



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

**TAY NINH
RESIDENTIAL CENTRE
FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED
CHILDREN VIETNAM**

“

It's not just about mending bodies, it's about restoring people's independence, giving them a life, not just an existence.”

- Christina Noble OBE -



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ABBREVIATIONS

CNCF	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City
DOLISA	Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
GSO	General Statistics Office
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund





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

1999

LOCATION

Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam

OBJECTIVES

To provide visually impaired children and young adults with holistic care including shelter, education, healthcare, nutritional care, rehabilitation and vocational training for their long-term development and personal empowerment

BENEFICIARIES

Children and young adults (ages 5-22) with visual impairments and multiple disabilities such as hearing and speech impediments, autism and mild psychological challenges who live in state orphanages or come from underprivileged families living in poverty

LOCAL PARTNERS

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

CNCF ACCOUNTABILITY

CNCF is fully responsible for funding and financial management. CNCF provides management and technical support for childcare development and all project services

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

CNCF's Programme Manager conducts monthly visits to the Tay Ninh Residential Centre (TNRC) for monitoring children's development and safeguarding. Scheduled and unscheduled visits to TNRC are also facilitated by CNCF's Senior Projects Manager throughout the year. Regular meetings with the local partners and Tay Ninh Centre staff are held to provide project updates and to discuss any challenges. CNCF TNRC staff also attend weekly meetings with the Board of Management. Timely support is provided when specific needs arise. Monthly, quarterly and semi-annual reports are provided to CNCF Board of Management. Annual evaluation is conducted by DOLISA and CNCF to assess project effectiveness. An annual report of the TNRC programme is also made available to all stakeholders

ACTUAL COST 2019

USD \$69,857

REPORTING PERIOD

January – December 2020

2021 OBJECTIVES

- To continue to provide holistic care and protection for up to 65 children with visual impairments
- To maintain quality of existing services and increase psychosocial support services
- To launch innovative initiatives in order to enhance project efficiency
- To improve working environment for TNRC staff
- To develop project independence and self-sustainability

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

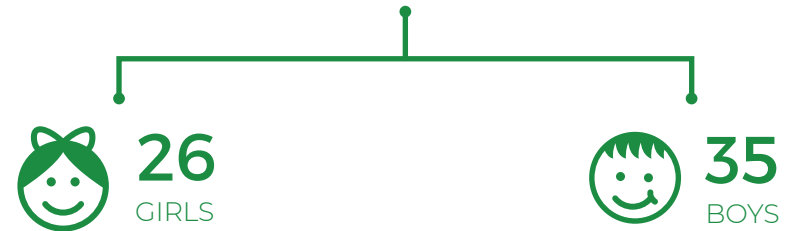
The Tay Ninh Centre for Visually Impaired Children (TNRC) was established by CNCF Founder Christina Noble in 1999, in response to the growing needs for a purpose-built facility to accommodate the varied needs of visually impaired children, who come from impoverished families facing harsh economic hardships, or are orphans and reside in the province of Tay Ninh.

In 2020, the Tay Ninh Residential Centre continued to provide healthcare, mainstream education, special needs education, vocational training, rehabilitation in mobility skills, life-skills training, job placements, recreational activities, and long-term boarding for 61 children and young adults.

Recognising the consequential economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on those already living in abject poverty, CNCF provided TNRC children and their families with emergency packages of food supplies, drinking water, basic living necessities, and financial aid. Additional hygiene products such as masks, hand sanitisers, cleaning products, vitamins, thermometers were also distributed. As an emergency relief hotline was established, our team closely monitored the children and families' circumstances, and offered counselling support where needed.

To date, the Centre remains the only facility offering comprehensive care to an underserved and often overlooked population of visually impaired children in the province, witnessing the drastic development of our graduates who have gone on to become self-sufficient and lead independent, sustainable lives.

