



# BLUE SKIES GER VILLAGE MONGOLIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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## ABBREVIATIONS

**CNCF** Christina Noble Children's Foundation





## 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 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.

**Values:** Our values represent our beliefs and guide how we behave. They are: Love, Compassion, Respect, Honesty, and Integrity.





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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

By funding our Blue Skies Ger Village, you help provide a safe and caring environment for young boys and girls who are orphaned or from families where they were put at risk; others were living on the streets and therefore at high-risk of commercial and sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and threats of violence.

With your support instead of backing, these children now have the opportunity to enjoy a happy childhood in a safe and secure environment surrounded by love while also receiving psychological counselling, healthcare, education, life skills training, and a rich and varied range of extracurricular activities.

Thank you to all our amazing donors for their love, care, and vital funding. Without you, we would not be able to provide the life-changing support that these beautiful children need and deserve.

We would also like to thank all our local and government partners who make it possible for us to implement the programme successfully. Special thanks to the following groups

Child, Family and Youth Development Agency;

Child, Family and Youth Development Department of Songino Khaikhan District ;

7 Micro District Authority of Songino Khaikhan District;

108th Temporary Shelter for Children;

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare;

Family and Child Development Department of the Capital City;

'EnkhiinUrguu' Family Clinic of Khoroo #7;

Songiino Khaikhan District;

Children's Art Centre Mirage Japanese Restaurant;

Lector Centre;

Policy Training Centre;

Mongolian Cricket Association;

International Women's Association;

MUFG Bank;

Songino Khaikhan General Hospital;

National Maternal and Child Health Centre;

Caritas Mongolia.





**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 -



# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

ESTABLISHED	1997
LOCATION	Songino Khairkhan, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
OBJECTIVES	To provide a safe and caring environment for boys and girls up to age nineteen who are orphaned, living on the streets, or are otherwise unable to stay at home due to being at high risk of neglect, abuse, or exploitation. To provide a community of healing where the children are cared for and nurtured in a safe and secure environment surrounded by friends, supportive adults, and love, so they can successfully break the cycle of poverty and live independently as emotionally secure and fulfilled adults.
PROGRAMME COMPONENTS	Residential care, healthcare, psychological rehabilitation, and education; personal, vocational, and life skills development; sports, arts, and music.
BENEFICIARIES	Children up to age nineteen from disadvantaged backgrounds including orphans, children from poor families whose parents/guardians cannot 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 violence.

LOCAL PARTNERS	National Authority for Children, Authority for Family and Child Development, Songino Khairkhan District Authority, Children’s Police Precinct of Songino Khairkhan District, Social Welfare Department of Songino Khairkhan District, and the 7th Micro-district Authority of Songino Khairkhan District.
CNCF INVOLVEMENT	Entirely responsible for funding, financial management, and management of all programme components including provision of healthcare, educational support, and emotional development and rehabilitation. CNCF is directly responsible for the protection and development of all children residing at the Ger Village.
CNCF MANAGEMENT AND STAFF	CEO: Helenita Noble Director of Operations, Mongolia: Thomas Minter Ger Village Manager: Uransaikhan Mahburiad Ger Village Director: Migmarsuren Urgan And 35 other staff
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	Written monthly and annual reports, with regular visits from the Director of Operations for meetings with the Ger Village management team, staff, and children. All children meet regularly with both the Foundation psychotherapist and Ger Village medical team. Regular government inspections conducted by the National Authority for Children and the National Inspection Agency, as well as health and fire safety inspections by the local district authorities.
2018 ACTUAL COSTS	USD \$ 215.851
FUTURE PLANS	In 2019, we will continue to provide love and support that allows some of the country’s most disadvantaged children to lead happy, healthy, and emotionally rich lives. In addition to maintaining our current level of care, we always strive to improve our services and strengthen our ability to create lasting change in the lives of those we support. To achieve this, we plan to place an even greater focus on training for the children’s families and work more closely with the Child Sponsorship Programme to further improve reintegration after leaving the village.
REPORTING PERIOD	January – December 2018



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2018, the Blue Skies Ger Village continued to provide a safe and caring environment to children who are orphaned, living on the streets, or otherwise unable to stay at home due to high risk of neglect, abuse, or exploitation. Ger Village residents received holistic care including psychological counselling, healthcare, education, life skills training, and access to a rich and varied range of extracurricular activities.

IN 2018

**61**

CHILDREN

**27** **34**



BOYS



GIRLS

benefited from the Blue Skies Ger Village; **58** were permanent residents and **3** were temporary.

**10** CHILDREN

were rehomed to the village

**13** CHILDREN  
left the village

AT THE END 2018

**48** CHILDREN

resided at the Blue Skies Ger Village.







# PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

The Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) expanded its work into Mongolia in 1997 and established the Blue Skies Ger Village. Since then, the Blue Skies Ger Village has helped forgotten, abandoned, and neglected children by providing them with shelter, rehabilitative care, education, and the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty.

The Blue Skies Ger Village sits on 1.23 hectares of land and consists of many traditional Mongolian gers and several brick structures. A ger is a traditional Mongolian home made from wood and felt and bound together with horsehair. Extra layers of wool are added in the autumn to prepare for the cold winter and removed in the spring.

The Ger Village serves as both a temporary shelter and a permanent home. Temporary places are provided for children with special circumstances, such as when local authorities find a child wandering the streets without supervision or when a child needs to be removed immediately from an abusive environment. The Ger Village provides food, clothing, healthcare, safety, and psychological support for these children while working to locate their parents or find them permanent housing.







The Ger Village has evolved over the past twenty years, but its mission remains the same.

The dedicated staff members continue to provide high-quality residential care to children who have experienced a childhood shaped by poverty, abuse, and extreme neglect. The Ger Village provides a safe, happy, and supportive home for these children, one where they are surrounded by unconditional love and respect.

The Ger Village is a loving community where the children receive nutritious meals, positive guidance from caring adults, and opportunities to develop their character and pursue their dreams.

Resident children receive healthcare, counselling, and attend local schools. They also receive age-appropriate vocational and life skills training and are encouraged to cultivate a wide range of hobbies and interests through the CNCF Arts & Music and Sports Programmes.

The Ger Village can currently support up to sixty children with a maximum of six children sleeping in each of the ten residential Gers. One of our goals at the Ger Village is to mirror traditional Mongolian family life whenever possible. To ensure this Gers typically contain a mix of older and younger children who all contribute to the upkeep and maintenance of their homes.





# BLUE SKIES GER VILLAGE FEATURES

- ◆ 10 residential gers (7 metres in diameter)
- ◆ Community ger (10 metres in diameter)
- ◆ Office ger (8 meters in diameter)
- ◆ Psychologist's ger
- ◆ 1 classroom cabin
- ◆ 1 double ger (psychologist's ger and classroom for six months)
- ◆ Blue Skies Day Care
- ◆ Bakery
- ◆ Music room
- ◆ Infirmary
- ◆ Bathroom block, including showers and laundry room
- ◆ Newly-built community centre, including kitchen, dining room, main hall, classroom, toilets, reception area, and storage facilities (built in 2017)
- ◆ New library and computer building (built in 2017)
- ◆ 3 greenhouses, two outdoor and one indoor
- ◆ Indoor garage
- ◆ Maintenance workshop
- ◆ Guards' hut
- ◆ Coal sheds and storage containers
- ◆ Basketball / football surface
- ◆ 4 outdoor toilets





REPORT 2018

# OUR YEAR

This year, 61 children (34 girls and 27 boys) benefited from the Blue Skies Ger Village. Of these, 58 were permanent residents and 3 were temporary. Ten children were rehomed to the village and 13 children left the village.

Of the 13 children who left the village 3 were temporary residents, 4 were successfully reunited with family members whose living conditions improved, 2 graduated from high school and went on to pursue higher education, 1 child was transferred to a different shelter more suited to their individual needs, and 3 children left with their mother who was working at the village as a 'ger mother'. The family received a ger through CNCF's Give-a-Ger Programme and are now living a happy, independent life together.

The departing children will remain in the Child Sponsorship Programme, if needed, and we will continue to monitor their progress and provide support.

