



Every child has a right to sleep on their pillow at night time, with peace in their hearts, love, security and protection."

- Christina Noble OBE -



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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

CNCF Christina Noble Children's Foundation





## 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 is dedicated to serving the physical, medical, educational, and emotional needs of vulnerable children. We believe that every child deserves love, respect, and freedom from all forms of 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** 

1997

**LOCATION** 

Songino Khairkhan, Ulaanbaatar

**OBJECTIVES** 

To provide a safe environment and a caring community for vulnerable children, where they are cared for and nurtured, surrounded by friends and supportive adults and enabled to successfully break the cycle of poverty and lead independent and fulfilling lives

#### **BENEFICIARIES**

Children up to the age of 19 years old who come from disadvantaged backgrounds including orphans, children from poor families whose parents or guardians are unable to support them, abandoned children, children living on the streets, and those who have faced or are at high risk of commercial and sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and threats of violence

#### CNCF ACCOUNTABILITY

CNCF is fully responsible for the protection and development of all residential children, funding, programme management, monitoring and evaluation

## LOCAL PARTNERS

Family, Child and Youth Development Agency of Mongolia; Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Mongolia; National Emergency Management Agency; Ulaanbaatar Emergency Management Department; Ulaanbaatar Family, Child and Youth Development Department; General Agency for Labour Welfare Services; Songinokhairkhan District Labour Welfare Services' Department; Songinokhairkhan District Police Department, 2nd division; Family, Child and Youth Development Department of Songinokhairkhan District, Sukhbaatar District, Bayangol District, Nalaikh District, Khan Uul District, and Bayanzurkh District; Songinokhairkhan District Specialised Inspection Department; Songinokhairkhan District Emergency Management Department; Songinokhairkhan District Land Organising Department; Songinokhairkhan District Civil Registration Department; National Centre for Maternal and Child Health; National Dermatology Centre; Songinokhairkhan District Health Centre; Songinokhairkhan District Child Health Centre; Songinokhairkhan District Health 14th Centre; Songinokhairkhan District Health Centre's 3rd Laboratory; Songinokhairkhan District 40th Family Clinic; 67th Public School; 76th Public School; 104th Public School; 105th Public School; 124th Public School; 29th Specialised School; Songinokhairkhan District Informal School; Food and Technology Polytechnic College; Tavan Tolgoi Fuel LLC; Education and Psychology Department of Mongolian National University; Business Department of Mongolian University of Science and Technology; Songinokhairkhan District Swimming and Training Centre; Ulaanbaatar Nursing School; Mobicom; Unitel; Embassy of the Czech Republic in Ulaanbaatar city; Khan Bank; Government Bank; Golomt Bank; Khas Bank; Premium Dental Studio; Gurvan Gal Hospital; Intremed Hospital; Barloworld Mongolia LLC; Gold Father Restaurant; Social and Psychology Research Institute; Mongolian Taekwondo Association; Deseret International Charities Mongolia; Policy Centre; Khan Chandmani Sports Hall; Bugat Resort; Sweet Guys' Union; Tiens LLC; Aurora Ballet & Piano Studio; Premium Dental Studio; Khos Shagai Salon; Lantuun Dohio Non-government Organisation; Damakia Meditation Center; Nar Od Photo Center; Philormania of Mongolia; Foundation of UlsBold; Tsahiur Tumur LLC; SUU LLC; and Maks Group

#### MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Educational activities, along with regular health check-ups and therapy sessions are organised for all children at the Ger Village. Meetings with the Director of Operations and Ger Village management team, staff and children are held for programme discussions. Monthly reports prepared by CNCF staff are provided to the CNCF Board of Management, CEO, International Board of Directors and Founder Mrs. Christina Noble. Annual reports are sent to all stakeholders. Government inspections are conducted by the Family, Child and Youth Development Agency and the National Inspection Agency of Mongolia. Health and fire safety inspections are conducted annually by the local district authorities

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2022, the Blue Skies Ger Village continued to provide a safe and caring environment to children who are orphaned, living on the streets, or unable to remain with their families due to high risk of neglect, abuse, or exploitation. This year marked the resumption of in-person education after over two years of remote learning. As classes were previously conducted through tele-lessons and electronic means, it was our top priority to provide necessary interventions to support the students' academic progress and overall educational development.