61 CHILDREN
were provided with holistic care
and support in 2020



18 CHILDREN
are completely blind

33 CHILDREN
enrolled in
mainstream education

43 CHILDREN
are partially blind

58 CHILDREN
(24 Girls and 34 Boys)
remained under the care of TNRC
as of the end of 2020

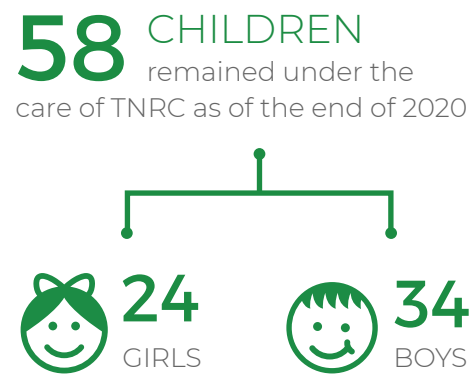
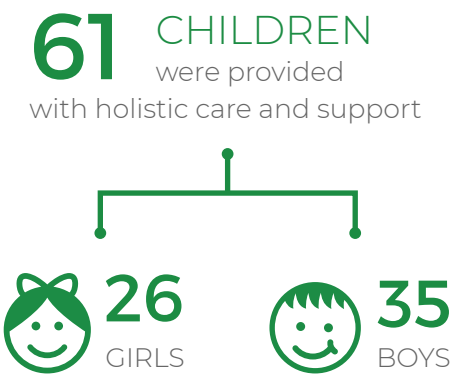
21 CHILDREN
have additional
disabilities

53 CHILDREN
received annual
health screening

Since inception,
1,408 CHILDREN &
YOUNG ADULTS
have been assisted by the TNRC to
become self-sufficient and independent

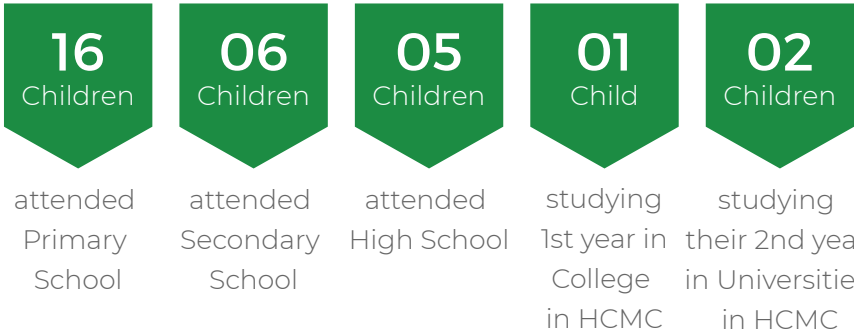
OUR YEAR

CNCF is committed to providing children with vision impairments or blindness coming from families experiencing significant disadvantages with holistically critical care and early intervention support. The programme provides quality healthcare, education and holistic support to ensure sustainable impact, empowering our children and young adults to lead self-sufficient and happy lives.

