ANNUAL REPORT 2021
BLUE SKIES
ARTS & MUSIC PROGRAMME
MONGOLIA
PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

ESTABLISHED
2008

LOCATION
Blue Skies Ger Village & Blue Skies Kindergarten, Songinokhairkhan District; Rehabilitation Centre for Youth Education Programme, Bayanzurkh District; Child Sponsorship Programme, Chingeltei District, Ulaanbaatar

BACKGROUND
Many of our young people often come from exceptionally disadvantaged and traumatic backgrounds or have previously experienced daily emotional stress. The Blue Skies Arts & Music Programme provides a safe and supportive environment that facilitates the children’s healing process and delivers a tool to help them effectively regulate and communicate their emotions, and nurture their innate creativity, self-esteem and self-confidence. The transformative power of the arts and music is beneficial to the social, intellectual, cognitive and emotional development of all children, enabling them to develop into happy, fulfilled and expressive young adults.

BENEFICIARIES
Children from the Blue Skies Ger Village, Child Sponsorship Programme, Blue Skies Kindergarten and Rehabilitation Centre For Youth Education Programme

LOCAL PARTNERS
Children’s Palace, Training department of General Executive Agency of Court Decision, Rehabilitation Centre for Youth and Jonon Band of Traditional Music

CNCF ACCOUNTABILITY
CNCF is fully responsible for funding, programme management, monitoring and evaluation.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION
CNCF’s Arts & Music Programme Manager conducts regular monitoring visits during programme activities. Internal CNCF staff meetings are held weekly to discuss programme related issues and updates. Monthly reports and semi-annual reports are provided to CNCF Board of Management and an annual report of the programme is made available to all stakeholders. The progress of each child is highlighted at various events such as talent shows, competitions and performances throughout the year.
In 2021, CNCF’s Arts & Music Programme activities were limited in compliance with pandemic lockdown restrictions. However, the Music classes at CNCF’s Blue Skies Ger Village were able to facilitate and support the wellbeing of our residential children, as CNCF Music Instructor and Dance Instructor remained onsite for two weeks at a time without returning to their homes. Online classes were also organised for children residing in the community. When restrictions were lifted, the Arts & Music Programme fully resumed to operation. Our usual Art, Crafts and Music lessons were delivered on-site to children of the Blue Skies Ger Village, Child Sponsorship Programme, Blue Skies Kindergarten and Rehabilitation Centre for Youth Education Programme. Combined with residential and educational support, the Arts & Music Programme solidifies the holistic support of the Foundation.

Since inception, 2,320 children have been enrolled in the Blue Skies Arts & Music Programme, and nurtured their imagination and creativity in a structured and supportive environment.

In 2021, 125 children participated in the Blue Skies Arts & Music Programme including Art, Crafts, Music, Dance classes and Art Therapy.

- 15 children engaged in Art classes
- 47 children engaged in Art Therapy
- 78 children engaged in Music classes (Contemporary & Traditional Music)
- 21 children engaged in Dance classes (Modern & Traditional Dance)
- 05 children engaged in Crafts classes
REPORT 2021
OUR YEAR

125 CHILDREN participated in the Blue Skies Arts & Music Programme

42 CHILDREN from the Blue Skies Ger Village

28 CHILDREN from the Child Sponsorship Programme

17 CHILDREN from the Rehabilitation Centre For Youth Education Programme

38 CHILDREN from the Blue Skies Kindergarten

Age Group

- 41 Children 0 - 5
- 15 Children 6 - 10
- 10 Children 11 - 14
- 39 Children 15 - 17
- 20 Children over 17 years old

Blue Skies Ger Village Participants

- 24 CHILDREN attended Art Therapy
- 21 CHILDREN attended Modern Dance
- 16 CHILDREN attended Vocal
- 26 CHILDREN attended Contemporary Music
  Among them, 06 Children attended Piano, 05 Children attended Guitar, and 15 Children attended Ukulele