Of the 10 new arrivals, 7 remained as permanent residents. The children came to our village for various reasons, but their stories share common themes of difficult family conditions and their parents' inability to take care of them, typically because of alcohol addiction.

Three children stayed temporarily at the village on the request of the Family, Children and Youth Development Agencies of Ulaanbaatar and the Songino Khaikhan District. Temporary places were provided for children who had been found wandering the streets without supervision. The Ger Village provides food, clothing, healthcare, safety, and psychological support for these children while working to locate their parents or find them permanent housing most suitable for their individual needs and development.

AT THE END OF 2018

**48**

CHILDREN



resided at the Blue Skies Ger Village.

**29** GIRLS **19** BOYS

REPORT 2018

# OUR YEAR

## 2018 BY THE NUMBERS



**58**  
PERMANENT  
RESIDENTS

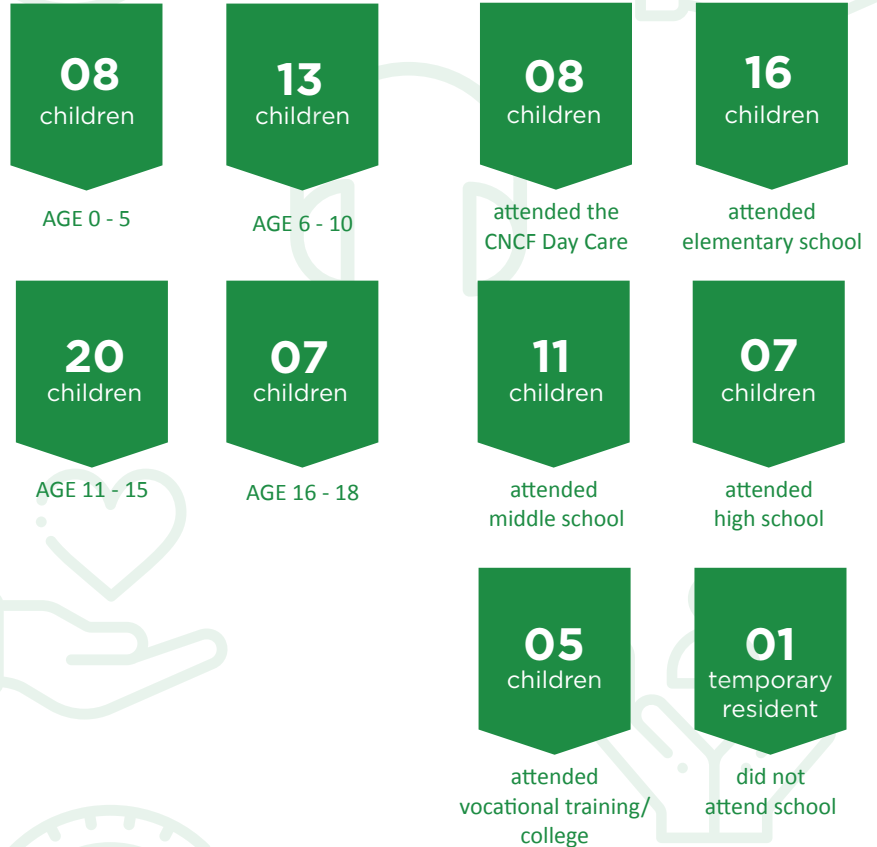
**03**  
TEMPORARY  
RESIDENTS

**10** CHILDREN  
rehomed to the village

**13** CHILDREN  
left the village

AT THE END OF 2018  
**48** PERMANENT  
RESIDENTS

EDUCATION LEVELS  
OF RESIDENTS:



**61** CHILDREN  
benefited from the Blue Skies Arts & Music Programme, which includes lessons in art, crafts, traditional and contemporary music, and dance

**25** CHILDREN  
participated in cricket lessons

**34** CHILDREN  
participated in taekwondo lessons





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## Message from Urnaa Makhburiad, Blue Skies Ger Village Manager

As a Mongolian woman with three children of my own, I have always felt a deep sense of empathy and sadness for children on the streets or those who are living in extremely difficult conditions, often exposed to horrific abuse and exploitation. I feel so grateful to be able to work on behalf of these vulnerable young people, giving them a voice in society and a secure and loving home where they can heal from the traumas of their pasts and enjoy their childhoods.

At the Ger Village, we want our children to have opportunities for growth and to build self-esteem through trying new things and developing talents and interests. Our ultimate goal is to break the cycle of poverty by helping our young people gain the life skills they need to leave the village as emotionally secure, happy, and independent adults.

I am now a mother of hundreds of children and am dedicated to giving them the best start to life possible. As the Ger Village Manager, I ensure that all of our team is continuously working in alignment with this vision. I am proud to say that for everyone who works here this is not just a job, it is their family. From the guards to our teachers, everyone has their own unique and crucial role in making the village the magical home that it is.







# PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

## Education

Of the 48 children living at the village at the end of 2018, 31 attend local public schools, 3 attend an informal educational centre, 5 are in college, 8 attend the CNCF Day Care, and 1 recent arrival is not currently enrolled in school because they are only staying at the village temporarily.

In addition to formal schooling, the children receive extra support from our education team, which this year expanded to include an education officer, primary school teacher, and maths teacher. Our three new staff members work alongside our Mongolian language teacher and English teacher, to provide a full range of educational support for the children at the village.

Our teachers work with the children individually and in groups, giving special attention to those who struggle academically. As many of the children have missed school for prolonged periods because of challenging previous living conditions, this additional help is important.

Our new Education Officer oversees the academic and personal development of our children. This involves regular communication with the students' teachers, helping the children set goals and create plans to achieve them, organising activities for learning, and supervising the teachers at the village.

With the development of our education team, we have seen a rise in our children's school grades, average attendance, and enthusiasm for learning. They love going to their classes, and it is clear to see that they are not only growing in ability but also in confidence and self-esteem.

Furthermore, we are delighted that as a result of their hard work, 6 of our young people completed compulsory education this year. Of these children, 3 now attend vocational training centres, 1 attends high school/college, 1 has begun university, and 1 will start university in 2019 due to health issues.







Thanks to CNCF's Education Scholarship Programme, once village residents complete compulsory schooling, many can go onto higher education. Full and partial scholarships were given to **7** ambitious students living at the village in 2018:

- ◆ One student received a **70%** scholarship from CNCF to study at the University of Science and Technology
- ◆ Two students received **50%** scholarships from CNCF to study at Badmaarag High School of Mongolian Art and Culture
- ◆ Two students received **50%** scholarships from CNCF to study at the College of Food Technology
- ◆ One student received a **100%** scholarship from CNCF to study law enforcement at university
- ◆ One student received a **100%** scholarship from CNCF to study at the University of Culture and Art





# ACADEMIC CLASSES AT THE GER VILLAGE

## English Language

English lessons are provided to all resident children in second grade and above. We believe learning English opens opportunities for our young people. There are currently 32 children attending English classes. The children are divided into five groups based on their school timetable and ability. Individual lessons 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. Primary school children work on their spelling and complete their homework. Older children develop their writing style and Mongolian script and prepare for upcoming exams.

## Mathematics

Since June 2018, a maths teacher has worked with children in third grade and above twice per week. The classes are helping to inspire a greater interest in the subject and improving the children's ability and confidence.

## General Education

A primary school teacher works full-time at the village. She helps children with homework, teaches national curriculum-based classes, and works closely with any children who are behind at school. She also helps our kindergarten teachers prepare kindergarteners for primary school.







# STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



## Amaraa\*

When Amaraa arrived at the Blue Skies Ger Village, she was behind in her studies and was enrolled in an informal education centre so she could catch up. She was initially assessed as grade 3 level in maths; however, since beginning private and group classes with our maths teacher, she has advanced to grade level 5. She has now moved up to secondary school level math classes and will be able to enroll in a regular local school with her other Ger Village friends in 2019. We are very proud of her accomplishments!





## Tuul\*

Before coming to the village, Tuul's access to education was sporadic due to her difficult living conditions. Because she was so far behind, she had very low self-esteem and no interest in studying. She believed she wasn't good enough to be in school.