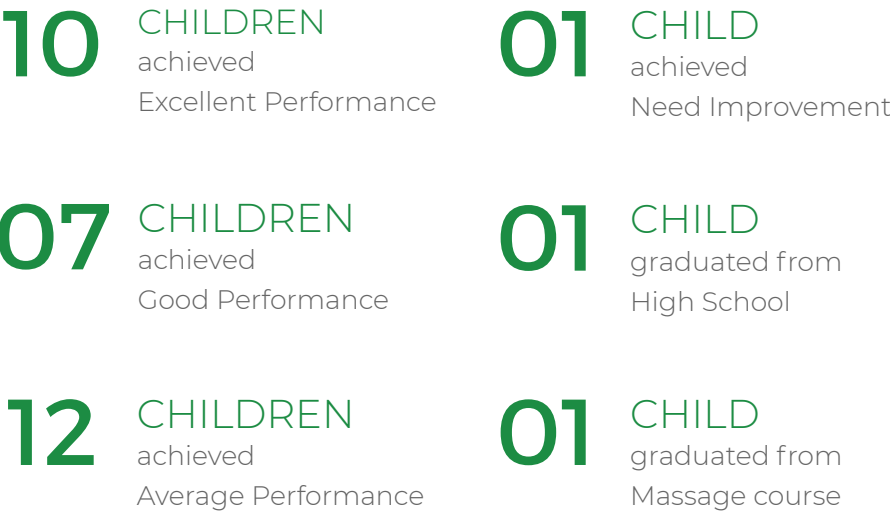


Academic Education

Education Level



Education Outcomes



OUR YEAR

Academic Education

Education Outcomes

30 CHILDREN
received school supplies

30 CHILDREN
received additional tutoring

03 CHILDREN
studying at universities/
colleges in HCMC
received additional support

Vocational Training

55 CHILDREN
attended vocational classes

06
Children

attended
Therapeutic
Massage

15
Children

attended
Shrimp
Salt Production

34
Children

attended
Handicrafts

15
Children

attended
Rattan
Weaving

08
Children

attended
Bamboo Reed
Curtain Making

07
Children

attended
Information
Technology (IT)

Rehabilitation



37 In 2019 – 2020 school year,
CHILDREN
attended rehabilitation classes

06 CHILDREN
achieved
Excellent Performance

14 CHILDREN
achieved
Good Performance

08 CHILDREN
achieved
Average Performance

02 CHILDREN
achieved
Need Improvement

Extracurricular Classes



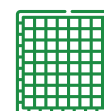
13 CHILDREN
attended Singing class



22 CHILDREN
attended Music class



06 CHILDREN
attended Chess class



23 CHILDREN
attended Chinese Chess class



21 CHILDREN
attended Computing class

REPORT 2020

OUR YEAR

Healthcare



58 CHILDREN
are provided with
personal medical insurance



53 CHILDREN
received annual health screening
at the city's Hoa Hao Hospital



53 CHILDREN
received dental care check-ups



43 CHILDREN
were dewormed



87 MEDICAL TREATMENTS
were provided to **61 children**



08 HEALTHCARE
WORKSHOPS
were organised



OUR YEAR

Events & Excursions/ Social Skills Development



10

TOPIC TALKS AND
SHARING SESSIONS
were conducted for children



04

MAIN SPECIAL EVENT
CELEBRATIONS & ACTIVITIES
were organised



58

CHILDREN
attended group
birthday celebrations



45

CHILDREN AND 20 STAFF
attended a 2-day excursion
to the beach



01
CHILD

attended a singing contest
organised by the HCMC
television station



01
CHILD

was awarded the Incentive Reward
in a drawing contest organised by
the HCMC Youth Union

Additional Family Support



20 FAMILIES IN NEED
were provided with
urgent financial aid and **03 DESPERATE FAMILIES**
were provided with emergency support packages



58 CHILDREN
received Christmas presents



58 GIFTS IN-KIND &
40 FINANCIAL AID PACKAGES

were distributed to children and families through CNCF
COVID-19 Emergency Relief Funds in early January 2021

Staff Training



41 TURNS OF TNRC STAFF
attended 10 trainings and workshops

REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Situated in the south west rural region of Vietnam, Tay Ninh Province is 100KM and a 3-hour drive from CNCF's head office in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly known as Saigon), neighbouring Cambodia on its northern and western borders. Tay Ninh was also the scene of extensive military action during the Vietnam-American War, being the fifth most heavily sprayed province in Vietnam. Agent Orange and other defoliants were sprayed covering almost 1,000 square kilometres of the province (23% of the total area of the province). After the war, many children were born with severe eye deformities, visual impairments and blindness. The use of defoliants such as Agent Orange, inadequate access to health education and monitoring and a lack of medical and nutritional care have contributed to a high level of visual impairment which still persists in the province today.

CNCF's Tay Ninh Residential Centre for Visually Impaired Children (TNRC) functions as both a residential and educational centre, providing children with holistic long-term residential care, nutrition support, healthcare, academic education, rehabilitation, vocational and life skills training and recreational activities. The Centre can accommodate up to 65 visually impaired children and young adults.



REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Residential & Day Care

All of our residential and day care children come from poverty-stricken families who do not have the adequate means to support them with their disabilities. The Tay Ninh Residential Centre offers a range of holistic services for a child's long-term development and personal empowerment.

Access to education, vocational training and extracurricular activities is facilitated, whilst each child is provided with an energy-rich diet. Children's physical health and psychosocial wellbeing are closely monitored. The TNRC team also oversee the facility management and sanitation, ensuring that a consistent high quality of care is provided to both our residential and day care children.







REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Healthcare

Monitoring

All TNRC children receive personal medical insurance, annual health check-ups, regular health and hygiene monitoring, and timely medical assistance. A general health check-up is conducted upon a child's arrival and the centre's medical team continue to monitor the health, hygiene and visual conditions of each child closely each day. Children with special dietary needs are provided with an individually tailored nutritional plan.

All children receive vaccinations when required, and are taught to use eyewash solutions and to keep their eyes clean at all times. For children who have partial vision loss or who are facing the risk of blindness, daily medications are provided to stabilise eye conditions.

All residents participate in morning exercise sessions whilst children with physical challenges also attend regular physiotherapy sessions to improve their flexibility. There they practise simple movements such as holding objects in their hands, stretching and bending to improve flexibility.

Health and Hygiene Awareness and Training

Health talks and sharing sessions are often organised to equip our children with basic and necessary medical knowledge and skills. Monthly sharing sessions on health topics are conducted by the nurse and centre staff. In 2020, topics covered general health, personal hygiene, eyesight healthcare, adolescence, and prevention of illnesses.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Education

Academic Education

Most of the children arriving at the Tay Ninh Centre have had little or no education due to financial hardships and the lack of awareness from their families. Social stigmas towards the learning abilities of those who suffer with disabilities also remains as a barrier to these children's access to education. All children have the right to a fulfilling life where they can explore and reach their full potential. Equal access to education for children with visual impairments and physical challenges plays a crucial role in empowering these young people's potential productivity, in turn helping them to become self-sufficient and ultimately alleviate the poverty they were born into.

Tay Ninh Centre provides children and young adults with the knowledge and skills, to enable them to enrol into mainstream schools and integrate into their communities. After graduating from primary school, most children with special needs living at the TNRC attend local mainstream secondary schools with approval from the Department of Education in Tay Ninh province. Lessons and examinations are converted into Braille text and tutoring is provided upon children's needs.

Vocational Training

Utilising the newly built computer room which was funded by Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation (NY) in 2017, the children participate in weekly computer classes to develop their information technology (IT) skills. They also gain vocational skills through Music, Handicrafts, Therapeutic Massage, Bamboo Reed Curtain Making, Rattan Weaving, and Shrimp Salt Production. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no English lessons took place in 2020.





REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Extra Curriculum Activities

All children have access to the TNRC Library with books in Braille, audio books and tactile books. These books are provided by CNCF and the Audio Library through the Ho Chi Minh City General Library. The General Library sends a mobile van with audio books to the Centre every quarter. Each child over the age of 14 is provided with a mobile phone, others are provided with radios, which they use to listen to favourite programmes, such as music and storytelling channels.

In addition, the TNRC computer lab further provides children with safe access to computers for their school work, IT and recreation. Children also participate in music lessons learning a variety of instruments, Singing, Dance lessons, Meditation and Chess for the visually impaired.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Personal and Social Skills Development

Rehabilitation Classes

The rehabilitation classes enable children to develop adaptability by being able to function independently in varied surroundings. An area in the TNRC is set up as a model house equipped with house utilities and facilities to help children practice daily household tasks, and to build their independence and confidence in navigating spaces. Children are also taught to navigate outdoor open spaces and cross the roads safely.

