ANNUAL REPORT 2021 BLUE SKIES KINDERGARTEN MONGOLIA

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#### **REPORT 2021**

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

| ESTABLISHED | 2000   |  |  |
|-------------|--|--|--|
| LOCATION    | Songino Khairkhan, Ulaanbaatar   |  |  |
| BACKGROUND  | The Blue Skies Kindergarten<br>established to support the educational<br>emotional development of our preso<br>children (ages 1 to 6) residing at CNCF's<br>Village and vulnerable children living ir<br>wider community, and to date, remain<br>only free Kindergarten in the local dis<br>providing children with holistic sup |  |  |

emotional development of our preschool children (ages 1 to 6) residing at CNCF's Ger Village and vulnerable children living in the wider community, and to date, remains the only free Kindergarten in the local district providing children with holistic support and the only free of charge Montessori Kindergarten in the whole country. This programme aims to create a safe 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.

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#### **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

Governor's Office of Songinokhairkhan Distric; Social Development Department of Songinokhairkhan District; Education Department of Songinokhairkhan District; Treasury Department of Songinokhairkhan District; Family, Children and Youth Department Songinokhairkhan District; 40th Municipal Unit of Songinokhairkhan District; 40th Municipal Unit's Family Clinic; Association of Mongolian Welfare Kindergartens; Narnii Khuukhduud Kindergarten; Samarkhan Kindergarten; Bayankhoshuu 5th Zone; Erdemtugs School; Mongeni School; Gatsuurt Company; Arslan Club; Ikh Tenger Arslan Club; International Women's Association of Mongolia

#### 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.

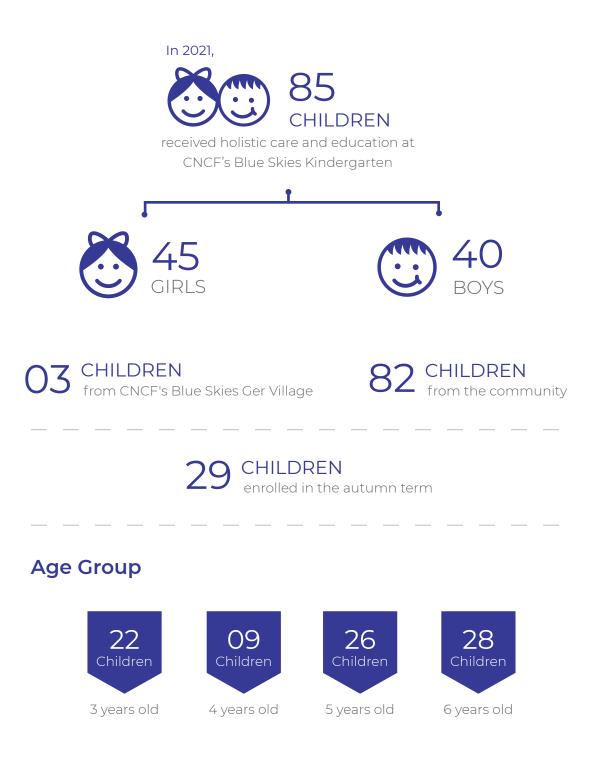
# OUR YEAR

In 2021, CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten implemented a comprehensive Montessori curriculum in addition to the national pre-education curriculum, providing children with age-appropriate lessons on topics such as science, mathematics, culture, speech, emotions and feelings. During the government lockdown period, CNCF Teachers conducted varied online community outreach activities and remained in close contact via phone calls with the children's families for safety updates and timely support. Families in critical need of food, firewood and household items were provided with essential aid packages through CNCF's Emergency Relief Fund helping to alleviate their hardships and living expense burdens. In September, CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten resumed to operation and 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.



#### Since inception,

1,279 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

#### **Education Outcomes**



28 CHILDREN graduated from the Kindergarten

#### **Extracurricular Activities**



#### **4 CHILDREN** engaged in Music classes





#### Healthcare

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05 CHILDREN received flu vaccinations