When we enrolled Tuul in a local school, she often tried to skip classes, and it was always a battle to get her to do her homework. Our team has worked hard to build Tuul's confidence through positive reinforcement, support, and encouragement. Furthermore, with the increased cooperation between our Education Officer and Tuul's school teacher, we are pleased that this year her attendance has significantly improved, along with her skills and enjoyment of learning.

We are all very proud of Tuul, whose self-belief was given an extra boost when she won the Best English Student Award in her class at school. She was extremely pleased with this achievement and couldn't wait to share the news with our CNCF team, especially our Ger Village English teacher.





# HEALTHCARE

Fundamental to our Foundation's philosophy is the belief that all children should have access to quality healthcare. Helping our children to build strong, healthy bodies is central to giving them the best possible start to life and is something we take very seriously. This means providing healthy meals, physical activity, and regular check-ups in our Ger Village infirmary.

Most children who come into our care have grown up in incredibly unsanitary and often squalid conditions, such as cold dilapidated sheds or sleeping rough on a garbage site. It is therefore crucial that they all receive a full health check upon arrival and have their details recorded for future monitoring.

Our caring and sensitive medical team carry out these examinations, ensuring that our children always feel safe and comfortable. If they suspect any health issues that cannot be resolved on site, the child is referred to a paediatric specialist for further diagnosis and treatment. Some of the most common problems we see in our new arrivals are malnutrition, rickets, growth retardation, and severe dental issues.

In addition to receiving ongoing health care from our Foundation's medical team, throughout the year a variety of doctors and medical students visit our village to perform specialist screenings and examinations. This year, these check-ups included two ear, nose, and throat screenings, an eye exam, a dermatology assessment, a dental exam, a full physical preventative care examination, and a kidney test. As a result of these examinations, we were able to identify problems early, when the potential for successful treatment and cure are much higher. All our children were also checked for ringworm.

Our Ger Village healthcare programme also educates our children about their role in looking after their own health and well-being. Some of the topics covered this year included Healthy Lifestyle Choices, Personal Hygiene, Sexual Education, and Body Changes.



# PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

All our Foundation staff support and guide the Ger Village children. In addition, a three-person, full-time professional psychosocial staff works to alleviate the emotional trauma that affects all the children who live at the village. The psychosocial staff includes a senior psychotherapist, a social worker, and a junior psychologist, who is a former Ger Village child.

When a child first arrives at the village, the psychosocial team carries out an initial assessment, which includes review of background information provided by the authorities and individual meetings with the child. A profile and psychological support plan are created, and the relevant staff members are informed about the case - this allows them to most effectively support the child and understand any challenging behaviours.

Each child has at least one individual therapy session a month, with those needing more support meeting with staff anywhere between one and five times a week depending on their specific needs. Our psychotherapist works with the children to resolve issues affecting their lives and develop ways they can use their strengths to manage painful emotions. During the sessions the following therapeutic techniques are used:



In addition to one-to-one meetings, focus group meetings are held with the children where they are encouraged to share their thoughts on a chosen topic, give updates on their lives, and discuss how they can be more supportive of themselves, each other, and the Ger Village community. The group sessions allow our psychosocial team to observe the children's behaviour, attitude, language, and feelings in a social setting. It also helps the children to develop communication skills and learn that they are often not alone in their thoughts and experiences.

Throughout the year, all 61 children living at the village on either a temporary or permanent basis were assessed by our psychosocial team and received individual therapy sessions. It is largely thanks to our psychosocial team that our village is full of so many happy young people, enjoying their childhoods, free from much of the emotional pain that could have otherwise affected their lives forever.



## MESSAGE FROM GER VILLAGE PSYCHOTHERAPIST NOMIN-ERDENE

I can say with confidence, having seen first-hand the great happiness and hope in our children's eyes, that the village has succeeded in creating a loving, nurturing, and therapeutic community, where children who have experienced severe trauma can heal and flourish.

Through our team's hard work at the village, the children are growing into confident young adults and active members of the community. We are happy to watch the children enjoying a joyful and enriching childhood while building the foundations for a successful and fulfilled adult life.

Our children's psychological well-being is supported through a wide variety of extracurricular activities including sports, art, music, crafts, and group and individual therapeutic exercises and counselling. By taking part in these activities, the children are learning to communicate more effectively together and express themselves with confidence and clarity. Most importantly, they help the children to build self-esteem and create happy memories.

Our children know their rights, they know what to do when they are feeling down and methods to manage their emotions. They are not afraid to ask for help and advice, and they know that they are listened to, understood, respected, and loved as individuals. For children who have experienced such severe neglect and trauma in their young lives, this is an amazing achievement and our team feels proud that we have created an environment where the children feel safe, peaceful, and trusting—they no longer feel at risk and are therefore able to become the best versions of themselves.

I have been working as a psychotherapist at the Ger Village since 2015. It has been a fantastic opportunity for me to use my knowledge and skills to help some of the country's most traumatised children. Since I began my work, I have witnessed and continue to witness daily so many bright events and significant changes in the children's psychology. At CNCF, we believe in childhood, and we believe actions we take today play a significant role in defining our children's future lives.



# ADDITIONAL PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

## Boys and Girls Club

Boys and Girls Club was established at the Ger Village to build trust and communication between the children and to help them develop critical life skills such as decision making, problem-solving, assertiveness, critical and creative thinking, and personal care. It also allows our psychosocial team to observe the children in a social situation and identify any challenges that need to be addressed in individual meetings. The children are divided into five groups according to gender, age, and school timetable, and sessions are held once a week in the children's leisure time.

Activities this year included assisting the Ger Village staff with their daily work, watching and discussing inspirational movies and documentaries, DIY projects, and a variety of arts and crafts.

## Debating Contest

A debating contest was held at the Ger Village to improve our children's speaking and listening skills, as well as helping to develop their confidence and self-esteem. Six of our children took part in the contest, where they debated concepts such as "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." The event was attended by CNCF staff and the other children at the village, who were left impressed by the debaters' thoughtful insights and engaging presentations.

## Home Visits to Families

This year, 38 children's families received home visits to assess their living conditions and provide guidance and support on how to improve their situations.

Furthermore, our team worked with some of the children's relatives to apply for ID cards and other necessary documentation required for the state healthcare system and all forms of official employment.

We believe that to fulfil our duty of care to the young people at our village, it is essential that we work to improve the lives of their families. By doing so, we give our children peace of mind and increase the likelihood that one day they can be reunited full-time, which is our ultimate objective.

## Parents and Relatives Days

Twice a year, parents and relatives still in contact with their children are invited to the village for a special day of activities and performances. The day is intended to help improve the relationship and understanding between the children and their family members as well as provide reassurance that the children at the Ger Village are being loved and well cared for. During the event, meetings are held between the staff and relatives to discuss their children's progress and answer questions. We also use this time as an opportunity to learn more about the families and provide guidance and support wherever possible. In 2018, 25 families attended the events.



## TWO-WEEK TRAINING BY PROFESSIONAL CHILD PSYCHOTHERAPIST, MIRANDA MARSH

Child Psychologist Miranda Marsh visited our operations for two weeks to provide training for 41 members of our Foundation's staff including 28 staffs at the Ger Village. During Miranda's time with us, she supported and enhanced our therapeutic work for the children by:

Training all staff involved in working with the children on psychological theory, specifically methods of working with traumatised children

- ◆ Mentoring and supporting our Ger Village psychologist and junior psychologist
- ◆ Helping to improve the psychological well-being of the staff
- ◆ Introducing a psychological support and supervision structure for the Ger Village staff
- ◆ Reviewing our key worker system

We are extremely grateful to Miranda for taking the time to share her expert knowledge with our team and in doing so helping us to deliver an even higher level of care to our children.

**"I just feel so privileged to have contributed in a small way to the wonderful work you are all doing at CNCF. It was so good to see the positive atmosphere in the Ger Village, with everyone interacting with warmth and calmness, lots of laughter and music, smiles, and greetings. A real family feel with the older children being so caring and helpful with the younger ones."**

**- Dr. Miranda Marsh**





# NOBLE CLUB

The Noble club is a community service group made up of young people ages 16 and up who are currently or formerly enrolled in one of CNCF's programmes. The club, which presently has 133 members, was established in May 2018 with the purpose of giving back to the community and contributing to the development of Mongolia; their motto is "we join to make others smile!"

