



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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 leading children's foundation protecting and empowering vulnerable children and changing lives.

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 vulnerable 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 2021

USD \$339,321

REPORTING PERIOD

January – December 2021

2022 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 pandemic restrictions, the team at SSMC always strived to maintain the quality level of care and support for our children. All residential children continued to receive quality 24-hour child care. During the social distancing period, our 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. Despite the suspension of many of our core activities including school closures, community health check-ups and public health talks, the SSMC team remained in close contact with our children and families via phone calls, ensuring their safety and the delivery of support when needed.

42 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.

1,379 PHYSIOTHERAPY
SESSIONS

were conducted for 19 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.

120 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 continue to make a huge impact on individual and community health.

41 CHILDREN ATTENDED
KINDERGARTEN

and were provided with an early childhood education. Furthermore, the reopening of CNCF's Special Education Class also brought great benefits to 12 children with intellectual challenges.

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



1,598

VULNERABLE CHILDREN
with full-time residential care



2,403

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



190,567

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.

42 Residential Children (ages 0 to 6) and **07** Non-residential/Day-care Children

were cared for at IMU and RCU (Hoa Mi Unit)

21 Children are from partner orphanages

09 Children and 07 non-residential/day-care children are from extremely destitute families

13 Children are from another province in Mekong Delta, Southern Vietnam

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



41 Children (aged 3 to 5)

attended Son Ca Kindergarten. By the end of May 2021, there were 35 children enrolled. Among them, 32 children were eligible to be assessed

18 Children achieved Excellent performance

08 Children achieved Good performance

06 Children achieved Average performance



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



12 Children with intellectual challenges attended SSMC's Special Education Class

OUR YEAR

Healthcare & Physiotherapy



1,379 PHYSIOTHERAPY SESSIONS
provided to **19 children**.

Among them, **13 children** made significant progress

05 CHILDREN
were supported with leg and arm
braces for gait adjustment and orthopaedic
shoes for standing and walking support



34 NEW RESIDENTIAL AND
DAY-CARE CHILDREN

were diagnosed with malnutrition. At the
end of 2021, **06 Children** completely
recovered from malnutrition



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



66 TEAM CASE CONFERENCES
were organised

Outpatient Clinic & Community Outreach

120 HEALTH
CHECK-UPS

were provided to children
(aged 0 – 16) through our
outreach medical trip in Ho
Chi Minh City. Among them,
19 health check-ups were
provided for children with
disabilities

25 MALNOURISHED
CHILDREN
(aged 0 to 16)

in Kon Tum Province were
provided with monthly
nutritional milk.

By the end of 2021, 04
children completely
recovered from
malnutrition



REPORT 2021

OUR YEAR

Home Visits



02

INITIAL HOME VISITS

were conducted for child enrolment criteria

Additional Support



70

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

were distributed to children

Staff Training



14

SSMC STAFF

attended 05 childcare training sessions





REPORT 2021

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.





CNCF's residential child during SSMC's Special Needs Education class

REPORT 2021

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.





REPORT 2021

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 2021

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

Ensuring we support families to develop further knowledge and empowerment CNCF facilitates health talks to provide basic medical knowledge to parents. A survey is conducted at the end of each talk to evaluate their understanding of the information provided. This is to ensure families are retaining the information and leave with a greater understanding of the topic and are able to implement the knowledge in their own homes.

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 2021, 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 to keep up to date with global childcare best practice learnings ensuring our children continue to receive the highest quality of care.





REPORT 2021

OUR STORIES

A Child Nurtured Back To Health

Hoang* was abandoned at birth and later was transferred from a local orphanage to CNCF's Sunshine Social and Medical Centre in need of urgent and intensive medical attention. Hoang was 10 months old with a diagnosis of otitis media, bronchiolitis, asthma and malnutrition. He was also often hospitalised for pneumonia treatment. Upon arriving at SSMC, Hoang was severely malnourished and suffered from chronic diarrhoea, pneumonia, respiratory infections and persistent wheezing.