In 2023, we will continue to offer crucial childcare support to some of Mongolia's most vulnerable children, ensuring they have the opportunity to lead lives filled with happiness, health, and self-sufficiency. CNCF's holistic approach supports our children with not only an education, comprehensive healthcare, and psychological support, but also access to a well-rounded personal development programme of extracurricular activities and life skills training. Our goal is to equip these children with the tools and resources they need to thrive and succeed, fostering their holistic growth and empowering them to build brighter futures.

Since inception in 1997,

1,289 CHILDREN
have been provided with holistic integrated childcare services at CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village

This year,

54 CHILDREN
were supported at
the Blue Skies Ger Village



54 CHILDREN were permanent residents

O4 CHILDREN graduated from the Village

At the end of 2022,

50 CHILDREN (26 Girls & 24 Boys)
resided at the Blue Skies Ger Village



## **OUR YEAR**

CNCF is dedicated to empowering vulnerable children from poverty-stricken and disadvantaged backgrounds, whose families are unable to care for them. Our first and foremost goal is to help these children realise their full potential and become productive members of society through the holistic and child-centric support offered at the Blue Skies Ger Village. CNCF remains unwavering in our commitment to providing essential healthcare and humanitarian assistance to marginalised communities in need.

54 CHILDREN
(25 Boys & 29 Girls)
received holistic support at the Blue Skies Ger Village

54 CHILDREN are permanent residents

12 CHILDREN arrived at the Ger Village in 2022

O4 CHILDREN
graduated from the Ger Village and reintegrated
with their families



### **Demographic Summary**

OT CHILD (2%)
is an orphan with both parents deceased

12 CHILDREN (22%)
were living with a single
parent unable to care for them

**\_\_\_\_**1 CHILDREN (76%)

have one parent deceased with the other parent having abandoned them or unable to care for them









Age 16 - 18

## **OUR YEAR**

### **Academic Education**

#### **Education Level**



attended CNCF's

Blue Skies

Kindergarten

20 Children

attended Primary School 18 Children

attended Secondary School

05 Children

attended High School 05 Children

attended College/ Vocational Programmes/ Training Centre O1 Child

was not enrolled to school at the time of reporting

06 CHILDREN attended Informal School

01

CHILD started work upon graduating from the Ger Village

**Extra Tuition** 

25 CHILDREN attended Mongolian lessons

51 CHILDREN attended English lessons

25 CHILDREN attended Story Reading and Telling

51 CHILDREN attended Mathematics lessons

51 CHILDREN
attended general academic
support and homework
study classes

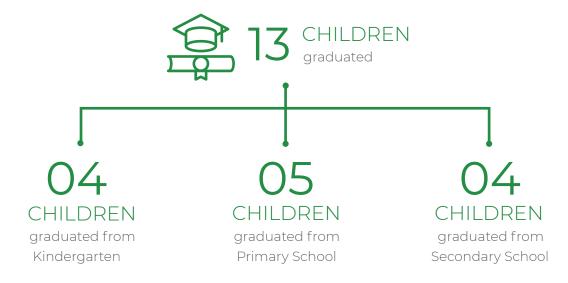




## **OUR YEAR**

### **Academic Education**

**Educational Outcomes** 





02 CHILDREN received scholars

received scholarships from CNCF for their tertiary education



Currently,

O2 GER VILLAGE CHILDREN are attending College

## **OUR YEAR**

### **Healthcare & Psychosocial Care**

Healthcare



1,283 HEALTH CHECK-UPS were conducted in the Ger Village infirmary for 54 children



36 HEALTH TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS



19 HEALTHCARE FOCUS
GROUP TRAINING SESSIONS



02 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS were conducted for children who needed further treatment



04 HEALTH TALKS
were organised

### **Psychosocial Care**



177

PSYCHOLOGICAL GROUP MEETINGS

were conducted



50

CHILDREN

participated in six types of psychological training



21

**HOME VISITS** 

were conducted to children's families



36

CHILDREN'S FAMILY MEMBERS

visited their children at the Ger Village



02

VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY EVENTS

were facilitated

## **OUR YEAR**

### **Extracurricular Activities**

### **Sports Programme**



45

CHILDREN

attended Taekwondo



11

CHILDREN

attended Cricket



02

CHILDREN

attended a Basketball Course



07

**CHILDREN** 

attended a Volleyball Course



01

**CHILD** 

attended a Wrestling Course



08

CHILDREN

attended a Swimming Course



25

CHILDREN

attended a National Archery course

### **Arts & Music Programme**



2

CHILDREN

attended Arts classes



24

CHILDREN

attended Art Therapy



28

**CHILDREN** 

attended Crafts classes



2

**CHILDREN** 

attended Modern Dance classes



10

CHILDREN

attended Traditional Dance classes



26

CHILDREN

attended Contemporary Music classes (Ukulele, Guitar, and Piano)