Through participation in the group, members develop essential life skills such as leadership, problem-solving, creative thinking, communication, and empathy. It also lifts their spirits, helps them to feel good by helping others, and brings them into a positive community of dynamic young people working towards a shared goal.

Members currently include 12 children from the Blue Skies Ger Village, 3 former boys' prison students, 103 children from the Child Sponsorship Programme, and 15 CNCF employees. Some of the Noble Club's activities to date include:

- ◆ **Volunteering at Sponsorship Distribution Weekends:** Members help direct the children, clean, and assist anyone in need of extra support.
- ◆ **Face Painting on Children's Day:** To celebrate children's day, club members dressed up as cartoon characters and superheroes and painted the faces of over 350 children at our sponsorship distribution weekend. Following the event's success, the members set up a stand in the centre of the city and painted the faces of approximately 150 children. The activity not only brought joy and happiness to the children, but it was also a valuable opportunity to spread awareness about the Foundation's work in Mongolia.
- ◆ **UN Youth Advisory Panel:** The Noble Club became an official member of the UN Youth Advisory Panel's trilateral meetings, in which representatives from the government, civil society, and youth groups discuss issues affecting young people. Five of our Noble Club members take part in the monthly meetings, and afterwards, relay what has been talked about to the other children. The five representatives have been inspired by their participation in the meetings and are working towards becoming official members of the Youth Advisory Panel.



- ◆ **Visiting Children at Summer Camp:** Noble Club members visited children at summer camp and arranged a fun and creative day of painting and playing outdoor games.
- ◆ **Puppet Show for Hospital Patients:** The club established the Noble Theatre and created a puppet show for the children at the National Hospital for Maternal and Child Health. Thirty children had lots of fun watching the funny and imaginative play. Following the performance, Noble Club Members handed out a variety of toys and books to the children.
- ◆ **National Youth Month Opening Ceremony:** 25 Noble Club members set up a stall at the National Youth Month opening ceremony to raise awareness about the Foundation and fundraise by selling our children's art and handmade bracelets. They also performed an innovative flash mob dance performance that some of our students had been practising in their CNCF extracurricular dance classes.
- ◆ **Hope and Possibility Marathon:** 19 members participated in a 3km and 5km marathon acting as a guide for disabled children.
- ◆ **Democratic Rights and Freedom of Expression Carnival:** Noble club members ran a face painting stand at a carnival organised to promote freedom of expression and democratic involvement.
- ◆ **Personal Development Training by KOICA and the Capital City Youth Development Agency:**  
20 members attended the training and relayed what they had learned to the rest of the group.
- ◆ **English Class:** The club began their own English classes, in which the more advanced English-speaking members helped the others develop their skills and confidence. Classes ran from October to December.
- ◆ **New Year's Party:** The Noble Club organised and funded their own New Year's party at the Blue Skies Ger Village. All the children contributed in some way to the event. For example, a former student of the boys' prison bakery course made a delicious cake, our Ger Village children who are studying at college to become chefs cooked the buffet meal, our artists decorated the hall, and our dance and music students provided entertainment.



# LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

To facilitate learning and personal growth 27 life skills trainings were offered throughout the year to the children in our programmes and 2 trainings were offered to their relatives. We believe that providing these opportunities for learning plays a fundamental role in helping children and their families gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence to lead happy and healthy lives in modern-day Mongolian society.

See Appendix for Life Skills Training sessions provided in 2018.



## Sports

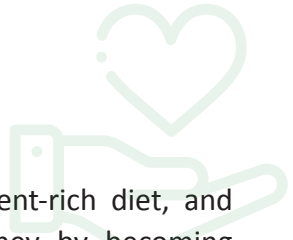
We provide Ger Village children with a range of sports and fitness activities including cricket and taekwondo. For details about these programmes, see the Sports Programme Annual Report.

## Arts & Music

We provide Ger Village children with access to a variety of artistic activities to complement their traditional education. Areas of focus include visual art, music, and dance. For details about these programmes, see the Arts & Music Programme Annual Report.

## Horticulture

At the Ger Village, we work to create a healthy and sustainable community where our children can develop an understanding and respect for the environment. Growing our produce is an essential part of this process, helping our children to connect with nature, build strong, healthy bodies



through an organic nutrient-rich diet, and allowing us to save money by becoming more self-sufficient.

On-site, we have two large outdoor greenhouses and one indoor greenhouse. We also have vegetable plots situated around the village where we grow items such as potatoes and sea buckthorn trees. To make the most of the available space and facilities, each year we hire a professional horticulturist to work at the village between March and November.

The horticulturist is in charge of overseeing various activities including cultivating, planting, harvesting, feeding, and pruning the plants. Most importantly her role is to teach the children about these processes and involve them as much as possible through assigning daily tasks and responsibilities.

From weeding to planting to peeling and chopping the produce, our children are part of every step of the process. There is always a sense of amazement when they see the seeds that they had planted in the soil that they prepared grow day by day into vibrant fruits and vegetables that eventually they can eat.





## SPECIAL MOMENTS FROM OUR HORTICULTURE PROJECT IN 2018

- ◆ A special Harvest Day was arranged at the village, where the children were split into groups and sent off to pick vegetables for a cooking competition. The children had lots of fun choosing their vegetables and then coming up with ideas for their dish. The instructions for the competition were that the meal had to be vegetarian, as creative as possible, and packed full of different produce from the garden.
- ◆ The Ger Village children grew and potted plants which they then distributed to other children's shelters. Initiatives such as this play an essential role in developing our children's compassion and sense of community.
- ◆ A 13-year-old resident was selected by our team to accompany our horticulturist to a conference about the latest gardening trends. She returned full of inspiration and new techniques to put into practice at our village.









## TESTIMONIAL FROM 13 YEAR-OLD HORTICULTURE STUDENT:

“I came to live at the Ger Village with my younger sister in September 2017 because my mother was severely sick with tuberculosis. The authorities found us and said my sister and I were living in very dangerous conditions; therefore, they sent us to the Ger Village. My mother now lives with her sister and regularly goes to the hospital for treatment.

I have grown to love the village, staff, and all the other children very much – it is my home, and everyone is like family now. One of my favourite things about the village is the beautiful outdoor space and all the flowers, trees, and big greenhouses where we grow our vegetables. I often think about what it would be like if we didn't have all of the nature around us; I think it would be very sad and empty if we had no green grass and trees.

Therefore, I decided to make our home an even more beautiful environment and began helping our horticulturist. As I learned more about caring for plants, I fell in love with what I was doing, and my passion for nature has grown more than ever.

This year I went with our Ger Village horticulturist to a professional conference in the countryside on horticulture. Horticulturists from all around Mongolia came to learn about new trends of growing vegetables and planting trees.

It really helped me to learn a lot, and I was excited to go back to the Ger Village and help to grow even more healthy vegetables and beautiful flowers than ever before!

I am so happy that I get to live in a place where we have running water so that we can water our garden and grow our own vegetables—this will help us grow strong and healthy!

My mother believes in me and that I will do my best wherever I am. She has taught me to be a hard worker and working at the village, contributing to my community, is allowing me to fulfil her vision and make her feel proud.

My dream is to make my whole country look like our Ger Village in the summer.”



# QUANTITIES OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES GROWN AT THE VILLAGE IN 2018

VEGETABLE OR FRUIT	AMOUNT (KG)
Radish	10.21
Spinach	32.18
Bok Choy	105.27
Salad cabbage	77.64
Parsley	1.02
Cucumber	204.83
Broccoli	9.84
Peas	18.83
Cabbage	509.67
Beat root	120.93
Tomato	249.71
Turnip	48.60
Napa cabbage	120.00
Pumpkin	5.00
Blackberry	1.20
Sea buckthorn	0.68





# STAFF TRAINING

Throughout the year, our psychosocial team delivers training workshops to all members of the Ger Village staff. The sessions are designed to develop our team's understanding of basic psychology, improve their communication skills, help them manage workplace stress, and improve safety at the village. They are also an opportunity for our team to share ideas and gain a deeper understanding of each other, helping to form a more harmonious and supportive working community.