Life Skills Training & Workshops

Life skills education is an essential part of preparing the children to meet the challenges of everyday life. TNRC organise weekly life skills classes and sharing sessions on topics such as behavioural development, positive attitude, and modern social problems to support healthy growth and positive self-concepts for a child's personal development and self-esteem. This year, topics covered included, self-motivation, leadership, independent thinking, showing respect to ourselves and one another, career orientation, cyber self-protection, good manners, personal hygiene, and financial management. Children also learn about inspiring and empowering success stories of those living with disabilities, goal reaching, and the latest social welfare policies.



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Personal and Social Skills Development

Social Skills Development

Positive social engagement nurtures the physical and emotional development of each child, ensuring their healthy wellbeing. CNCF aims to introduce our children to new and stimulating environments and activities, benefiting their development, psychological wellbeing, self-esteem and general life-satisfaction and community social interactions. We ensure that every child can join in varied excursion trips to the parks, beaches, festivals, and concerts. Children at the Centre are empowered to participate in local, district and national contests. Whilst many events were cancelled in 2020, our children were able to attend a 2-day beach trip, 2 local chess competitions, a singing contest, and were also invited as audience participants to a well-known television programme when COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.

Staff Training & Workshops

Maintaining up-to-date skills and knowledge is essential in capacity building for the staff and overall project improvement. To ensure a consistent and high quality of service, in 2020 our staff at Tay Ninh Centre attended training and workshops focusing on topics such as: social work skills, educating children with special needs, children with autism, software management and filing systems.



VIETNAM STATISTICS

Below estimates emphasise the crucial need of medical care for people with visual impairments and the prevention of vision loss in vulnerable populations. Timely access to early and effective intervention is essential for the long-term development of every child. Moreover, the comprehensive support for intellectual and social development of visually impaired children is imperative, to facilitate their integration into communities and to lead sustainable and independent lives.



- **6.2 MILLION PEOPLE**
have disabilities nationwide. In addition, 12 million people live in households with people with disabilities. ^[1]
- **2 MILLION PEOPLE**
are blind or visually impaired. Among them, one third who come from impoverished families, struggle to afford vision treatments. ^[2]

^[1] GSO and UNICEF 2016
^[2] Vietnam Central Eye Hospital 2019





REPORT 2020

OUR STORIES

A Life Changed Through TNRC

Hanh* came to live at the Tay Ninh Centre when she was only 7 years old. Abandoned by her father when she was young, and her mother who later remarried and moved to the city, Hanh lived with her elderly grandmother in dire living conditions. Hanh was born partially blind, she was suffering from severe malnourishment and extreme developmental delays upon arriving at TNRC. The young girl was shy and often on her guard, distancing herself from other children, as she did not have a prior chance to interact with anyone else besides her grandmother.

With great patience, and most importantly the care and love of TNRC staff, Hanh gradually overcame her challenges and made substantial progress in her development. Hanh was also enabled to attend mainstream education and to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities, all of which she excelled in. Encouraged by the Centre's teachers, Hanh often competes in a number of regional and national singing, drawing and science competitions, and has won many prizes and medals with great pride.

Having graduated from high school with an excellent performance, Hanh was recently enrolled in the University of Pedagogy, majoring in Preschool Education. Her dream of becoming a teacher helping children with visual impairments and disabilities, dates back to Hanh's very first days at the Centre when she was immensely welcomed and supported by the dedicated TNRC staff. Hanh has now flourished into an extremely confident young woman, in spite of the many challenges in her early years. CNCF is incredibly proud of Hanh and her achievements throughout the years. Hanh truly is a warrior, and we believe that she will continue to develop and achieve many more successes.

*Name and identity changed to protect privacy

OUR STORIES

Building a Brighter Future

From a new-born baby, Thu* was orphaned and cared for in a Social Protection Centre, before arriving at TNRC for timely and professional care for her disability. Thu was also experiencing psychological challenges at the time and found difficulties in settling into her new home.

