



BLUE SKIES KINDERGARTEN MONGOLIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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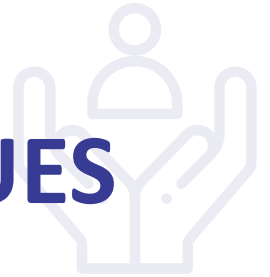
ABBREVIATIONS

CNCF Christina Noble Children's Foundation



REPORT 2018

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 Kindergarten, you help create a safe, caring, and educational environment for young children from extremely disadvantaged backgrounds.

With no effective state welfare system in Mongolia, many parents face the difficult choice between staying home with their young children and losing their jobs or going to work and leaving their children unsupervised putting their child's safety at risk. This is the harsh reality of what families in Mongolia face. Alternatively, children sometimes accompany their parents to work assisting them in jobs such as collecting rubbish from the streets or scouring through local dumpsites for reusable and recyclable goods to sell. These work environments are dangerous for everyone but are especially hazardous for young children.

The CNCF Blue Skies Kindergarten provides a place for disadvantaged children to go to school and receive the education that all children deserve so their chances of growing up and breaking the cycle of poverty are significantly increased. Without support from our generous donors, we would not be able to provide these life-changing services.



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PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



ESTABLISHED	2000
LOCATION	Blue Skies Ger Village, Songino Khairkhan district, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
OBJECTIVES	To create a secure and happy environment where disadvantaged children can develop socially and emotionally while learning basic literacy and numeracy skills to prepare them for primary school and cultivate healthy habits, confidence, self-esteem, and the ability to think creatively
PROGRAMME COMPONENTS	Provision of academic and holistic education, healthcare, emotional support, nutrition, and essential items such as warm clothes and educational supplies
BENEFICIARIES	Children under primary school age who are residents of the Blue Skies Ger Village and children living in poverty in the Songino Khairkhan district area
CNCF INVOLVEMENT	Entirely responsible for funding, programme management, monitoring, and evaluation




CNCF MANAGEMENT AND STAFF



Helenita Noble, CEO; Thomas Minter, Director of Operations; Davaasuren Tserennorov, Head Teacher; Ayushjav Purev, Assistant Teacher; Ariunchimeg Davaadong, Assistant Teacher

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

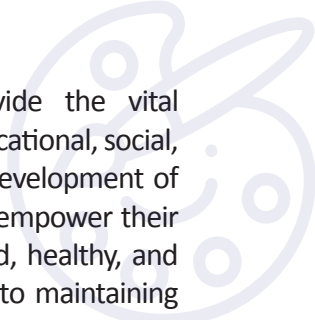


Regular meetings are held between the kindergarten staff and the Ger Village management and psychosocial teams. Visits are conducted by the Director of Operations to observe the programme and discuss any challenges and progress with the staff. All children meet regularly with the Foundation's doctor to monitor their health. The National Authority conducts government inspections for Children and the National Inspection Agency, as well as health and fire safety inspections by the local district authorities. A monthly report is completed by the programme leader and an annual report is sent to all stakeholders.

2018 ACTUAL COSTS

USD \$

FUTURE PLANS



We will continue to provide the vital services that support the educational, social, physical, and psychological development of the children in our care and empower their families to lead more fulfilled, healthy, and productive 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.

REPORTING PERIOD



January – December 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IN 2018

The Blue Skies Kindergarten continued to provide a secure and happy environment where disadvantaged children developed socially and emotionally while learning basic literacy and numeracy skills to prepare them for primary school.



provided with high-quality care, education and holistic support.

88 CHILDREN

82 were full-time students during for part of the year.

06 CHILDREN OF CNCF STAFF MEMBERS who attended during summer holidays.

IN 2019

We will continue to provide the vital services that support the educational, social, physical, and psychological development of the children in our care and empower their families to lead more fulfilled, healthy, and productive lives.

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2000

1,000 CHILDREN have been assisted by The Blue Skies Kindergarten in Mongolia.





“

**Childhood is the foundation
of life, help us make it a
good one!**

- Christina Noble OBE -





REPORT 2018

PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

The Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) was founded in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam by Christina Noble in 1989. CNCF extended its work into Mongolia in 1997 with establishment of the Blue Skies Ger Village, a residential care facility for children who come from backgrounds marred by poverty, abuse, and neglect.