Furthermore, to provide the most current and effective methods of support for our children, our psychosocial, management, and education teams attended a variety of external trainings throughout the year. Training sessions such as these play an important role in enabling us to provide the best level of care possible for our children. We believe that ongoing professional and personal development for our staff is key to creating lasting job satisfaction and motivation in their daily work.

See Appendix for full staff training schedule in 2018.



# MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

Our guards and maintenance workers play an integral role in the overall functioning, security, and maintenance of our Ger Village. They are in charge of ensuring the safety of our children at all times while they are on site. They are also responsible for making sure that all our buildings, specifically our children's residential gers, are properly heated during the different seasons; a particularly tough job in the long, bitter cold Mongolian winters.

We encourage the children to assist our maintenance workers wherever it is safe and appropriate to do so. This helps them to develop essential life skills and feel a sense of pride and responsibility for their home environment.

In addition to learning important skills, our children are also learning how to communicate through sign language as one of our leading maintenance staff is deaf. Our aim is to cultivate a more inclusive and understanding mindset among our children, something that is especially important in a country where widespread acceptance of those with disabilities is still very much a work in progress.

## Main work and improvements carried out at the village in 2018

- ◆ Outdoor pathways were repaved
- ◆ Kindergarten was renovated to meet Montessori standards in preparation for our plans to become an accredited Montessori kindergarten by September 2020. This included decorating the kindergarten with natural earth tones to encourage a more therapeutic and calm learning environment.
- ◆ Kindergarten toilets were renovated to come into alignment with newly published UNICEF guidelines. We took this opportunity to re-plumb the entire building.
- ◆ Maintenance work was carried out on the roofs of our garage, kindergarten, electric room, and infirmary.
- ◆ Insulation was improved on the community centre boiler room.
- ◆ Greenhouses were re-covered.
- ◆ All Ger Village facilities were sterilised twice throughout the year in partnership with the district sterilisation organisation.
- ◆ Maintenance work took place on all the gers. This included washing and repairing the covers, replacing the two central wooden supports with one iron column to increase space, and adding an extra layer of felt insulation before the winter months.



# EVENTS, AWARDS, AND VISITORS

## Government Inspections

The Ger Village passed both national inspection tests conducted by the Family, Children and Youth Development Agency. There was also an inspection carried out by the Songino Khairkhan District's Inspection Department, resulting in us becoming an accredited orphanage. The accreditation process for orphanages started taking place in 2017.

## Ger Village Staff Awards

- ◆ Our guard received an award for being the 'Best Young Man' by the Youth Federation.
- ◆ Our guard and head kindergarten teacher received awards for their commitment to the children of Mongolia by Authority For Family, Child and Youth Development.
- ◆ Our Ger Village Director received the 'Carer for the young generation' award Youth Federation.
- ◆ Our Ger Village Manager received a certificate of honour and was titled the 'Best Employee' by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

## Partnerships

Over the past two years, we have increased our focus on building relationships with and raising our profile in the local communities. As a result, we have seen a significant increase this year in the number of local donations of items such as clothes and food.







# HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

## Hair Cutting Ceremony

A child's first haircut is a significant celebration in Mongolian culture. The ceremony symbolises the end of babyhood and the transition to childhood and usually happens when the child is between the ages of 2 and 5. Depending on the lunar calendar, boys receive their first hair cut on an even year and girls in an odd year.

A ceremony was held at our village for two of our children who had their hair cut for the first time. The celebration included food, gifts and many blessings upon the children. It was a special day for everyone involved. Traditional celebrations such as this help reinforce and strengthen our children's connection to Mongolian culture and build a sense of trust, love, and family within our Ger Village community.

## Farewell Celebration

In October, we held a special celebration for two of our older girls who were leaving the Ger village. This event also marked the end of our volunteers' time at the village for Miranda Marsh, Hugo Marsh, and Emily Burrow.

The occasion was marked by performances from our Ger Village children, speeches from the village management team and Director of Operations, a delicious buffet, and beautiful gifts bags which included moving photo albums of the girls' time at the village.

It was an emotional day for everyone involved. We will continue to monitor and support our incredible



## New Year's Eve

The New Year's party at the village is an annual tradition. We reflect on the year and recognise the children's efforts and accomplishments. Cleanest Ger, Most Improved Student, and Top Kitchen Assistant are examples of awards handed out to our children who are always extremely proud to be acknowledged for their hard work.

## Tsagaan Sar

Tsagaan Sar, or the Mongolian Lunar New Year, is one of the most important and celebrated holidays in the Mongolian calendar. For many of our children, especially those who are joining us for the first time, being able to enjoy and be part of this celebration is a very special experience. To mark the occasion our children and staff had lots of fun wearing their traditional deels, eating delicious food, and celebrating together.

## Easter

2018 saw our fourth Easter celebration at the Ger Village. There were lots of smiling faces as our children spent the day playing games and hunting for chocolate eggs. Days like this are a valuable opportunity for our children to learn about different traditions from around the world and have fun just being children.

## International Children's Day

Each year our Ger Village celebrates International Children's Day. To mark this special occasion, our children enjoyed a fun-filled day of games, food, and gifts. The children also showed off their talents in dance, taekwondo, and music.

## Cultural Heritage Day

We celebrated Mongolian Tradition and Culture during a special event. The day reinforced and deepened the children's connections to their cultural heritage. They participated in traditional activities and customs that are becoming less common in an ever modernising world. Children and staff dressed in traditional Mongolian attire to share a delicious banquet of Mongolian delicacies. Everyone enjoyed the celebrations.







## Teacher's Day

At the beginning of each academic year, our children's new teachers are invited to the village to learn about our work and meet the CNCF team. The day involves an introductory tour and presentation by our Ger Village Manager, a concert by our children, and a special lunch prepared by our cooks with the help of the children. The event sets a positive tone for the year ahead and forms a strong foundation for our future collaboration with the teachers.

## Talent Show

To celebrate the 379th anniversary of Mongolia's capital city, Ulaanbaatar, our children were invited to take part in a special music and dance competition for children from ten children's shelters across the country. It was a great opportunity for our children to make new friends, build their confidence performing in public, and develop their sense of team spirit. Everyone was impressed by their commitment and self-discipline when preparing for the event, which paid off with some great performances and high scores from the judges.

Our team won bronze for solo and group singing, bronze for solo dancing, and silver and gold for two of the best musical instrument performances. We were all very proud of our Ger Village team who overall came fourth place in the competition.





# VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS



Founders of the Mahrberg Family Office, Erwin Spari and Fluer Spari, and volunteers of the Mahrberg Family Office and Love in Lights Korea.

In 2017, the Mahrberg Family Office from Switzerland and Jinhak Co., LTD from South Korea collaborated with Love in Lights Korea and the Volunteer Leadership Program NGO Mongolia to fund a new library and computer facility at our village.

This year, we were pleased to welcome the Founders of the Mahrberg Family Office, Erwin Spari and Fluer Spari, back to the Ger Village to show them how our children were enjoying their new educational space.

Furthermore, our children were delighted when thirty volunteers from the Mahrberg Family Office and Love in Lights Korea came to our village for six days of fun. During the volunteers' visit, our children not only had lots of fun learning, but they also made special new friends with inspiring young people from around the world.

## Julie Donohue (Australia)

Julie Donohue visited our Ger Village for two weeks. During her time with us, she conducted English lessons with the children and organised the Village's first ever play in English—Snow White. The children had lots of fun learning their lines, rehearsing for the play, and making their costumes. The play was a valuable activity for the children to develop both their confidence and English language skills. Thank you Julie for taking the time to bring such educational fun to our children's home and creating lots of happy memories.