06 CHILDREN received vitamin D supplements

### **Additional Family Support**



### 45 FAMILIES IN CRITICAL NEED

were provided with Emergency Relief Support



# OUR YEAR

# Life Skills Trainings, Health Talks & Excursions



35 CHILDREN attended 03 health talks and trainings on personal hygiene



32 CHILDREN participated in CNCF's Golden Autumn Festival to raise awareness of fruits and vegetables

56 CHILDREN received Children's Day gifts from CNCF's Kindergarten Teachers who visited their homes

#### **Staff Training**



KINDERGARTEN STAFF attended 08 trainings and workshops



# OUR STORIES

### Transforming A Family's Life

Enkhbaatar\* was among the students first enrolled at CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten this year. In desperation of seeking quality medical services for Enkhbaatar's younger brother who suffers from a brain injury due to an accident, his family sold all of their belongings to move to Mongolia's capital city, Ulaanbaatar. Thanks to regular medical treatment, his younger brother's condition gradually improved. However, the hospital bill costs and living expenses in the city quickly rendered the family extremely vulnerable. At the age of 5 years old, Enkhbaatar had never been to a kindergarten nor interacted with children his own age. Understandably, he was shy and struggled to adapt to the new learning environment upon his enrolment at the Blue Skies Kindergarten. Through the love, care and holistic support provided by the Kindergarten Teachers, Enkhbaatar began to adopt new skills and developed day by day. By the end of the year, Enkhbaatar has made great strides in both his physical and social growth. He loves to sing and recite poems and can now hold a pencil correctly and works hard to improve his writing skills.

This year, Enkhbaatar's mother also started to attend a Kindergarten Assistant Teacher training course and wishes to work at the Blue Skies Kindergarten in the future. Enkhbaatar's father has secured a job as a construction worker to support the family's living costs. By providing a safe and stimulating learning environment for children like Enkhbaatar, we provide guidance and enable parents to seek employment knowing that their children are cared for and receiving quality preschool education, nutritious meals, and healthcare. A kindergarten does not just transform a child's life, it transforms an entire family's.

\*Name and identity changed to protect privacy





# OUR STORIES

### Laying The Foundation For Lifelong Learning

Anu\* was enrolled at CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten when she was 3 years old. Our team still remember the day when Anu's mother arrived at the Kindergarten and shared about the family's challenging situations. Anu's parents were unemployed as neither had an education or any training. The family relied on a limited government child allowance and seeked shelter at a relative's at the time. It was exceptionally challenging for them to simply put food on the table, let alone send their children to school.

The family started to embark on a new chapter of life as Anu began her early childhood education journey with CNCF. Anu's father is now able to support his family working as a security guard. Through learn and play activities, the programme aims to instil in the children a sense of self-independence and facilitate our children in forming healthy habits and routines. Anu quickly learned to express her needs through verbal communication and made many new friends at the Kindergarten. Today, Anu is able to eat and change clothes on her own and is an avid student of CNCF's Music and Sports extracurricular classes. She enjoys singing, reading, dancing, drawing, and hand-painting. Anu often shares with the Kindergarten Teachers her interest in learning new knowledge and being able to share it with her younger sibling at home.

CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten continues our mission in providing a safe and positive environment where vulnerable children are able to develop their physical, personal, social and emotional wellbeing, laying the foundation for essential cognitive aspects of their learning and development.

\*Name and identity changed to protect privacy



## REPORT 2021 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The operational cost of the Blue Skies Kindergarten in 2021 was:

### \$30,926 USD

Heartfelt thanks to our primary donors: Anonymous Individual (IRL), Broatch Joëlle (FR), Eric & Barbara Kinsella (IRL), Kurt and Suzanne Hoelhe (FR), Linda Kuczka (US), Liquidnet (HK) and Viviane and André Boureau (FR) who enable CNCF to keep this project operating and also to the many kind individuals not mentioned for their additional support which enables us to keep our costs down.

Our audits can be found here.



## **BLUE SKIES KINDERGARTEN EXPENDITURES IN 2021**

| Expenditure  | Amount (USD) | 1   |
|--|--------------|-----|
| Food Items   | 1,271        | • • |
| Clothes, Uniform & Supplies                            | 1,420        |     |
| Festive/Birthday Celebrations for Children             | 855          |     |
| Education Supplies and Expenses & Teachers' Stationery | 520          |     |
| Staff Salaries   | 20,229       | • • |
| Social Insurance                                       | 2,444        |     |
| Utilities (Electricity, Firewood & Coal)               | 1,101        |     |
| Sewage Removal, Maintenance & Improvements             | 822          | • • |
| Public & Staff Relations                               | 782          |     |
| Miscellaneous / Others                                 | 450          | •   |
| Depreciation   | 1,032        |     |
| TOTAL COST   | 30,926       | 1   |



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

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