The Blue Skies Kindergarten was subsequently established in 2000 to support the educational and emotional development of preschool children (ages one to six) living at the Foundation's Ger Village. When the Kindergarten first opened, two teachers and one British volunteer taught thirteen children in two adjacent gers.

Because the population of the surrounding areas rapidly grew due to a large influx of migrants from the countryside, it soon became apparent that the programme needed to expand its reach; a new building was constructed in 2002 and expanded in 2005. In this larger and more efficient space, the Kindergarten has supported vulnerable and disadvantaged children living in the Blue Skies Ger Village and surrounding areas.

Most children who attend the Kindergarten live in the 7th sub-district of Songino Khaikhan where unemployment rates are high and living conditions are extremely poor. Most children are from single-parent homes that are struggling to survive in desperate circumstances without any financial or social support. In addition to permanent Ger Village residents and children from surrounding communities and children temporarily staying at the village attend the Kindergarten while they wait to be relocated to another children's shelter or reunited with their family. To date, the project has nurtured and educated more than 1,000 children, helping them build a strong foundation for future learning.

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OUR YEAR

IN 2018

88 CHILDREN
received care



44 BOYS **44** GIRLS

provided with high-quality care, education, and holistic support

82 FULL-TIME STUDENTS
during part of the year

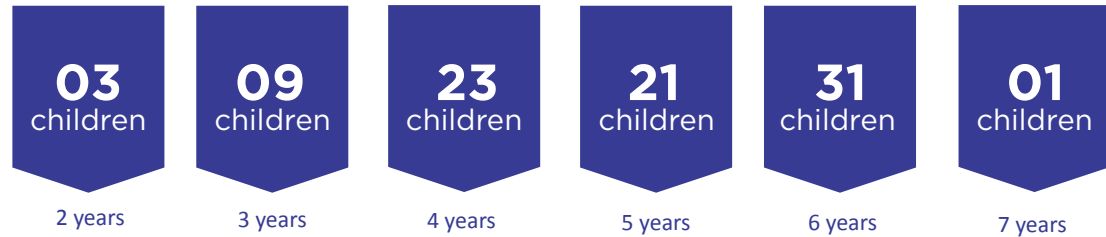
06 CHILDREN OF
CNCF STAFF MEMBERS
who attended during summer holidays

08 Ger Village
residents enrolled

68 CHILDREN
enrolled in spring term

48 CHILDREN
enrolled in fall term

Ages of 88 Beneficiaries in 2018



Message from Head Teacher Davaasuren Tserennorov



I am very proud to work at the Blue Skies Kindergarten and to be making a difference in the lives of so many children and their families. I feel strongly that through providing a safe and nurturing educational environment for disadvantaged children, we set them up for future success at school and in life.

Many of the children who come to our kindergarten have had little to no mental stimulation or parental guidance. Our programme builds their social, emotional, and cognitive skills and teaches them how to care for themselves and lead healthy lives.

Our team will continue to work hard to fulfil Christina Noble's mission of giving the children in our care a happy, safe, and emotionally-rich childhood experience. I wish that one day all of the young people in my country will be able to attend a kindergarten like CNCF's and start their lives on a positive path.



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PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES



The kindergarten is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday and is the only free kindergarten in the local district. Therefore, it is an indispensable lifeline for the children and their families. Without the Foundation's support, many parents would have no choice but to go to work and leave their young children at home on their own, often locked inside their gers in unsafe and unstimulating conditions for hours at a time. Because of the Blue Skies Kindergarten, struggling parents can go to work confident in the foundation knowing that their children are eating nutritious meals and are receiving love, encouragement, and care that gives them the best possible start to life.

Our children are taught in alignment with the national preschool curriculum, with the children assigned to one of two age-specific groups, each with their own education programme.

The children also participate in extracurricular activities and classes, such as outdoor exercises, trips to the countryside, arts and crafts, concerts and parties.

Furthermore, the Foundation provides personal development and life skills training to the children's parents and guardians, helping them to improve their quality of life and create a more positive home environment for their little ones. Distributions of items such as food, clothing, stationery and heating supplies take place throughout the year, providing crucial additional support for those of our families who are most in need.