## Emily Burrow (USA)

Professional Montessori trainer, Emily Burrow, visited our village for three weeks. During her time with us, she worked closely with our kindergarten team helping them learn the Montessori approach for preschool education. Emily also conducted training sessions with our Ger Village staff on hygiene, methods of interacting with children, and positive discipline. Furthermore, Emily built a supportive and honest relationship with our older girls and provided training on feminine hygiene and sexual health. We want to thank Emily for supporting our work with the children.

## Visit by Students from the Chinese International School

Every year a group of students from the Chinese International School (CIS), Hong Kong, visit our Ger Village. The special event is dedicated to promoting friendship and understanding between children from Mongolia and overseas.

During their visit, the CIS students take part in activities with our children such as making felt gers, playing basketball, and teaching each other dance routines. The students also showcase their talents in a special welcome performance. This is always a fun way to bring the children together to share their interests and build friendships.

This visit is one of the highlights of our children's year; they love the fun and energy CIS brings to the village and feel proud to share their culture and have new international friends.



# VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

## Message from CIS Teacher Matt Peterson

Our October trip to Mongolia was my first, and among the many visits and experiences I had during my time there, perhaps the ones I hold dearest are my days and hours spent with the people, places, and mission of CNCF. Our students were surprised by snow on our first day, but surprised more by what good their fundraising did for a family that had so long been on the margins, jeopardized by instability and health concerns.

Our time at the Blue Skies Ger Village helped us learn the full-spectrum of support the Foundation offers young people. Our students played with the young children, made art with the older ones, and exchanged songs and dance, confirming that by beauty and relationships only good can come.

## Message from CIS Student Sophie Astri McLean

First and foremost, I would like to say on behalf of the CIS students and faculty who also travelled to Mongolia with us that the trip was an unforgettable and incredibly touching experience. Our experience with CNCF began in Hong Kong when we organised a sponsored hike to earn the \$32,000 necessary to build the ger. It was so incredible to see the way one hike was able to make such a lifelong impact on a family. Despite their conditions, the family was incredibly gracious and happily welcomed us into their space. On the second day of our trip, we drove out to the Blue Skies village, where we were able to learn even more about Mongolian culture and form connections with kids of similar ages to us. Despite our language barrier, we made connections through the universal language of the arts. This trip wouldn't have been possible without the CNCF's support and their commitment to bettering the lives of children in Mongolia. We are extremely grateful for this opportunity, and after witnessing the small ways in which we can improve people's lives, we would be happy to take any opportunities in the future to work with the foundation.






# TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS

## Summer Camp

Our children went to the countryside to stay at a summer camp to learn about traditional nomadic ways of life. During their stay, the children learned to milk cows, ride horses, prepare dairy products, and look after animals. It was also an excellent opportunity for our children to make new friends and have fun exploring the natural environment. For Mongolian children, going to camp is an activity they look forward to all year. They always come back full of energy with lots of new skills and stories to share with our team.

## Outdoor Excursions

We believe outdoor trips and activities are fundamental to the happy, healthy development of our children. They provide an opportunity for our young people to breathe in the fresh country air, explore the natural environment, and have fun.



We organised a variety of outdoor activities throughout the year such as picnics in the countryside, 'Snow Day' at Ulaanbaatar's ski slope, and trekking up Bogd mountain. Before the outings, the children helped our cooks prepare their food and planned different games and group activities. Furthermore, as part of our initiative to cultivate a sense of personal responsibility and care for the environment and community, our children and staff did a litter pick at the end of most trips.

## Educational and Cultural Trips

We are always seeking new opportunities to inspire our children and expose them to new, stimulating environments. This year, our young people went on several educational and cultural trips including to the space museum, aquarium, children's opera, zoo, and cinema. The children always return home full of stories and inspiration.

## Visit to National Amusement Park

Our children had an exciting day out and Mongolia's amusement park, where they spent the day riding rollercoasters, boating on the lake, and eating a delicious picnic.





# COMMUNITY WORK

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

- ◆ Visiting a residential care home to spend the day talking to senior citizens, helping with their daily tasks, and putting on a special performance of dance, singing, poetry and music acts.
- ◆ Assisting the family of one of our former Ger Village guards who sadly passed away last year.
- ◆ Distributing hot food and drinks to people working on the streets, such as traffic police and street cleaners.
- ◆ Visiting the home of a single father, helping to clean his home, cut wood, and collect water from the well.





# OUR STORIES

## A Lost Girl Is Found

Munkhtuul\* came to the Ger Village in January 2018 when she was sixteen, upon the request of the Songino Khaikhan District's Family, Child and Youth Development Department. The police had found Munkhtuul on the streets, hanging around with some older women who were working as prostitutes. Although there was no evidence, the police were concerned that Munkhtuul had also been working as a prostitute, and when they discovered that she was under eighteen, took her to stay at a temporary child protection shelter.

Following an investigation by the local children's authority, it was found that Munkhtuul had been living on the streets for almost a year, after running away from home due to arguments she was having with her mother and stepfather. Although her parents were poor, they both worked hard and loved Munkhtuul, but didn't know how to support Mankhtuul and struggled with her challenging behavior. Mankhtuuls parents didn't know what to do.

The authorities believed that at some point Munkhtuul had been a victim of sexual abuse, and thus, they contacted our Ger Village because it is one of Mongolia's only children's shelters to offer the psychological and social support that Munkhtuul needed to heal from all the trauma she had experienced.



Before Munkhtuul came to the Ger Village, she had studied at a variety of vocational training centres but had dropped out because of her difficult living conditions. She was behind academically and had significant behavioural challenges. It was clear that Munkhuut had experienced a lot of pain in her life and required support from positive role models , love, time to heal in a safe place.

Over the past year, our team have worked closely with Munkhtuul and created a plan for her psychological, social, and academic development. Which included psychotherapy sessions five times per week. Through therapy Munkhtuul opened up about the sexual abuse she had experienced and was able to work through and process what happened in a healthy and positive way.

In addition to therapeutic support, we helped Munkhtuul identify her interests and ambitions. After discovering her passion for cooking, Munkhtuul enrolled in a professional cooking course, to develop her skills and earn a qualification.

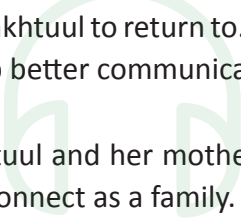
Munktuul began to thrive and was mad the head of the children's bakery club where she managed the scheduling of cooking classes and supervised the children as they baked. Our CNCF head baker also worked closely with Munkhtuul, teaching her new techniques and involving her in daily bread making for the village and baking cakes for special celebrations.





As the oldest girl in the Ger Village Munkhtuul was given more responsibility to contribute to the running of the house hold. Working in the kitchen, helping to care for the younger children and be a positive role model. Having a role and purpose at the village and feeling trusted and believed in, helped Munkhtuul develop her confidence and become an independent young woman during her time at the Ger Village. Munkhtuul took great pride in her position within the community and developed a strong sense of personal responsibility.

After spending eight months at the Ger Village, Munkhtuul went back to live with her family, who we worked closely to improve their living conditions and create a healthy and supportive environment for Munkhtuul to return to. Our social worker and psychotherapist supported Munkhtuul's mother to develop better communication skills with her daughter to support her through her healing process.



Munkhtuul and her mother attended joint family therapy sessions to build back their strong bond and reconnect as a family.

Our psychosocial team firmly believe Munkhtuul has returned to a safe and supportive home, having gained new skills and direction that will equip her to thrive and continue to grow. Her mother and stepfather are incredibly thankful to have her back and are focused on building a bright and prosperous future together.

As with all of our young people, we will continue to work closely with Munkhtuul and her parents and provide support wherever necessary. Munkhtuul will remain a cherished member of our CNCF family and will always be welcomed with open arms when she returns to visit her Ger Village home.

\*Names changed to protect privacy.





## TESTIMONIAL FROM MUNKHTUUL:



I am different today; I have confidence now that I can do well in life. I am back with my family and enjoying my school very much. My life would be very different if I hadn't gone to the Ger Village and if I didn't have the family I had during my stay. I can truly say that one of the best times in my life was living in the Ger Village. Thank you all for the great work you do and thank you very much for making me feel that I was at home.