16

CHILDREN

attended Singing classes



O

MEDAL

was won in a national Arts & Music competition

## **OUR YEAR**

### **Events & Workshops**



CHILD TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

> were organised for all children



STAFF TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

> were organised **34 staff** attended



CHILDREN

participated in the Boys' & Girls' Club



**CHILDREN** 

from the Ger Village are members of the Noble Club who volunteer in the community



**EVENTS & EXCURSION** 

were organised

54 children participated

## **Emergency Relief Support**



received hearing aids



**CHILD** 

received a first aid study package



1,891

KILOGRAMMES OF FRUITS & VEGETABLES

were harvested through Ger Village's horticulture



## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Blue Skies Ger Village was the first programme in Mongolia to be established by CNCF Founder Christina Noble in 1997. The Ger Village sits on 1.23 hectares of land and consists of many traditional Mongolian homes called gers and several purpose-built brick structures.

The Blue Skies Ger Village provides abandoned and neglected children with residential care, healthcare, psychological rehabilitation, academic education, vocational training, personal and life skills development, and encourages them to cultivate hobbies and interests through CNCF's Arts, Music & Sports Programme.

The Ger Village serves as both a temporary shelter and a permanent home. When local authorities find a child wandering the streets alone or when a child needs to be removed from an abusive environment, they arrive at the Ger Village for temporary shelter and are provided with food, clothing, healthcare, and psychological support while we work to locate their parents/guardians.

If reintegrating the child back into the family is deemed not possible, the child either remains at the Village under its legal guardianship or other appropriate housing is identified depending on the needs of the child.

To this day, the Ger Village remains integral to our mission of serving the unique needs of every child ensuring that all children can thrive in a safe, supportive, and caring environment. The holistic support provided enables the children to develop intellectual, social, and emotional skills and reach their fullest potential, ultimately lifting themselves out of poverty.

The Ger Village can support up to sixty children at any one time with a maximum of six children residing in each of the ten residential gers. The Village aims to mirror traditional Mongolian family life whenever possible, by having an assigned staff member who is in charge of the upkeep and maintenance of each ger and supports the children in their daily lives. All of the children take part in maintaining their homes and the Ger Village's communal gers across the four seasons.



## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

### Education

CNCF is committed to addressing systemic education barriers and creating economic opportunities for underserved and underrepresented youth. Many children that arrive at the Ger Village have never attended schools or have previously been disengaged in education due to their challenging upbringing and highly vulnerable backgrounds. To ensure quality education for all children, we provide access to CNCF's Blues Skies Kindergarten, local public schools, vocational training centres, colleges and universities. In addition to the academic education, tutoring support is also facilitated by our education officer, primary school teacher, maths teacher, Mongolian language teacher and English teacher. As residential children complete compulsory schooling and seek tertiary education, CNCF supports them with tuition scholarships through CNCF's Education Scholarship Programme.

Our teams work with the children individually and in group sessions, providing essential support to those who have academic challenges. The academic and personal development of every child is closely monitored for instant assistance, enabling the improvement of children's school grades, school attendance, learning enthusiasm, self-confidence, and self-esteem.



## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

### **English Language**

CNCF recognises the importance of English language in the global employment market. By providing access to language classes, we ensure our children are equipped with essential and professional linguistics skills for economic advantages.

Since October 2019, we have implemented an English curriculum set by Cambridge University, United Kingdom. English classes are organised with 10 sessions each week while individual lessons on weekends are available for those in need of additional support or children who have shown a keen interest in furthering their English language skills.

#### Mongolian Language

Mongolian language classes are taught on Sundays. The teacher supported primary school and secondary school children with spelling and homework. Older children develop their writing style and Mongolian script and prepare for upcoming exams.

#### **Mathematics**

Mathematics remains a highly useful subject from a child's academic education to use in their daily life and future career. The Ger Village maths classes inspire in children a greater interest in the subject and improve their comprehension and confidence. Children received extra private math tutoring twice a week.

### **General Education**

National curriculum-based classes supported children with their general education and homework. In these classes the teacher is able to monitor students and works closely with any children who are experiencing challenges at school to ensure they are not falling behind with their academics.





## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

### **Extracurricular Activities**

#### **Arts**

Arts and crafts help children to heal from trauma, develop their communication, listening and attention skills as well as their creativity and imagination. At the Ger Village, children are provided with access to a variety of artistic activities including drawing, painting, sculpture, pottery, crafting and drama.

For details about this programme, see the Arts & Music Programme Annual Report **here**.

#### **Art Therapy**

Healing the emotional trauma that many children who arrive to CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village have suffered is crucial to CNCF's work. Through progressive Art Therapy services, CNCF's Art Therapist and Psychotherapists connect with these children and support them in regaining trust, managing stress, developing self-awareness as well as their overall wellbeing.

The therapeutic techniques include drawing, painting, colouring, sculpting, or collage. Through talking to our children about their art and considering the underlying inspiration for their work, our Psychotherapist gains a deeper understanding of our young people and works with them closely and individually to address and resolve any emotional challenges.

All children also participate in group sessions where they are encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings and discuss how to become supportive of themselves, each other, and their community. Through the creative process, our children have been able to explore their feelings, resolve emotional conflicts, manage their behaviour, develop social skills, reduce anxiety, and foster self-awareness and self-esteem.

For details about this programme, see the Arts & Music Programme Annual Report **here**.



## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

### **Extracurricular Activities**

#### Music

In addition to the developmental benefits, music plays an essential role in ensuring each child's wellbeing and personal growth. Regular weekly music lessons are provided at the Ger Village, supporting the children in learning a wide variety of instruments, choir, and traditional and contemporary dance. This year, our children took part in the "A Future with Sound" Festival organised by the Capital Family and Child Development Department, and won 1 Bronze medal and a Runner-up prize in group singing and dancing, and solo singing. The Ger Village's children also showcased their inspiring talents through performances at CNCF Mongolia's 25th Anniversary Concert.

For details about this programme, see the Arts & Music Programme Annual Report here.

#### **Sports**

To ensure a creative environment for children to explore their interest while being exposed to various and numerous physical, social, and educational benefits, we facilitate a range of sports activities including Cricket, Taekwondo, Basketball, Volleyball, Kendo, Swimming and Archery. Throughout the year, our children took part in sports competitions and were awarded with 37 medals, including 34 medals in Taekwondo and 3 medals in Cricket.

For details about this programme, see the Sports Programme Annual Report here.





## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

### Healthcare

All children have the right to access quality healthcare services. Almost all of the children who come into our care have grown up in unsanitary and squalid conditions, compounding many other threats to their ongoing health and wellbeing.

At the Blue Skies Ger Village, we provide children with a wide variety of fresh nutrition, supplements, general and annual health checkups, and health screenings. Our medical team conducts a full health checkup for every child upon their arrival. Treatments for conditions including, and not limited to, malnutrition, rickets, physical development challenges and severe dental issues are provided onsite. CNCF's medical team ensures that the children always feel safe and comfortable whilst checks are being conducted. Referrals to hospitals and pediatric specialists are made where necessary.

With the support of local hospitals, partners, and medical team volunteers, we organise regular specialist screenings and examinations across areas including dermatology, tuberculosis, ringworm, physical preventative care, dental and eyes, ears, nose, and throat health. We also educate our children about the importance of health and wellbeing through health talks and training sessions.

For details about this programme, see the Healthcare Programme Annual Report **here**.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

## Life Skills Training and Workshops

CNCF enables our children to cultivate self-confidence, adaptability, and necessary interpersonal skills to thrive in various circumstances. Frequent life skills training sessions and workshops are facilitated for children of all ages. Topics include adolescence and reproductive health, the benefits of exercise, risk management and empowerment.

Our children are also encouraged to host topic talks where they share experiences with other children at the Village. These opportunities not only enable them to learn more about one another but also inspire every child to build confidence and self-esteem

In addition, we encourage our children to take responsibilities in upkeeping their living environment at the Ger Village by watering plants, taking care of the greenhouse, and taking part in the horticulture project. The children also help our kitchen staff prepare food for excursion trips.

### Social Skills Development

To enhance the children's social skills, we collaborated with the Psychology Programme to organise various events. As part of the "We Are Stronger Together" psychological training programme, designed for children aged 11-18, we partnered with the Orpheus Theater to showcase the play "Gem Zem" to 15 children. This interactive experience allowed them to socialise and meet the talented artists.