Following a tailor-made treatment and intervention plan from SSMC Doctors, Hoang was treated for respiratory infection and infant asthma. For the past 5 months, the young boy no longer shows symptoms of respiratory conditions and breathing issues. Due to a milk protein allergy, Hoang was provided with hypoallergenic formulas and supplements in addition to a specialised energy-rich diet that helped him recover from severe malnutrition. Hoang's fine and gross motor skills are developing incrementally as we continue facilitating an environment and activities that encourage his physical development.

Hoang's remarkable development in the last 13 months remains an inspiration that motivates CNCF to continue our critical work of nurturing vulnerable children into healthy and happy individuals.

*Name and identity changed for child protection

OUR STORIES

Thriving Under The Care Of SSMC

Nhu* was only 7 months old when he arrived at CNCF's Sunshine Social & Medical Centre. Born prematurely, the young boy was diagnosed with second degree malnutrition, bronchiolitis, respiratory failure and postpartum pneumonia. Nhu was frail and his psychomotor development was that of a 3-month-old baby. Suffering from pneumonia and severe respiratory infections, Nhu was having difficulty in breathing.

Throughout the 19 months of intensive care and treatment provided by SSMC's skilled medical team, Nhu has made significant development in his physical health. In addition to medical support, Nhu received a tailored nutrient-rich dietary plan based on his needs. Nhu has fully recovered from malnutrition weighing 11.4kg and has significantly improved his respiratory system. From only being able to roll, Nhu is now able to stand and walk unaided, and can put together 2-word sentences.

Today, Nhu has flourished into a healthy and happy young boy who enjoys listening to nursery rhymes. Our medical team continues to closely monitor the health of Nhu as well as supporting his early childhood education through effective interactions and play activities.

*Name and identity changed for child protection





REPORT 2021

OUR STORIES

Thank You From A Mother

"It has been over 4 years since my son Minh* received medical support at the Sunshine Social & Medical Centre. I cannot thank the Centre's Doctors, Physiotherapists and Caregivers enough for their dedication to not only help my son but all the many other highly vulnerable children who are under the care of the Centre.

Through the physiotherapy sessions and the assistance of the staff, Minh is able to learn to stand and walk, something I could never imagine him doing before as I do not have the financial means to support him with the specialised care he needs. My son also receives frequent health check-ups and nutritious meals each day that help him to recover from his illness. I am delighted to see that my son has developed so much in such a short time.

My family is immensely grateful to CNCF and its medical team for all the works they have done. Thanks to SSMC, children with disabilities like my son can develop in a caring and nurturing environment where they are supported to grow up happy and healthy. Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart."

- Mother of Sunshine Social & Medical Centre children -

*Name and identity changed for child protection

REPORT 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your donations and support to the Sunshine Social & Medical Centre enable CNCF 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** (US), **Anonymous Individual** (UK), **Byrne Family** (UK), **Consular Club** (VN), **Gemini Foundation** (UK), **Kurt and Suzanne Hoelhe** (FR), **Premier Oil Viet Nam Offshore B.V** (VN), and **SHOEfabrik** (VN) and to all those who supported the Sunshine Social & Medical Centre in 2021 with gifts 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.



REPORT 20201

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The total cost of running the Sunshine Social & Medical Centre in 2021 was:

\$339,321 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**.



SUNSHINE SOCIAL AND MEDICAL CENTRE EXPENDITURES IN 2021

Expenditure	Amount (USD)
Medicines	5,754
Food items & fuel for kitchen	31,453
Children's supplies, nappies and bedsheets	341
Healthcare (medical supplies, medical materials and hospital fees)	5,843
Equipment	41
Petrol & transportation	1,125
Electricity & water	9,651
Telephone & postage	632
Rental costs (Cleaning service)	5,140
Repairs & maintenance (Building & Machine)	2,778

Expenditure

Amount (USD)

Centre Staff salary x 41 staff

201,542

Centre Staff night shift

12,572

Centre Staff uniform

3,510

Centre Staff benefits

30,242

CNCF Project Management Staff salary

23,539

Official partner visits (MOLISA & others)

152

Miscellaneous

4,196

Others

812

TOTAL COST

339,321



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

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 Christina Noble Children's Foundation

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