Testimonial from Munkhtuya, Head of the Mongolian Orphanage Kindergarten Association



The Mongolian Orphanage Kindergarten Association was established in 2007 to provide support to kindergartens that are primarily internationally funded. Members of the association are the Children of the Sun, Smile of Children, Caritas Mongolia, and Blue Skies Kindergartens. One of our leading members is without a doubt CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten, who we work closely with so that we can both improve our services under the preschool laws and regulations. Some of the activities CNCF has been involved with include an exchange programme between centres, humanitarian action where we provided clothes and food for people living on dump sites, and a competition to improve the teachers' knowledge and skills. I hope that we continue to work closely and learn from CNCF in the future, as the Blue Skies Kindergarten sets an outstanding precedent for other childcare services to follow. I can see that their kindergarten is efficiently managed and full of innovative ideas and love for the children, who I can see are growing up as well-mannered, happy and centred young people.





EDUCATION

For children living in extreme poverty or coming from backgrounds shaped by neglect and abuse, high-quality early childhood education is crucial because it can support the development of self-esteem and confidence in the children and build an excitement for learning.

Our children are taught in alignment with the national preschool curriculum approved by the Ministry of Education with a focus on topics including Family, Seasons, National Holidays, Tradition, Transportation, Animals and Nature. Educational activities support the following six developmental domains:

- ◆ **Physical Domain:** Body control and sensory skills
- ◆ **Language Domain:** Listening, speaking, literacy skills (reading, writing, comprehension, expression), and non-verbal communication skills
- ◆ **Aesthetic Domain:** Perception and evaluation of beauty both natural and man-made. Expression of inspirations and feelings through drawing, painting, dance, singing, poetry, sculpture, movement, and storytelling
- ◆ **Cognitive Domain:** Skills used to know, learn, and understand
- ◆ **Emotional Domain:** The inner life of the child: feelings and emotions, fears and joys
- ◆ **Social Domain:** Behaviours and skills used to establish and maintain relationships with others

Daily activities include:

- ◆ Musical circle where our children sit together to sing and play instruments
- ◆ Storytelling and story creation, often with finger puppet characters
- ◆ Team games
- ◆ Group discussions and sharing ideas
- ◆ Creative arts such as painting, origami, crafts, and sculpting with playdough
- ◆ Physical exercise and health education
- ◆ Personal hygiene including washing hands and face, brushing teeth, and using the toilet correctly
- ◆ Information Technology (IT) education
- ◆ Natural sciences and exploring nature
- ◆ Role playing
- ◆ Theatre arts including preparing performances for special events and celebrations

Introduction of Montessori

Last year, our kindergarten teachers began training in the Montessori method of education with professional American Montessori trainer Emily Burrow. In 2018, our staff continued to develop their skills by attending a one-day workshop lead by the Montessori Association of Mongolia as well as working for three weeks alongside Emily Burrow in the Blue Skies Kindergarten.

Following the training, our team has implemented a variety of activities in the kindergarten that support the Montessori approach based on self-directed activity, hands-on learning, and collaborative play. For example, children are divided into groups based on their age and capabilities and each group is assigned responsibilities such as helping to lay the table for meals, tidying up the classroom, and watering the plants.

Furthermore, the 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.





HEALTHCARE

The Foundation's doctor examines all children upon enrollment in the Blue Skies Kindergarten. Medical details are recorded for future monitoring and treatments are provided for any existing conditions. If a condition cannot be resolved on site, the child is referred to a specialist hospital or clinic for further support. As with our Ger Village children, all kindergarten children receive check-ups from doctors who visit our village regularly throughout the year. In 2018, this included a full physical preventive care examination; ears, nose, and throat screenings; an eye exam; a dermatology assessment; a dental examination; and a kidney test. The children's parents and relatives are also invited to attend the check-ups.

Because most kindergarten children come from backgrounds of extreme poverty, malnutrition, stunted growth and rickets are common. Therefore, providing wholesome and nutritious meals is a priority; Blue Skies Kindergarten children receive three healthy meals a day and snacks. Meals and snacks include fresh fruits and vegetables, which are grown in our Ger Village greenhouses where possible to ensure the best quality.

This year, our children also benefited from four vitamin distributions including a 2-month supply of multivitamins, 3-month supply of curcuma (turmeric), and 4-month supply of Vitamin D. Twelve severely malnourished and underweight children also received a 5-month supply of KRKK multivitamins.

From a health education perspective, children learn about the role they play in supporting their health through habits such as regular morning exercise and good personal hygiene. The children learn about sanitising their hands before eating and after using the bathroom, brushing their teeth correctly, washing and drying their face, blowing their nose, and using the toilet.

