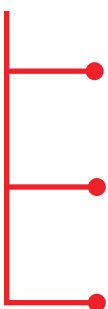


60 TEAM CASE CONFERENCES
were organised

Outpatient Clinic & Community Outreach



3,413 HEALTH CHECK-UPS
AND TREATMENTS
were provided to children (aged 0 - 16) through our outreach medical trips



2,427 in Tra Vinh Province

456 in Long An Province

530 in Vinh Long Province



366 TREATMENTS FOR
MALNUTRITION
were provided



17 MALNOURISHED
CHILDREN
(aged 0 to 16) in Kon Tum Province
were provided with monthly
nutritional milk throughout 2020

OUR YEAR

Home Visits



34

HOME ASSESSMENTS

were conducted for child
enrolment criteria



10

EMERGENCY VISITS

for families in critical need

Additional Support



49

TET FOOD PACKAGES

were distributed

17 Families were provided with financial aid
through CNCF COVID-19 Emergency Relief Funds



85

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

were distributed to children

Staff Training



23

SSMC STAFF

attended 03 childcare training sessions





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PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Sunshine Social & Medical Centre (SSMC) is where the Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) began its life-changing programmes in 1991 and remains to this day the heart of the Foundation.

The Sunshine Social & Medical Centre provides 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 poverty-stricken families. Educational support is provided for children with disabilities in the form of special needs classes and the kindergarten provides early childhood education to children from disadvantaged families.

Far too many children who arrive at SSMC continue to suffer from the crippling consequences of the long-ago Vietnam-American War. With over 20 million gallons of dioxins dropped between 1962 and 1971 and some still remaining in the ecosystem in many areas of Vietnam to this day, the lives of the third generation of children are still being affected by these toxic defoliants.

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 and suffer from a variety of conditions including malnutrition, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, hydrocephalus, and visual impairments. Due to the parents' limited knowledge of nutritional care and their inability to provide the appropriate diets for their children, malnutrition becomes a very common health condition among children from poor families, with almost all children arriving at the SSMC suffering from malnutrition and related health issues.

On-site specialised and intensive healthcare provided includes nutritional support, supplements and medications, vaccinations, dental, eye check-ups and physiotherapy. Upon arriving, each child is assessed by our medical team who then implements an immediate healthcare plan to address the child's specific needs and monitors their progress daily.

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 one of the main paediatric hospitals located in Ho Chi Minh City, Children's Hospital Number 2 (CH2) with whom we have close working relationships.

Each child at the Centre receives an individually tailored diet 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.

Frequent case conferences are organised 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.





Son Ca Kindergarten/Day care children during a play activity.

REPORT 2020

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.





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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 enables the parents or guardians to attend or seek employment knowing that their children's overall needs are being met in a safe and loving environment.

Prior to enrolment, home visits are conducted 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 with teaching methods modified to meet our children's learning needs. Dental checks and eye examinations are also provided to day care children.

REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Special Needs Education

Our residential children with developmental delays are enrolled in special needs educational classes to develop their language and non-verbal communication, fine and gross motor skills and decision-making skills.

Outpatient Clinic and Outreach Programme

The Outpatient Clinic, located on the first floor of the SSMC, provides children living in poverty and their families with complimentary health check-ups, high-quality paediatric consultancy, treatment and social support. We also provided consultations to parents on malnutrition and physiotherapy treatments.

Our healthcare services are extended via our Community Outreach Programme reaching many more children and families in need. In 2020, we conducted outreach trips to remote areas in three provinces in Southern Vietnam – Tra Vinh, Long An, and Vinh Long, and Kon Tum 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.



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Health Talks

Throughout the year, our medical team frequently provided guidance on hand washing techniques and hygiene skills, and ensured the children took the necessary precautions and practices to support the prevention of COVID-19.

CNCF supports families to develop their child care knowledge through a variety of health talks providing basic medical knowledge to parents. This year, 4 health talks were planned for parents and guardians of SSMC children.

Events and Excursions

Social engagement activities are crucial for the overall wellbeing and development of children. CNCF organises a range of activities including outings with our volunteers and celebrations of international and national days such as Lunar New Year, Children's Day, Mid-autumn and Christmas.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions many excursions and events were suspended in 2020, however we were able to organise internal and indoor activities to continue stimulating our children's learning and creativity.

Staff Training & Workshops

To support the delivery of our programme and empower the CNCF team, our SSMC staff attended training and workshops on topics including Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation for Children with Disabilities, Convulsions and How to Deal with Convulsions, and First Aid. Keeping up to date with global childcare best practice learnings ensures our children continue to receive the highest quality of care.





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VIETNAM HEALTH AND MALNUTRITION STATISTICS

Quality healthcare and good nutrition lay the foundation for a healthy childhood. Despite Vietnam's progress in striving towards a universal healthcare system and a reducing malnutrition rate, due to financial hardships, many families living in dire circumstances are still unable to provide their children with a nutritious daily meal or seek quality medical support.

CNCF works to provide infants and young children from disadvantaged households with a high standard medical care, physical and nutritional support and early education for long-term development, ensuring every child is given back their childhood for a chance of a better future.