Rehabilitation Centre for Youth Participants

- 15 CHILDREN attended Art
- 14 CHILDREN attended Contemporary Music (Guitar and Ukulele)
- 11 CHILDREN attended Traditional Music (Morin Khuur, a Mongolian traditional horse-headed fiddle)

Child Sponsorship Programme Participants

- 05 CHILDREN attended Crafts
- 23 CHILDREN attended Art Therapy

Blue Skies Kindergarten Participants

- 38 CHILDREN attended Vocal
SOCIAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- **60** DRAWINGS & PAINTINGS by students of Art classes were displayed at the CNCF Art Exhibition.

- **07** STUDENTS participated in CNCF Art Exhibition at the Rehabilitation Centre For Youth.

- **100** CHILDREN participated in a CNCF Drawing and Painting competition. **32 Children** also participated in external competitions.

- **08** MEDALS/PRIZES were awarded to children who participated in Drawing and Painting competitions.

STAFF TRAINING

- **02** STAFF TRAININGS were conducted.
A performance by CNCF Music class students
The Healing Power of The Arts

8-year-old Bilegee* is a long-term resident of CNCF’s Blue Skies Ger Village. The young boy was found wandering alone on the streets of Ulaanbaatar until a member of the public reported him to the Child Protection Centre. Bilegee was later transferred to the Blue Skies Ger Village for a temporary shelter whilst CNCF looked into locating his family. It was 7 months later when we were finally able to reach Bilegee’s mother, who was a homeless alcoholic and incapable of looking after her son. The authorities made the decision to enable CNCF’s Ger Village to have custody of Bilegee so the young boy could grow up in a safe and supportive environment.

When Bilegee first arrived at the Blue Skies Ger Village, he could not sit still and often struggled to manage his emotions. Through a combination of art therapy, play therapy and cognitive behavioural therapy facilitated by CNCF’s Psychological team, Bilegee slowly began to open up, heal from his childhood trauma and become emotionally dependent. Bilegee has also taken up an interest in Music. Bilegee loves to sing and read poems alongside his peers, which inspires his confidence and ignites different areas of his development including his intellectual, social-emotional, motor and language skills.

The arts provide a platform where Bilegee is introduced to various avenues of artistic expression, and in doing so, enabling him to effectively communicate his thoughts and feelings as well as enhancing his critical thinking and creativity.

*Name and identity changed to protect privacy
A Talent Blossoming

Damin’s* parents separated when he was only 6 years old, leaving the family’s living costs weighing heavily and solely on his mother. When Damin’s mother severely injured both of her legs and could not continue working, Damin had to drop out of school to sell chewing gum and drinks on the streets to earn money to put food on the table for his young siblings. For years, Damin did everything he could to help alleviate the financial burdens of the family. Damin was transferred to and from different childcare centres before he arrived at the Rehabilitation Centre for Youth this year.

At the Centre, Damin is currently enrolled in Grade 7 and is able to attend Art class for the first time in his life. During the sessions, Damin took time to draw a tree but often erased everything to start over because he thought it wasn’t good enough. CNCF’s Art Teacher slowly supported and guided Damin to express himself and draw from his visual perception. As a result, Damin’s drawing skills and techniques drastically improved as he started to open up and communicate creatively. Damin’s artworks and his talent have been recognised at varied drawing competitions, both regional and national.

CNCF could not be prouder of Damin’s significant accomplishments in a short period of time, and will continue to support his academic and creative development which remains essential to ensure sustainable integration upon his departure from the Rehabilitation Centre.

*Name and identity changed to protect privacy
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The operational cost of the Blue Skies Arts & Music Programme in 2021 was:

$11,671 USD

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 can be found here.
## BLUE SKIES ARTS & MUSIC PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES IN 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Amount (USD)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff salaries</td>
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<td>Staff social insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Firewood &amp; Coal</td>
<td>478</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
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<td>Public &amp; Staff Relations</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous/ Others</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL COST</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,671</strong></td>
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