Helping our children develop good personal hygiene habits plays an essential role in their development of positive character traits such as self-discipline and pride and sets them up for a successful life outside the village and as they continue their education.



Summer Holiday Kindergarten Programme

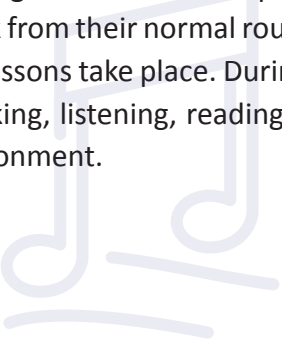
School summer holidays can be particularly difficult for parents who are required to work to ensure an income for the family and are unable to stay home during the holidays to look after their children. Due to this, children are required to stay home unsupervised or parents lose their income to stay home and look after the children putting major financial stress on the family. Alternatively, some children have to accompany their parents to work, where they spend long periods of time in dangerous and unstimulating environments.

To remedy this problem and ease the burden on parents, we keep our kindergarten open for any children in need; this includes children living at our village, children of CNCF staff members, and children from the local community whose parents are unable to care for them during the long break.

During the summer programme, our children enjoy an informal timetable including lots of fun outdoor activities, creative activities, storytelling, and play.

In 2018, **21 children** benefited from the summer kindergarten programme.

Primary School Preparation



Two times a week, the Ger Village primary school teacher spends an hour working with our older kindergarten children helping them prepare for entry into primary school. The children enjoy the break from their normal routine and the quiet, focused environment of the Ger Village library where the lessons take place. During their time away from kindergarten, the children further develop their speaking, listening, reading, writing, and numeracy skills, and practice studying in a more mature environment.



Other Programme Activities and Highlights

Staff Training

Throughout the year, kindergartenteachersattended training sessions delivered by our psychosocial team. The courses were designed to develop the team's understanding of basic psychology, improve their communication skills with the children, help them manage workplace stress, and improve safety at the village. Team members also had the opportunity to share ideas and gain a deeper understanding of each other, helping them form a positive and supportive working environment.

The kindergarten team also attended a variety of external trainings to ensure they continue to develop and maintain the most relevant skills and effective methods to support to children.

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.



TITLE OF TRAINING	ORGANISATION DELIVERING TRAINING	DETAILS
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS)	CNCF	What are the SDGs and objectives, how CNCF is contributing, and how we can improve our services
Project management	PMI Mongolian chapter	Project development
Teachers' ethics	Capital City Education Department	Ethical challenges teachers face in schools and Code of Conduct
Food safety	Songino Khairkhan Governor Office	Introduction to legal documents related to food safety
How to respond in an emergency	Emergency management department of Songinokhairkhan	Disaster risk reduction/emergency planning
Montessori training method	Mongolian Montessori Teachers' Association	Introduction to Montessori training
How to work with children with trauma	Miranda Marsh	Early childhood psychological development Recognising and healing childhood trauma
English	Bolorchuluun	English classes improving vocabulary, grammar, and communications
Are we ready for change?	CNCF psychotherapist and Ger Village Manager	How to prepare for and respond to change
Ways of communicating with children	CNCF psychotherapist and Khongorzul, Director of Focus on the Family and	Communication methods using case studies
Hygiene, positive discipline, and interacting with children	Emily Burrow	3 workshops on working with children
Montessori Methods	Emily Burrow	Emily worked alongside our kindergarten teachers for 3 weeks developing their understanding of the Montessori methods

Two-week Training by Professional Child Psychotherapist Miranda Marsh

Child Psychotherapist Miranda Marsh visited our operations for two weeks to provide training for 41 members of our Foundation's staff including 3 of our kindergarten teachers. Miranda supported and enhanced our therapeutic work for the children by:

- ◆ Training all staff that work directly with children on psychological theory. Specifically methods to support children who have experienced trauma.
- ◆ Mentoring and supporting our Ger Village psychologist and junior psychologist
- ◆ Helping to improve the psychological wellbeing of the staff through developing strategies of self care
- ◆ Introducing a psychological support and supervision structure for the Ger Village staff
- ◆ Reviewing our key worker system

We are incredibly grateful to Miranda for taking the time to share her expert knowledge with our team and in doing so helping us 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.

