



# EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME VIETNAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CNCF</b>	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
<b>CSP</b>	Child Sponsorship Programme
<b>ESP</b>	Education Scholarship Programme
<b>HCMC</b>	Ho Chi Minh City
<b>MOLISA</b>	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs



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# 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. We establish long-term relationships with the children we support and empower them to live happy, emotionally rich, and independent lives.

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

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to our supporters, we have been able to realise our founder's mission of providing the children in our care educational opportunities that help them break the cycle of poverty and achieve a brighter future.

Thank you to our local government partners who make it possible for us to run our Education Scholarship Programme successfully.



“

When children are educated, they possess something which cannot be lost or taken away from them which offers them some protection from exploitation and abuse. They will have more power in the labor market; they will be better equipped to provide for themselves in a way which protects their integrity and their dignity.

- Christina Noble, Founder, CNCF -



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# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	2002
<b>LOCATION</b>	Ho Chi Minh City, Kien Giang and Long An provinces
<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	To provide scholarships to children so they can remain in the educational system; to bring these children into our Foundation's community and provide access to other services such as career counselling and life skills training and support through other programmes; to help recipient families break the cycle of poverty; and to enhance family and community awareness of the importance of education to the futures of their children
<b>PROGRAMME COMPONENTS</b>	Financial assistance in the form of scholarships; life skills training; counselling; and support through other CNCF programmes
<b>BENEFICIARIES</b>	Children from disadvantaged backgrounds who are enrolled in school. These children are orphans or street children living with relatives, children from large families with parents who are disabled, children from low-income households (under 100 USD per person per month for HCMC or under 50 USD per person per month in the provinces), or children whose families are affected by acute financial hardships caused by divorce, bankruptcy, or a serious accident or illness to the primary income earner. Many are children in other CNCF Programmes such as the Sunshine School who want to pursue higher education but require support

## LOCAL PARTNERS

Thao Dan Social Protection Centre, HCMC Child Welfare Association, Women's Union of Cau Ong Lanh Ward, Study Promotion Association of Tan Dinh Ward

## CNCF INVOLVEMENT

Fully responsible for funding, programme management, monitoring, and evaluation

## CNCF MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

CEO: Helenita Noble; Director of Operations: Son Thu Trinh; Vice Director of Program Management: Hoang Tu Uyen; ESP Programme Manager: Hoang Bich Ngoc; ESP Programme Officer: Phan Thi Que Khanh

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Because CNCF is directly responsible for funding and programme management, we conduct regular monitoring and evaluation activities. Regular updates of children's progress in school and college are collected and timely support is provided when necessary. Prior to enrolment and as issues arise, our social worker and programme manager conduct home visits. Weekly internal meetings are conducted for CNCF staff to discuss programme-related issues and updates. Monthly reports and semi-annual reports are sent by CNCF staff to the Board of Management and an Annual Review of the programme is sent to all stakeholders

## 2018 ACTUAL COSTS

USD \$28,300

## FUTURE PLANS

In 2019, we will continue to provide financial support for education and complementary support (e.g., career counselling and life skills training), continue to strengthen partnerships with local partners, enhance parental involvement through inclusive activities that help increase awareness and build capacity so they can support us in achieving our goal of child development, and improve our internal database management.

## REPORTING PERIOD

January – December 2018

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2018, the Education Scholarship Programme (ESP) in Vietnam continued to provide financial support to children and young adults, allowing them to continue their education at the primary, secondary, high school, college, university, or vocational level.

This year, 114 students received scholarships. In addition to scholarships, extra support was provided in the form of computers, holiday gifts, and counseling.

In 2019, the ESP will continue to provide crucial support to students in desperate need, so they can stay in school and build a brighter future. In addition, we aim to revise the project structure to improve sustainability of the programme by increasing sources of funds and partnerships to allow support of more disadvantaged children.

SINCE ITS INCEPTION  
IN 2002

**3,100**  
CHILDREN

Have been assisted by  
the Education Scholarship  
Programme in Vietnam





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# PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

We believe education is crucial to the growth and development of every child and is a key factor that can help break the poverty cycle. Without education, children cannot transcend the social sphere into which they are born. Education gives children a chance, a sense of worth, hope and an opportunity for change. In the short-term, school provides a refuge from danger and poverty; in the long-term, it is how a child can permanently overcome barriers.