### Recovering From Trauma

Chimeg\* came to live at our Ger Village in 2008 when she was nine. Despite the tragic circumstances that unfolded before her arrival, Chimeg has flourished into a capable, strong and determined young woman, who lights up the village with her kindness and joyful energy.

Before Chimeg came into our care, she witnessed a heated family row that ultimately led to the heartbreaking death of her mother, who was brutally beaten by Chimeg's stepfather. Following the event, the stepfather was sent to prison, and Chimeg and her older sister were taken in by the local authorities, who later rehomed the two children at our village. Chimeg also has a younger half-brother, who

was the stepfather's biological son. Following the incident, he was adopted by the stepfather's relatives who he still lives with today. Chimeg and her sister did not know their real father and had no other family that could care for them.

The severe trauma caused by witnessing their mother's violent death was evident in the girls' frozen expressions and struggle to engage. We knew that it would be a long journey of healing for these two young girls and that the loss of their mother would forever be present in their lives.

At first, Chimeg was extremely withdrawn and did not want to talk about what happened. Our team respected this and gave Chimeg the space to express her grief in her own way, at her own pace, while always letting her know that they were available to listen and help with any feelings that she wanted to share.

Over the years, she has also worked closely with our psychosocial team, who used a variety of techniques including art and play therapy to help her communicate her pain and grief. In time, Chimeg began to open up and feel secure in expressing her emotions. She started to make friends and form emotional connections with our team, without the fear that they too would be taken away from her.

In addition to providing emotional support, we have encouraged Chimeg to express herself

through a variety of activities. One of her favourite things to do is dance, which she has been able to cultivate through our Arts & Music Programme. She is incredibly talented and always lights up the stage with her radiant smile and captivating energy.

Chimeg has also developed a passion for taekwondo and is an active member of our CNCF team. Taekwondo has allowed Chimeg to release feelings of anger and sadness in a positive way. She is an incredibly focused member of our group, whose passion and commitment is evident in each training session and competition that she takes part in.

Since arriving at the village, we have been incredibly proud to watch the strength of character Chimeg has shown in not allowing the traumatic loss of her mother control her destiny. Although we have played an essential role in her healing process, the young woman that Chimeg is today is a result of her inner strength and ability to see the good in the world and make the most of the opportunities available to her.

This year, Chimeg completed high school and in September began to study hairdressing at the Rajiv Gandhi Art and Production School of Mongolia. Many of our Ger Village children have eagerly offered themselves as Chimeg's models, and as a result, there is now an exciting array of hairstyles and colours at our village!



## TESTIMONIAL FROM CHIMEG:

“

Before I came to the Ger Village, my sister and I had been living in a very abusive environment and my stepfather had just killed my mother. Losing my mother in this terrible situation was devastating, and we both were in shock. We tried to wake our mother up the morning after she had been beaten, but she wasn't moving, and even her breath was not there.

We still had hope she would wake up and tell us she was fine, but unfortunately, that was the last time we saw our mother. She must have had so much physical abuse that her body couldn't cope with it anymore. However, she managed to help us from the sky and left us in the right hands at CNCF, who could love my sister and me as she would love us.

We believe that she is the one who has led us to the village and who has been protecting us over the years. This year, I left the village and am now living with my sister and her son in our own ger. My sister loves me, and she looks after me very well; we are happy together.

I am passionate about street dance and have been practising it for over three years now. My dream is to become a street dancer and a hairdresser who makes people happy. Leaving my home at the Ger Village wasn't easy for me, but I know that everyone will always still be there for me and that I can return to visit my CNCF family whenever I want





## A MESSAGE FROM A GRATEFUL MOTHER

In 2016, my husband, our two daughters, and I moved with our ger from the countryside to the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. Soon after, my husband became abusive to me and the children. In the same year, our ger caught on fire, and my husband left us; we had nothing. With no other options available, lived temporarily with various relatives. Eventually, they started to say no to us, but we didn't have anywhere else to go.

My children and I ended up on the streets. We sought shelter in the hallways of apartment blocks. It was a nightmare for me to see my girls growing up on the streets and having no place safe to sleep. I needed to find a way to survive, and I needed to have shelter and food for my girls.

The local children's authority helped me send my girls to the Blue Skies Ger Village. They said to me with full confidence that my girls would be in good hands. I don't mind living in hardship, but I cannot bear to see my girls struggling, moving from place to place and going to sleep with empty stomachs.

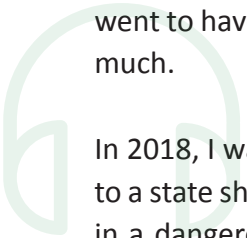
They have now been living at the village for two years, and after seeing the place, I am happy and confident that my girls are well looked after, eating good food, and are living in a secure and happy environment where they can focus on going to school and enjoying their childhoods.

I am now living with my sister and trying to get a job. I am in close contact with my girls and with the staff at the Ger Village, who are helping me get my life back together, so I can have my children again. I will work hard to create the home they deserve.

Thank you CNCF for giving my girls an opportunity that no one else could. Thank you so much for giving them the love of a mother and beyond. Every time I visit the village to see my children I feel welcome. The kind staff make me feel special and encourage me to keep going.




# A GER VILLAGE CHILD'S EXPERIENCE



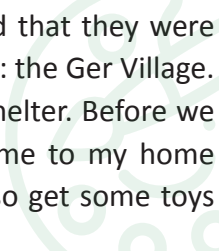
My name is Tseegii,\* and I am nine years old. I first came to the Ger Village last year, when I was brought by a CNCF social worker to have a shower and a hot meal. When I arrived it felt very friendly, and they had nice outdoor play areas. I thought it was some miracle place where all of the children went to have fun! After that, I returned home to my parents who I love very much.

In 2018, I was separated from my parents by government officials and sent to a state shelter. They took me there because they thought that I was living in a dangerous and high-risk environment with my parents. I don't agree with this because I love my parents and they are good people. They used to drink alcohol every day, and they always used to bring their friends to my home. We usually didn't have food in the house because my parents had no money, but somehow, they still managed to get money for vodka which often made me angry.

Sometimes, they would sell my school books to get vodka money, and I would get punished at school. My classmates didn't like the way I smelled, and they used to make fun of how I dressed. Therefore, I decided not to go to school because they were bullying me so badly.



When I was sent to the government shelter, I felt scared and sad that I had been taken away from my loving parents. It felt horrible to be in that place; I didn't enjoy being there, and I was afraid that I was going to be living there all the time and not see my mum and dad again. Luckily, a social worker from CNCF came to visit me. I cried and cried and told her to get me out of that place and take me to my parents. She promised she would get me out of there and I believed that she would.



After a few days, she came back to pick me up and said that they were taking me back to the miracle place I had visited last year: the Ger Village. I was so happy to see them and so happy to leave the shelter. Before we went to the Ger Village, the CNCF social worker took me to my home because I needed to say goodbye to my parents and also get some toys that I wanted to take with me.

The social worker told me not to worry and that I could still speak to my parents and see them once every two weeks. She said that in the village I could go to school, eat nice food, and live comfortably with lots of new friends and kind adults who would take care of me; I was so happy.

I now have good friends at the Ger Village, a school to go to, brand new school equipment and uniform, and a lovely new bed. I go to taekwondo three times a week, and I have delicious food every day. Even though I miss my parents, I am happy here and I get to see and speak to them regularly.

**\*Names changed to protect privacy.**







# A GER VILLAGE GRADUATE'S EXPERIENCE

I recently left my Ger Village home, a home that I lived in for many years. People may see us as young adults who are ready to step into life, but when we leave our home as young adults, it is like we are being reborn. We are all very excited and nervous about being independent members of society. My family at CNCF have helped me enormously to overcome my fear of stepping into life.

It has already been two years since I left my home officially, I don't have much fear or anxiety in life because if something bad happens, I always know that my CNCF family will be there to support me. During my time at the village I learned teamwork, family, love, and caring for others, which is helping me create a wonderful life and future. I see now that the foundation of my life was strongly set at the village.

I am so grateful to CNCF for bringing me up and raising me into who I am today. I will succeed in life because of you, and I will give back however I can.