- Miranda Marsh





Montessori Training with Emily Burrow

Professional American Montessori trainer, Emily Burrow, visited our village for three weeks. She worked closely with our kindergarten team, helping them develop their understanding of the Montessori approach to preschool education by observing her interactions with the children and developing new initiatives to put in place moving forward. Emily's time with us was incredibly valuable for the children's psychological development and will significantly help us as we move towards our goal of becoming an accredited Montessori kindergarten by September 2020.

Staff Awards

Our kindergarten Head Teacher, Davaasuren Tserenorov, received an award for her dedication to the children of Mongolia from the Family, Child and Youth Development Agency. We are very proud of Davaasuren for this wonderful achievement and her commitment to helping children.

International Children's Day

To celebrate International Children's Day, our students enjoyed a fun-filled day of games, food, and gifts. The children performed songs, poems, dances, and taekwondo routines for their parents who watched with happiness and pride. It was a beautiful day for everyone involved—63 children and 40 parents participated in the event.

Parent-Teacher Meetings

Quarterly meetings are held between kindergarten teachers and the parents or primary caregivers of the children. The meetings are arranged to help the children's families feel welcome at the Ger Village, explain our internal procedures, and discuss the children's progress. Our team also guides the parents on how they can support their children's healthy development at home by helping them with their homework and establishing good personal hygiene routines.



Beginning of Term Celebration

At the beginning of the 2018 academic year, a special celebration was held to wish the children success and happiness in the year ahead. Parents, relatives, friends, and CNCF staff members attended the event, which included performances from the children and encouraging speeches from the head teacher and Director of Operations, Thomas Minter.

Field Trips to Transport Museums

Thanks to the Civil Aviation General Authority, the Electric Bus Company, and Ulaanbaatar Railway, our children were able to go on three field trips this year to learn about the city's transport system. The children had fun learning about trains, buses, and airplanes, singing themed songs, and drawing pictures about their trip.

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 two and five. 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 kindergarten children, during which our little ones had their hair cut for the first time and food, gifts, and blessings were exchanged. It was a special day for everyone involved. Traditional celebrations such as this help to reinforce and strengthen our children's connection to Mongolian cultural as well as build a sense of trust, love, and family within our Ger Village community.





PARTNERSHIPS



- ◆ We initiated a parent volunteer programme to encourage parental involvement in the kindergarten and allow parents to learn more about their child's daily activities. The programme also serves to create a stronger sense of community. Activities included painting the kindergarten walls, small renovation projects, assisting with the horticulture project, cleaning, and helping out at special events.
- ◆ After receiving our official kindergarten license in September 2017, we are now required to operate in alignment with the government-set preschool national curriculum. As part of the agreement, our teachers receive trainings and assessments throughout the year to ensure they are working within the government's guidelines.
- ◆ Our Ger Village and kindergarten work in partnership with the Emergency Management Department of the Songino Khaikhan District who keep us updated with the latest national fire and safety requirements. This year, the department organised a training session on emergency response procedures—staff from the kindergarten and Ger Village attended the valuable session, which provided important information on how to keep our village safe.





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ACADEMIC FESTIVAL

We organised an academic festival at the end of the 2017-2018 academic year. During the event, our children showcased what they had learned to their parents and relatives. The children put on a heartwarming show of songs, poems, and dance routines, leaving everyone extremely proud of what special young people we support.

It was also an opportunity for us to wish the children well who were leaving us for primary school and give them gifts.

“

Soon I am graduating from my kindergarten. My kindergarten teachers gave me a school bag and stationery. I am so happy about this. I am the cleverest child in my kindergarten. I will study well when I go to school. My teacher often says I am an excellent student. I will miss my teacher very much, but she said I could visit my kindergarten to play.”

- 6-year-old kindergarten graduate



Kindergarten Student and Teacher Exchange

Our children and teachers visited the ‘Khuukhdiin Bayasgalan’ (Smile of Children) Kindergarten as part of an exchange initiative organised by the kindergarten’s Director. Their students then came to our Blue Skies Kindergarten to see how we operate and gain new ideas and inspiration. The initiative provided a valuable opportunity for the children to make new friends and experience a different learning environment. It was also a chance for the teachers to speak about their work and discuss ideas.

Distribution of School Supplies

Twenty-one of our children received a backpacks and stationery to prepare them for primary school. The items were chosen with special care and attention to the individual character of each child to help them feel confident and excited about going to school.