To help children confront and conquer their fears, we conducted the "Darkness" competition with the participation of 35 children aiming to empower the children in facing their fears and overcoming them.

Recognising the significance of emotional understanding and nurturing passions, we initiated the "Movie" project providing a platform for 40 children to comprehend the importance of recognising their emotions and cultivating their passions, ultimately promoting their psychological wellbeing.





## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

### Horticulture

At the Ger Village, we work to create a healthy and sustainable community where all of our children can develop an understanding and respect for the environment. By growing our own produce, we become more economically self-sufficient while our children are supported to build strong immune systems through an organic nutrient-rich diet. The Village has two outdoor greenhouses and an indoor greenhouse, we also built vegetable plots around the Village to grow potatoes and sea buckthorn trees.

Each year a professional horticulturist is hired to work between March and November and oversee the cultivating, planting, harvesting, and pruning activities. Ger Village residents and children from CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten are taught about these techniques and take part in daily tasks from weeding to planting and preparing the produce. These experiences not only help them to engage with nature but also enhance their fine motor development.

A special Harvest Day is organised annually at the Ger Village where children are split into groups to collect vegetables and compete in a cooking competition. Our children also pot plants and flowers to distribute to other local children's shelters, developing compassion and a sense of contribution to the community.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

## Psychological, Social and Emotional Support

CNCF's Psychosocial team of three professional and dedicated psychologists provides support and enables children who have experienced much adversity in their young lives to heal from trauma. The range of therapeutic techniques used include art therapy, play therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, gestalt therapy, systematic therapy, and drama therapy. The comprehensive model of CNCF's Psychosocial team and the progressive services they provide are unique in the country of Mongolia.

An assessment is conducted by our psychologists when a child first arrives at the Ger Village, followed by an individually tailored psychological support plan. Each child, regardless of how long they have been at the Ger Village, will have periodic therapy sessions and for those children requiring more intensive long-term therapy sessions are held 1-5 times a week depending on the child's psychological and emotional needs.

Focus group meetings are held regularly where children are encouraged to share their opinions on a chosen topic, give updates on their lives and discuss how they can be more supportive to one another. Topics include career aspirations, achieving dreams, friendships and overcoming challenges. This technique allows the children to realise that they are not alone and enables them to gain valuable insights from their peers. Through group sessions, our team are able to observe the children's behaviour, body language, emotional expression, attitude and use of language. The children also learn how to conduct and express themselves in a group setting whilst feeling safe which enhances the development of their communication and social skills. Such intervention and psychological support enables the children to understand their emotions and how to manage them.





## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

### **Additional Psychosocial Support Activities**

#### Boys' and Girls' Club

The Boys' & Girls' Club was established to encourage trust and communication between the children, empowering them to develop essential life skills. The children support the Ger Village staff in their daily work, discuss, and share inspirational stories and engage in arts and crafts projects. Our Psychosocial Team closely monitor every child and identify any challenges which need to be addressed in their individual one-on-one meetings. The children are divided into five groups and sessions are held once a week.

#### **Noble Community Club**

The Noble Club is a community service group made up of CNCF young people aged 16 years old and above who are currently or formerly enrolled in CNCF's programmes. Established in May 2018, the club presently has 414 members with 6 children from the Blue Skies Ger Village, the remaining members are all children from other CNCF programmes including CNCF's Child Sponsorship Programme and Education Scholarship Programme.

The purpose of the club is to give back to the community and contribute to the development of Mongolia. Club members are able to develop essential life skills such as leadership, problem solving, creative thinking, communication and empathy. The Noble Club focuses on three areas: personal development, public health and education and organising activities to support CNCF, club members and the wider community.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

## **Additional Psychosocial Support Activities**

#### **Family Members Home Visits**

We believe that it is essential to improve the lives of the children's families where in place for a sustainable and independent future. By doing so, and where possible, we aim to eventually reunite our children and their families, bringing peace of mind to our children and a sense of worthiness to their caregivers. Our team conduct home visits to families of Ger Village children to assess their living conditions and provide support where necessary. The children's families and relatives are also assisted in applying for ID cards and other documents required for the state healthcare system, official employment and finding accommodation where needed.

#### **Parents and Relatives Days**

Twice a year, parents, and relatives still in contact with their children are invited to the Ger Village. It is an occasion for the families to connect and get to know the daily life of their children at the village and where they can see how well cared for and loved their children are. Meetings with our staff are also organised to discuss the children's academic and personal achievements as well as daily challenges faced by the family. Such objectives encourage family members to think about their accountability and responsibility to their own children.



## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

## Maintenance & Improvements

Our guards and maintenance team play an integral role in the overall function, security, and maintenance of the Ger Village. They are in charge of ensuring the safety of our children, the general upkeep of the Village and enabling the heating of our facilities and gers during the different seasons. Our children are encouraged to assist in the processes wherever it is safe and appropriate, developing skills and a sense of responsibility for their home environment. Our children are also able to learn sign language as one of our leading maintenance members, who has been with CNCF for many years, is hearing impaired which cultivates an inclusive, understanding, and supportive mindset.

This year, CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village was awarded with the "Best Landscaping Organisation" by the Assembly of Citizens' Representatives of Songinokhairkhan District, and the "Healthy Future" by the City's Department of Family, Children and Youth Development. We also won the 3rd Place in the "Best Equipped Organisation" campaign organised by the Governor's office.

#### Improvements to the Ger Village in 2022:

- The perimeter fence was fully restored, repaired, and repainted.
- A new fence was installed around the outdoor lawn.
- All buildings within the premises underwent thorough restoration painting.
- The outdated stoves in the boys' and girls' bathrooms were replaced with reliable, high-quality models.
- Each house now features new metal doors for improved security and durability.
- The electrical systems in all the houses were renovated.
- The internet infrastructure at the Ger Village was upgraded with fiber optic connections.
- The old bakery classroom underwent a complete renovation.
- The existing greenhouse was expanded and renovated
- A new life science facility was established and has begun operations.
- The rooms in the kindergarten building were remodeled
- The outdated furnace in the main building was replaced with a new one.
- Repairs were conducted on the kitchen ventilation pipe.
- The kitchen and dining room areas were refurbished.
- All electrical wiring in the gers was replaced and renewed.



## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

### **Events and Excursions**

Almost all of our children were deprived of social interaction and child appropriate activities before their arrival at the Ger Village. It is therefore crucial to nurture our children and introduce them to new and stimulating environments and activities, benefiting their development, psychological wellbeing, self-esteem, and general life-satisfaction.

### **National & International Day Celebrations**

We ensure children have access to and participate in varied national celebrations and events such as Tsagaan Sar (Lunar New Year), Children's Day, Women's Dav. Naadam Festival. opportunities promote solidarity between our children as they join together to prepare traditional meals, activities and performances which enable them to develop a deeper understanding of Mongolian culture and traditions. Ordinarily on celebrations outside visitors and disadvantaged children living in state shelters would be invited to join us for such events, this helps the children's social skills and interaction in community settings.

### **Hair Cutting Ceremony**

Having the first haircut is immensely important in Mongolian culture. The ceremony represents the transition from baby to childhood and usually takes place when the child is between the ages of 2 and 5. Such an experience enables the children to gain more knowledge on cultural traditions and beliefs, ensuring our children are experiencing what they would in a typical Mongolian family home. Our aim is to always raise the children within the context of their culture and ensure traditions are acknowledged, respected, and adhered to at all times.

#### **Birthday Celebrations**

Twice a year we organised birthday party celebrations for our children. However, on a child's actual birth date, every child receives a surprise gift along with presents from other children at the Ger Village. For many of the children, this is a very special and memorable experience as it is their first time celebrating a birthday.

#### **Graduation Celebrations**

Graduation celebrations are organised for our children who successfully graduated from Kindergarten, Primary School, Middle School, Secondary School, and College.



## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

### **Events and Excursions**

### **Community Work**

As part of an initiative to help cultivate our children's sense of responsibility, empathy and compassion towards others, our team organised a variety of community work activities throughout the year.

#### **Sports Day**

In order to promote physical and mental health, Sports Day events are organised at the Ger Village throughout the year. Our children and staff take part in various competitions to encourage closer bonding and build rapport.

#### **Farewell Celebrations**

When a child leaves the Ger Village, a farewell ceremony is held as we wish our children the very best as they embark on a new chapter of their lives. CNCF continues to support all the children through their life stages, ensuring they have a safe and secure home to live in when they leave the Ger Village.

## Monitoring and Assessments after Ger Village Graduation

In accordance with our Child Protection and Reintegration Policy, our former Ger Village children are currently living in CNCF's transition homes, which are for those who have no family or we have not been able to reintegrate them back with their family, or those who cannot live independently for other reasons after graduating from the Ger Village.