Over the past 8 years Thu has received intensive care and support across a multitude of holistic child development services. The Centre's staff supported Thu to adjust to the new environment and encouraged the young girl to attend vocational and extra-curricular activities, whilst developing crucial life skills and forming a strong bond with other children. Therapeutic massage was among her favourite classes at TNRC. However, Thu's physical disabilities resulted in frail muscle strength and Thu had to put incredible efforts into learning this practise. Despite the challenges, she never gives up practising. CNCF has been able to find her an employment opportunity working at a small successful therapeutic massage facility owned by one of our TNRC graduates. This has given Thu a great sense of personal achievement and independence where the young woman is able to lead a self-sufficient life with her own income.

Today, Thu remains in close contact with the TNRC, where she will always be supported with love and protection. The remarkable social and professional developments that Thu has achieved continue to inspire a great level of determination and motivation to the younger generation at the Centre.

*Name and identity changed to protect privacy





REPORT 2020

OUR STORIES

Providing Hope For A Family

"The day my wife left me and our son Phu* has stayed fresh in my mind. It was very early in Phu's upbringing and not long after we knew our son was born blind. As a single father who could only manage labour jobs, I struggled every day to make ends meet, let alone raising a visually impaired son with much greater and more specific needs. It was light at the end of the tunnel when Phu and I were referred to Tay Ninh Residential Centre.

Thanks to the great attention and patience of the TNRC staff, my son gradually learned to build daily habits such as brushing teeth, showering, and eating on his own. He also got to learn Braille and is now attending school. My son has grown into such a happy child who shows much excitement to learn new things every day. Providing an education for my son was just a dream to me, until CNCF's Tay Ninh Residential Centre made it a reality. Thank you to the dedicated TNRC team and CNCF for the wholehearted care and support that has been provided to Phu and many more children in need. For that, I am forever grateful."

- Father of a TNRC Child -

*Name and identity changed to protect privacy

SỞ LAO ĐỘNG THƯƠNG BINH VÀ XÃ HỘI TỈNH TÂY NINH
TRUNG TÂM NUÔI DẠY TRẺ KHIẾM THỊ
RESIDENTIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CENTRE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN
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REPORT 2020

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The total cost of running the Tay Ninh Residential Centre for Visually Impaired Children in 2020 was:

USD \$69,857

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/



TAY NINH RESIDENTIAL CENTRE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN EXPENDITURES IN 2020

Description	Expenditure 2020
Food items	15,903
Food for celebrations	595
Cooking fuel	271
Children's clothes	1,291
Infirmity supplies	847
Annual health screenings	2,075
Transportation to hospital in HCMC	147
Recreational activities	155
Environment hygiene	811
Toiletries	1,603
Kitchen utensils	252

Description

Expenditure 2020

Repair & Maintenance

163

Maintenance of electricity system, water, fire prevention

2,012

Education expenses for inclusive school students in Tay Ninh (33)

1,162

Tertiary education expenses for students in HCMC and 3 vocational students

3,149

Year-end reward for children

220

Computing class (Maintenance & internet)

507

Local Partner staff 13th salary

1,606

Local Partner staff allowance

8,808

CNCF Project Management staff salary

10,184

Equipment

3,013

Others

1,972

Management Fee

13,109

TOTAL COST

69,857



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your donations and support to our Tay Ninh Residential Centre for Visually Impaired Children enables us to give some of the most vulnerable and often overlooked populations in Vietnam a better start to life. Your support helps to equip visually impaired children and young adults with the confidence, knowledge and skills to integrate into their communities, and lead happy and independent lives.

We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to our primary donors **Nelumbo Stiftung** (CH), **Plus Real Estate** (USA), **PVH** (VN) and **Rapid Hardware Group** (AUS) for funding this project and providing a safe and supportive environment for our Children. Thank you to the many kind individuals not mentioned for their additional support in ensuring our children receive the caring and supportive childhood that they so deserve and thus remaining true to our Founder's philosophy.

We also take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to our local partner Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) of Tay Ninh province who supports and makes it possible for us to implement this programme successfully.



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

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