Special Performances

Throughout the year, our kindergarten children showcased their talents at Ger Village celebratory events including birthdays, leaving parties, and national holidays. We are always so proud to see our little ones take to the stage with such confidence, happiness, and spirit.





Visit by Students from the Chinese International School



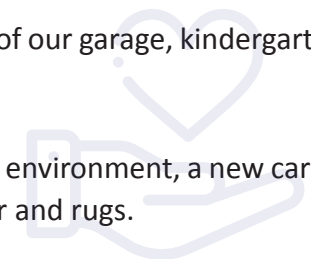
Every year, a group of students from the Chinese International School (CIS), Hong Kong, visit our Ger Village and Kindergarten. The special event is dedicated to promoting friendship and understanding between children from Mongolia and overseas.

During their visit, the CIS students play with the kindergarten children and help them in their daily activities. Their visit is one of the highlights of our children's year; they love the fun and energy that the CIS students bring and are excited to have new international friends.

Maintenance and Repairs



- ◆ The 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.
- ◆ The 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 roof of our garage, kindergarten, electric room, and infirmary.
- ◆ To create an even more comfortable and tactile environment, a new carpet was fitted to replace the previous wooden floor and rugs.





REPORT 2018

OUR STORIES

Building a Brighter Future

Anar*, 5 years old, was referred to us by district social workers after they discovered his difficult life circumstances. At the time, he was not attending kindergarten and was spending his days at home with his grandfather in challenging conditions. Sadly, Anar's mother had abandoned him at birth and left him without the official identity documents required to enroll in school.

Our kindergarten team worked diligently on Anar's case and with the support of the district's social workers, managed to get him a new birth certificate. After spending six months in our kindergarten, Anar completed his preschool education and has now enrolled in a local primary school. Furthermore, while attending our kindergarten, Anar developed his social, emotional, and cognitive skills. He is now a bright, cheerful, and confident little boy who is equipped for successful integration into his new school. Without the Foundation's support, Anar would not have been able to receive an education, and there is no doubt that his future would have looked very different from what it does now.

*Names changed to protect privacy.



SUPPORT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Naran*, 5 years old, enrolled in the Blue Skies Kindergarten in September 2017. She was living in extremely difficult conditions with her parents and siblings and was suffering from severe kidney problems and intestinal worms, which had been detected following a health exam required for entry into kindergarten.

Because of the family's extremely poor living conditions and the children's noticeable neglect, Naran, her mother, and siblings had been sent to the Child Protection Centre on several occasions. Furthermore, her older sister was no longer living with the family and had moved into their grandmother's home hoping for a better life.

When she first arrived in kindergarten, Naran was a very nervous child who lacked confidence and didn't want to interact with the other children and staff. It was also clear to see from her weak frame and pale complexion that Naran required urgent medical attention, so we immediately referred her to our healthcare team who began to take steps to treat her conditions.

Our social worker went to the family's home to gain a deeper understanding of their living situation, and as a result of her visit, concluded that Naran's case needed special attention. Specifically, help and guidance to learn how to support their children to have the best quality of life.

Our social worker reported to the Ger Village management team about the poor state of the family's ger, which was particularly concerning as winter was fast approaching. The village donated some high quality felt covers to provide extra insulation and keep the family warm during this harsh season when temperatures reach -40°C.

After receiving medicine and vitamins and eating three nutritious meals a day, Naran's health began to improve. She gained weight, had increased energy, and her complexion brightened. This had a significant effect on her demeanour; she was happier and started to be more active in the kindergarten, playing with the other children and communicating openly with the staff.

In addition to healthcare support, Naran was also able to develop her social-emotional, language, literacy, and cognitive skills through a range of activities and the consistent love,

guidance, and positive reinforcement she received from her teachers. Our team also held regular meetings with Naran's parents to discuss her progress and identify ways in which they could support their daughter's development outside of kindergarten. As a result of the meetings, Naran's father started to drop-off and collect her from kindergarten each day. He also became noticeably more affectionate towards her and engaged in her life.

This year, Naran completed her preschool education and is currently studying at primary school. Her living conditions have greatly improved, and the family are now living in a small house which they built this year. Her father is motivated to continue to better his family's life and has started to make engraved wooden souvenirs to generate income. Her mother attended a life skills programme where she learned how to knit and has begun her own business making woollen and cashmere clothing.

Thanks to the support provided by CNCF, the future for Naran and her entire family is bright!