- Infant mortality rate is **17 deaths per 1,000 live births** ^[1]
- Under-five mortality rate is **21 deaths per 1,000 live births** ^[2]
- **12% children** under 5 are underweight (low weight-for-age) ^[3]
- **20% children** under 5 are stunted (low height-for-age) ^[4]
- **5% children** under 5 are wasted (low weight-for-height) ^[5]

^[1] & ^[2] United Nations 2015-2020
^[3] ^[4] & ^[5] General Statistics Office of Vietnam prel. 2019



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OUR STORIES

Through Holistic Care, A Young Boy Shines

Abandoned at birth, Hoach* was cared for at a local child protection centre before arriving at CNCF's Sunshine Social & Medical Centre at the age of 18 months. In need of immediate medical attention for malnutrition, and motor skill developmental delays, little Hoach often vomited after feeding and could only roll and crawl due to suffering with hypotonia (commonly known as floppy baby syndrome). His psychomotor development was that of a 7-month-old baby.

Through a consistent range of rehabilitation treatment including sitting assistance exercises carried out by our team of physiotherapists, Hoach was able to sit unaided 2 months later. Followed by two-point kneeling exercises and further physiotherapy sessions, by May this year, Hoach was able to take his very first steps into the loving arms of his carers. The energy-rich diet provided at SSMC has also helped Hoach recover from malnutrition. As part of CNCF's holistic approach of care, our team at the Centre assessed and implemented a special education intervention scheme for Hoach, supporting him to develop his fine motor skills, social interaction, receptive language and expressive language.

Today, Hoach has flourished into an active young boy who enjoys singing and dancing, and loves children's nursery rhythms. We know that Hoach will continue to make great progress in his childhood development as we continue to give Hoach the right support and care.

*Name and identity changed for child protection

OUR STORIES

A Child Blossoming Under The Care Of SSMC

Xuan* first came into the care of CNCF when he was only 6 months old. Born prematurely and diagnosed with malnutrition, hemangioma and cerebral palsy, Xuan was frail and ill when he arrived at SSMC. After 16 months of intensive care and love from our medical team at the Centre, Xuan's health has significantly improved. Xuan has completely recovered from malnutrition and improved his respiratory system. Xuan was also provided with treatment for pneumonia, bronchitis, and hemangioma at our partner Children's Hospital.

From only being able to lay flat on his back to being able to roll over by himself and sit without the support of arm braces, Xuan's progress in his SSMC physiotherapy sessions, fills CNCF with pride and determination to continue our mission in providing quality healthcare for every child. At the age of 19 months, Xuan could walk independently for 5 minutes, an outstanding achievement thanks to his motor rehabilitation course.

The medical team at SSMC continues to closely monitor Xuan's developmental progress and provide the young boy with crucial educational and social support to ensure his overall health and well-being.

*Name and identity changed for child protection





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OUR STORIES

Thank You From A Grandparent

"My family was in significant hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. My daughter suffers from ill health and constantly has unstable employment, I have to care for my grandchildren alone while working different jobs to earn a living for us all. Since the children were taken care of at CNCF's Sunshine Social & Medical Centre, my family's situation has significantly improved. Knowing that the children are educated and in a safe environment, I'm able to focus on employment to support our family financially.

I would like to sincerely thank the CNCF Centre, the team of doctors, nurses and caregivers who have worked tirelessly to take care of my grandchildren. Both of my grandchildren have made remarkable strides in their development. We are very excited and hope that their future will be brighter. Once again, please kindly receive deep gratitude from the bottom of my heart."

- Grandmother of Sunshine Social & Medical Centre children -

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Through your donations and support to the Sunshine Social & Medical Centre, we are enabled to continue providing an international standard of quality and comprehensive healthcare to orphans and children living in abject poverty who would otherwise have no access to such services.

As a healthy childhood lays the foundation to a successful future, we work to provide a safe and caring environment where children are nurtured and flourish under the love and tireless dedication of our team. Our holistic approach in early childhood support not only ensures the development of a child's physical, emotional and psychological well-being but also their cognitive learning.

We are deeply grateful to our donors **Anonymous Grant Foundation USA** (US); **CAF America** (IR); **Claire Ni Drisceoil** (IR); **Duc Bags** (IR); **Eric & Barbara Kinsella** (IR); **Gemini Foundation** (UK); **Jack Andrew Memorial Fundraiser** (HK); **Mary McCann** (IR); **Premier Oil Viet Nam Offshore B.V** (VN); **RHC; SHOEfabrik** (VN) and **TTI** (HK), and to all those who supported the Sunshine Social & Medical Centre in 2020 with gifts and support and time in-kind.

We would also like to acknowledge the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) who jointly operates SSMC with CNCF and makes it possible for us to implement our programmes successfully.



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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The total cost of running the Sunshine Social & Medical Centre in 2020 was:

USD \$366,445

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/



SUNSHINE SOCIAL AND MEDICAL CENTRE EXPENDITURES IN 2020

Description	Dec YTD 2020
Medicines	12,178
Medical tests	136
Medical supplies	6,350
Teaching aids	160
COVID-19 prevention & control (Purchase of paper towels, antibacterial solution, mosquito sprays)	1,680
Bed linen and nappies	2,953
Food Items	42,455
Fuel for kitchen	1,117
Equipment	224
Children's festival materials	47

Description**Dec YTD 2020**

CNCF Management Staff salary

22,053

Centre Staff Salary x 42 staff

95,413

Centre Staff Allowances

92,221

Centre Staff Benefits

4,070

Social, Health Insurance & Labour Union

27,229

Centre Staff Night shift

23,009

Utilities

11,993

Telephone

615

Postage

54

Petrol & transportation

1,882

Description**Dec YTD 2020**

Garbage collection

101

Repair & maintenance (equipment)

1,172

Repair & maintenance (building)

2,061

Rental costs (Cleaning service)

7,481

Travel

4,909

Official partner visits (MOLISA & others)

928

Miscellaneous

2,687

Others

1,266

TOTAL COST**366,445**



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

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