CNCF continues to monitor and assess these children on a daily basis and in accordance to its young peoples' safeguarding policy and procedures. Where CNCF has been able to successfully reintegrate a child back into the family unit, CNCF remains in contact with the child and family members until the reintegration process is closed as a successful case.

A minimum two-year procedure is applied upon the child graduating from the Ger Village. For the first three months, our social workers conduct regular visits to the family home to assess the reintegration process and make an assessment by interviewing the child and family members separately to identify the circumstances. Once the first three months' initial assessment is concluded, social workers arrange further home visits once every three months for the first year and unscheduled home visits continue until the end of the second year.

If deemed a successful reintegration, the family's case file is then transferred over to the responsibility of CNCF's Child Sponsorship Programme team. Should the reintegration not be successful the child is re-homed back to the Ger Village. A CNCF assigned case Social Worker, CNCF Child Sponsorship Team member and a government Social Worker of the local district assigned to the family are responsible for visiting the child/children at home to make a variety of assessments until the child/children reaches 18 years-old, or after if the young adult is still deemed as a dependent.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

### **Visitors and Volunteers**

CNCF is grateful to the support and presence of our various volunteers and visitors, each making a valuable contribution to the Blue Skies Ger Village community. In 2022, we had one volunteer who provided English lessons to the children, and welcomed a number of individual and group visitors who came to the Ger Village to share their expertise and conduct skills development activities enriching the lives of the children. Their involvement and support have been instrumental in creating a positive and inspiring environment for the children's growth and development, and which we remain deeply grateful for.

### **Staff Training and Workshops**

Training workshops on child protection, gender-based decision making and the prevention of child sexual exploitation, communication skills and managing emotions were conducted for all staff members of the Ger Village. This is also an opportunity for the staff to learn from each other and share ideas towards the objectives of giving children the highest quality of care and support. Our psychosocial and education management team attend local and global training sessions to stay up to date with the latest methods and techniques in order to continuously develop the level of care provided to the children.





## **OUR STORIES**

### From Homelessness to Hope

14-year-old Enkhriimaa\* is among the children who arrived at CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village this year. Her story began in a harsh environment on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar City, where her family struggled with the impact of her mother's alcohol addiction. Desperate for her next drink, Enkhriimaa's mother used their family's ger (traditional Mongolian home) as collateral for a loan, leaving Enkhriimaa and her siblings homeless. The children would go days without having any food, until the authorities found them. Enkhriimaa and her siblings were taken to a social welfare protection centre, and later transferred to CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village.

Due to her early challenging living conditions, Enkhriimaa had to drop out of school. She was so deeply traumatised from her past that she kept her distance from the CNCF team and other children at the Ger Village upon her arrival. Through the unwavering specialised support from CNCF Psychologists and Social Workers, Enkhriimaa began to heal. Slowly, she opened up about her feelings, forged connections with other children at the Ger Village, as well as her classmates at school. In addition to one-on-one counselling sessions, the CNCF team encouraged Enkhriimaa to take part in varied extracurricular classes including Music, Dance, and Taekwondo to help regulate her emotions and develop essential life skills. Gradually, her self-confidence grew, allowing her to communicate her thoughts and feelings with clarity.

Through these experiences, Enkhriimaa found a passion for Dancing. Determined to nurture her skills, Enkhriimaa dedicated herself to practice, culminating in a proud moment when she was selected to perform at CNCF Mongolia's 25th Anniversary Gala event this year. This achievement fueled her sense of accomplishment and propelled her to pursue her passion further. In academic education, Enkhriimaa is an intelligent and determined student earning her the prestigious title of "Student of the Year" at her school. Despite her early childhood trauma and challenges, Enkhriimaa continues to thrive thanks to her incredible resilience and the on-going comprehensive support of CNCF.

\*Name and identity changed to protect privacy

## **OUR STORIES**

### A Safe Haven

Erdene\* spent most of his early childhood growing up in poverty-stricken circumstances as he faced unimaginable hardships. His parents are severely dependant on alcohol and incapable of looking after their children. Tragically, his beloved sibling had passed away due to freezing temperatures, a result of being neglected on the streets. The sorrow Erdene felt was almost too much to bear, but he found solace and occasional refuge at his grandmother's home. However, when his grandmother passed away, Erdene was left with nowhere to turn, causing him to roam the streets and seek shelter in computer shops. The local authorities discovered Erdene and swiftly intervened by transferring him to a protection centre, and later relocating him to CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village, a safe haven that would forever change the course of his life.