*Names changed to protect privacy.



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TESTIMONIAL BY NARAN'S MOTHER

“

My daughter used to go to another public kindergarten. But we were made to feel ashamed because the teacher looked down on us and criticised our old clothes in front of the other parents and children. I couldn't live any better than I was as my husband used to leave home for many days at a time and without having anyone else to help I had a difficult time trying to survive.

The kindergarten teachers didn't listen or understand; they didn't believe that I wanted to improve my life. Fortunately, at CNCF's kindergarten, everything is different, and I am now part of a lovely community. The CNCF teachers understand our situation and communicate with me with respect and without any pressure. My relationship with them made me feel relieved and happy to send my daughter there as I knew she was in good hands and not being punished because of our poor home life. The warm communication I received from the teachers has helped motivate me to try my best and improve my situation instead of blaming and becoming aggressive toward others. CNCF's support for my family has also helped my husband take greater personal responsibility; our relationship is now much better. I will continue to do my best for my child and work hard to make our lives even better. Thank you CNCF for helping us get our lives back on track!

*Names changed to protect privacy.

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TESTIMONIAL FROM THE GRANDMOTHER OF A CHILD WHO ATTENDS THE BLUE SKIES KINDERGARTEN

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My grandchild is in her second year at CNCF's kindergarten. Next year she is going to start primary school. Since day one she has made lots of new friends and learned so many different things—she knows many dances, songs and poems, which she always performs for me at home. Going to kindergarten has helped her to grow up a lot. She has become much more independent and well-behaved. The kindergarten also provides her with vitamins in the winter to stop her from getting ill and to help her grow strong. I really appreciate that the kindergarten organises medical check-ups. On the day there was a check-up she was not at kindergarten, but the teacher contacted me and made sure that she came in. I am very grateful to the Foundation for caring for my granddaughter with lots of love. All of the staff at the Ger Village and in the kindergarten work very hard. I see the guards working day and night to keep the buildings and gers warm, the cleaners always making sure that everything is kept neat and tidy, and the teachers and other staff always playing with the children and talking to them with kindness and respect.





REPORT 2018

TESTIMONIAL FROM A FORMER KINDERGARTEN CHILD



I am 10 years old and I live with my mum, 14-year-old sister, and 2-year-old little brother. My sister goes to a local school, my mum works as a cleaner at a different kindergarten, and my brother goes to the kindergarten where my mum works. I go to an English school in the city, after receiving a scholarship when I was in year five.

Before I went to school, I was at CNCF's kindergarten; my sister used to go there too. All of the good things in our life have happened because of CNCF and our kindergarten teacher who helped get my sister on the Foundation's sponsorship programme. We received a new home from CNCF because we were living in really bad conditions.

At kindergarten, me and my sister learned many things which helped us a lot when we went to primary school. We knew more than many of the other school students, were confident, and had nice school equipment. In fourth grade, I was the Junior Prefect, and I won a silver medal in a poetry contest. I now have many certificates and awards, which I am very proud of.

My sister's dream is to become a policewoman, so she is trying very hard at school every day. I want to become a translator when I grow up and help homeless children and build a big orphanage like CNCF. I also want to travel the world with my family. I will try my best to achieve my dreams.

I want to say thank you to CNCF and my kindergarten teacher, who have always supported my family and helped me and my sister become good people with many talents.



TESTIMONIAL FROM VISITOR JULIE VELOO

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This year, I had the chance to visit your kindergarten and Ger Village for the first time. Even though I had heard a lot of good things about CNCF, I was still blown away when I actually saw their operation with my own eyes. In Mongolia, we say ‘better to see once than to hear a thousand times!’ This was definitely true in CNCF’s case!

Thank you to all of the Ger Village and kindergarten staff for showing me around and being so welcoming. I truly appreciate having the opportunity to see the amazing work you do for the children.

I admire Christina Noble for creating this incredible Foundation, and all of the staff who work so hard and with so much heart to continue to fulfil Christina’s vision and philosophy. So many children’s lives are much brighter now thanks to you.

I wish that more people cared for the children as you do. The world would be a much more beautiful place. I try my best to follow Christina’s example. Thank you very much for your dedication to the children and giving them a happy and safe childhood.

*Names changed to protect privacy.

REPORT 2018

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The total cost of running the Blue Skies Kindergarten in 2018 was:

USD \$ 27,606

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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