**\*Names changed to protect privacy.**


# Life Skills Training

TITLE	NAME OF INDIVIDUAL/ ORGANISATION PROVIDING TRAINING	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES	AGE RANGE OF BENEFICIARIES	GENDER OF BENEFICIARIES	DETAILS
Mongolian Ger Stove Fire Safety	CNCF psychosocial team	8	9-13	Male	Children learned how to use traditional Mongolian ger stoves safely
Positive Communication	CNCF psychotherapist	15	12-18	Male and Female	Children learned how to communicate in a calm and positive way and manage emotions
Choosing the Right Career	CNCF psychotherapist	16	12-18	Male and Female	Teens learned about careers and career planning
Adverse Effects of Drugs and Alcohol	CNCF psychotherapist	15	11-17	Male and Female	Children learned about dangers of drugs
Fire Safety	CNCF former education manager	35	6-17	Male and Female	Children learned fire safety and how to use a fire extinguisher






## Life Skills Training



TITLE	NAME OF INDIVIDUAL/ ORGANISATION PROVIDING TRAINING	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES	AGE RANGE OF BENEFICIARIES	GENDER OF BENEFICIARIES	DETAILS
Actions to Take During an Emergency	Former CNCF education manager	39	2-18	Male and Female	Children learned procedures for emergencies
Speech Therapy	CNCF psychotherapist	1	6	Male	Speech therapy exercises
Improving Cognitive Skills	Mahrberg Foundation participants	30	8-17	Male and Female	
Family Relationships and Respecting Elders	CNCF psychotherapist and Ger Village Manager	9	6-9	Male and Female	Children learned how to behave respectfully and communicate with family members
Air Pollution	CNCF psychotherapist	11	6-15	Male and Female	Children learned how air pollution damages your health and ways to protect against it





## Life Skills Training



TITLE	NAME OF INDIVIDUAL/ ORGANISATION PROVIDING TRAINING	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES	AGE RANGE OF BENEFICIARIES	GENDER OF BENEFICIARIES	DETAILS
Learning Methods	Khatanbaatar from the Mongolian Intellectual Academy and Policy Centre	10	13-17	Male and Female	Learning methods and identifying what learning style works for individual children
Financial Education	Khaan Bank, Training Officer and Policy Centre	10	10-17	Male and Female	Basic financial education
Keeping Your Dream	Global Leadership University	11	14-18	Male and Female	Finding inspiration for the future and encouraging children to follow their dreams
Code for Kids	Work Central Mongolia	2	14	Male and Female	Computer programming
Personal Development	Lector Centre	2	17-18	Male and Female	Learning skills to develop as a public speaker
Debating	'+300' training	4	14-15	Male and Female	Carl Popper style debating techniques and practice





# Life Skills Training

TITLE	NAME OF INDIVIDUAL/ ORGANISATION PROVIDING TRAINING	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES	AGE RANGE OF BENEFICIARIES	GENDER OF BENEFICIARIES	DETAILS
Making Craft Boats	Children's Art Centre	1	11	Male	
Achieving Success	Singer Gankhuu, Compassion NGO	45	4-18	Male and Female	How to reach your goals and learn a foreign language
English	A-Star	2	16-17	Female	Learning the English language
Play therapy	Creative Bamboo	11	3-5	Male and Female	Developing children's cognition, emotion and psychology through play
Sexual Education	Emily Burrow	9	15-17	Female	
Personal Hygiene	CNCF Nurse	41	All ages	Male and Female	
Healthy Lifestyle Choices	CNCF Doctor	53	All Ages		
Body Changes	CNCF Doctor	9		Female	
Body Changes	Junior psychologist	8		Male	
				<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>

# Staff Training

TITLE	NAME OF INDIVIDUAL/ ORGANISATION PROVIDING TRAINING	NUMBER OF STAFF FROM THE GV WHO ATTENDED	POSITIONS OF STAFF WHO ATTENDED	DETAILS
Are we ready for change?	CNCF psychotherapist and Ger Village Manager	36	All staff	How to prepare and adapt to change
Ways of communicating with children	CNCF psychotherapist	36	All staff	Communication methods using case studies
Hygiene, Positive discipline, and interacting with children	Emily Burrow	18	Care workers, cooks, social worker, psychologists, guards, teachers	3 workshops on working with children
Working with children with trauma	Miranda Marsh	28	Care workers, social worker, psychologists, teachers	10 trainings on attachment theory, early childhood psychological developmental stages, neuroscience, trauma, processing trauma, boundaries and structure, releasing stress.
Taking photos	Paul	3		How to take photos and correct use of a camera
Use of air pollution mask	Ger Village Manager	25	All staff except part-time teachers	Air pollution and proper use of masks



## Staff Training

TITLE	NAME OF INDIVIDUAL/ ORGANISATION PROVIDING TRAINING	NUMBER OF STAFF FROM THE GV WHO ATTENDED	POSITIONS OF STAFF WHO ATTENDED	DETAILS
Child development stages	CNCF psychotherapist	8	Education and care staff	Stages of developments of children
Theory of Montessori	Emily Burrow	8	Kindergarten and education staff	1 Introductory session of the Montessori method
Leadership Training	Shermann College	1	Ger Village Manager	How to develop leadership skills
Project Management	PMI	1	Ger Village Manager	Project management
Child Adoption	Child, Family and Youth Development Agency.	2	Ger Village manager and Social worker	Legal requirements of adopting children and Alternative services of orphanages
Modern trends of child development international research conference	Child, Family and Youth Development Agency	1	Ger Village manager, social worker and psychologist	
			<b>Total Beneficiaries</b>	<b>38</b>



## LOCAL PARTNER


- Authority For Family, Child and Youth Development
- Family and Child Development Department of Capital City
- Youth Development Department of Capital City
- Family, Child and Youth Development Department of the District's Governor Office
- Governor Office of Songino Khaikhan District
- 7th Khoroo of Songino Khaikhan District
- 'EnkhiinUrguu' Family Clinic of Khoroo#7, Songiino Khaikhan District
- Children's Art Centre
- Songino Khaikhan General Hospital
- National Maternal and Child Health Centre
- Caritas Mongolia
- Mirage Japanese Restaurant
- 1900-1950 Information Bureau
- Lector Centre
- Best Vocational training Centre
- Chandmani Sports Centre
- EMJJ Otorhinolaryngology Hospital
- Child Palace NGO
- Policy Training Centre
- Biznetwork LLC
- State Bank
- A Star English Training Centre
- Creative Bamboo
- New Nomads LLC
- Lingors Mongolian Language Centre



## Testimonial from an officer at the Songino Khaikhan District's Child, Family and Youth Development Department

It has been almost 21 years since we started working together on children's issues. I am incredibly thankful for the collaboration of our organisations and our shared mission to provide a safe home for children who are being abused, abandoned, and neglected by their own parents. Our work together is leading to a bright future for the youth of Mongolia.


## Testimonial from Governor of Songino Khaikhan District's 7th Khoroo



My name is Oyunchimeg, and it has been five years since I began working as the governor for the 7th Khoroo (micro district) of Songino Khaikhan District. Before becoming the governor, I worked as a teacher at school number 67. It was during this time that I got to know about CNCF's work at the Blue Skies Ger Village. I consider CNCF as a mother to many vulnerable children, giving love and protection to children who have no one and who were left on the streets.

Over the years, we have had so many changes throughout the government and in Mongolia, but CNCF has remained here even during the really tough times. As a Mongolian citizen, I am very proud of CNCF and what they are doing in the community.

CNCF is teaching their children to be humanitarians and teaching them the beauty of sharing and dedicating their time and effort to others. I have seen the children of the Blue Skies Ger Village organising charity events and doing volunteer work. For example, in Mongolia's rainy season, the children spent a day fixing a broken road because there was so much mud that it was hard for children in that area to go to school. Even as adults, we have so much to learn from these children.





REPORT 2018

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The total cost of running the Blue Skies Ger Village Mongolia in 2018 was

USD \$ 215.851

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 2018 audits are available on line  
<https://www.cncf.org/finance-policies>





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

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