When Erdene first arrived at the Ger Village, the trauma of his past was evident. He struggled to speak, often stuttering and experiencing delays in his speech. His education had suffered greatly due to his harsh living conditions, leaving him with a significant gap in his knowledge. CNCF Doctors also made Erdene's health their top priority as the young boy was in urgent need of medical attention and proper nourishment. Through thorough check-ups, medical treatments, and nutritious meals, Erdene's physical wellbeing began to improve. Erdene was also supported with necessary social and psychological services provided by our compassionate Social Workers and Psychologists. With their guidance, Erdene slowly but surely regained his stability and found the courage to pursue his dream once again. Determined to bridge the gap in his education, Erdene enrolled in the district's informal school and worked tirelessly to catch up with the school curriculum. During this transformative journey, Erdene discovered a passion for computers and software, and is now a keen student of the Ger Village's IT class where he learns coding and programming.

Each day, Erdene's skills and knowledge are broadened as his self-confidence and determination grow in leaps and bounds. The unwavering support of the Ger Village team has helped Erdene to emerge as a beacon of inspiration, a testament to the incredible resilience and strengths that lie within each child when given the right support.

\*Name and identity changed to protect privacy





## **OUR STORIES**

### Thank You From A Parent

"My name is Nyamaa\*, and I am the mother of Amgalan\*. My son arrived at CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village in September 2019 at the age of thirteen. Due to my health condition, I found myself unable to provide the care and support he deserved. Previously, I worked as a seamstress and tailor to make ends meet. The long hours of work took a toll on my physical and mental health. I am currently undergoing treatment under constant supervision, and with proper rest, my symptoms are stabilised.

I am filled with happiness and gratitude knowing that Amgalan is now well taken care of. Amgalan is a bright child with a quick learning ability, yet I did not have the means to nurture his potential. Since joining the Ger Village, my son has blossomed in various ways exploring his passions in freestyle wrestling, swimming, and volleyball. I was astonished to discover his hidden talents in singing and dancing, as he showcased his skills at CNCF Mongolia's 25th Anniversary Gala event this year. When he showed me the video of his dance performance, my heart was filled with immense pride for my son. I am certain that without the nurturing environment and opportunities provided by the Ger Village, his talents would have remained undiscovered.

My greatest wish is for Amgalan's journey to continue on this positive trajectory, and I have no doubt that he will succeed at anything that he puts his heart and soul into. My heartfelt thanks from the bottom of my heart to CNCF and the Blue Skies Ger Village; you have provided my son with the foundation to thrive, and for that, I will forever be grateful."

\*Names and identities changed to protect privacy

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The total cost of running the Blue Skies Ger Village in 2022 was:

\$271,460 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 GER VILLAGE EXPENDITURES IN 2022**

Expenditure	Amount (USD)
Food Items	24,684
Clothes, Uniforms & Shoes	8,106
Children's Celebrations	5,540
Education Expenses & Supplies	1,896
Psychological Development	1,062
Children's Hygiene Supplies	3,122
Bus Fares & Pocket Money for Children	1,642
Maths Tutor (Independent)	887
Telecommunications	1,868
Horticulture	949
Office Stationery & Supplies	373
Utilities (Electricity, Firewood & Coal)	5,681

0	Expenditure	Amount (USD)	
	Equipment & Items	10,204	• •
	Cleaning Materials	1,888	• •
•	Maintenance & Improvements	14,828	
	Transportation & Vehicle Maintenance	6,019	
	Insurance	702	
•	Sewage Removal	1,517	
•	Staff Salaries	146,216	• •
•	Staff Social Insurance & Staff Training	17,969	• •
•	Public & Staff Relations	2,541	• •
	Miscellaneous / Others	1,414	• •
0	Depreciation	12,352	• •
	TOTAL COST	271,460	• •

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Your donations and support to the Blue Skies Ger Village enable us to continue providing a safe haven for children and young adults at high risk of exploitation, abuse, and neglect, who are orphaned, living on the streets or come from poverty-stricken families. When children are protected, cared for, and are equipped with the knowledge and skills to thrive, they can look to a brighter future, free from poverty.

We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to our primary donors: Nelumbo Stiftung and Lifelines International (UK), Liquidnet Asia (HK) and Linda Kuczka (US) for funding this programme and laying a strong foundation of childhood for our children.

Thank you to the many kind individuals and organisations 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.





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