Accessing affordable education remains an obstacle for many of Vietnam's poorest families. By law, students are not required to pay tuition fees at the primary school level in public schools; however, other costs, such as transportation, uniforms, and learning materials, and informal fees set by schools or communes at the local level can make even primary education prohibitively expensive. Many children from poor households cannot go to school or complete their education due to economic constraints. Instead, many must work to help support their families. Often, families are unaware of the long-term value of education, and thus, children do not get the support they need to stay in school.

We established the Child Sponsorship Programme in 1996 to help children stay in school. Recognising that more support was needed to ensure that children continue their education, we established the Education Scholarship Programme (ESP) in 2002 to provide scholarships to children whose families are unable to afford schooling with the aim of ensuring that children can remain in the educational system. The financial support we provide to our children covers school fees. The ESP offers scholarships to eligible students from Ho Chi Minh City and several rural provinces in the Mekong Delta region. We also provide additional support when appropriate in the form of career counselling, life skills training, and provision of computers and laptops. To date, ESP has provided financial support to more than **3,100** disadvantaged students.



# OUR YEAR

In 2018, **114 students** received scholarships through the Education Support Programme. All ESP students received fixed scholarships. The amount is fixed based on education level and province. All disbursement activities were completed on schedule.

In addition to scholarships, extra support was provided in the form of laptop or desktop computers (4 students), holiday gifts (20 students) and counseling (25 students).

## TESTIMONIALS

### Esp Student Testimonials

“

...Once a door is closed, another one is opened. I am very touched to receive the scholarships to help me keep going on this educational path. Thank you for helping me believe in myself and in a brighter future ahead.

“

I have been very fortunate to be supported by Christina Noble Children's Foundation. Your scholarships have supported me ever since I was a student in secondary school. It has been a long journey and I am glad for your companionship. It is great encouragement not only financially but also emotionally to strengthen my determination and faith.

“

I am truly grateful for your support ever since I was a first-grade student. I am very lucky, and I hope that many other disadvantaged children will get help like I did to continue their education.

“

Your love and kindness have inspired me. I no longer feel lonely because I know there are so many people to love and care for me. Thank you so much. I will try my best to realize my dreams.

### Esp Parent And Guardian Testimonials

“

I'm very grateful to the Foundation for your support of my child. I have two children and we struggle to afford their tuition fees. Your scholarships are very valuable to us to alleviate our worries. I am very thankful.

“

I am sincerely thankful for the sponsors' help to support my grandchild. Thanks to you, she is now able to keep going to school.”

“

Thank you so much for helping my daughter. Your benevolence has made us try more to make you proud. Thanks to you, children like ours are able to go to school.

“

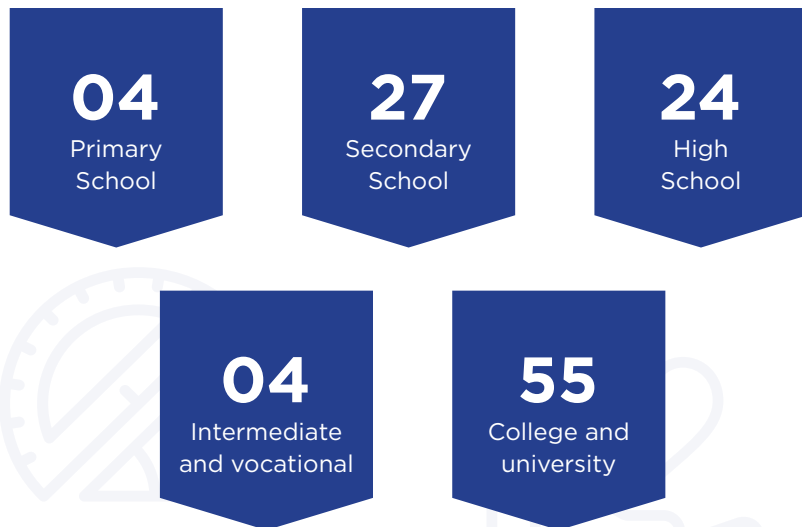
I truly appreciate your kindness to grant my son a scholarship so he can keep studying and have a brighter future.

# PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

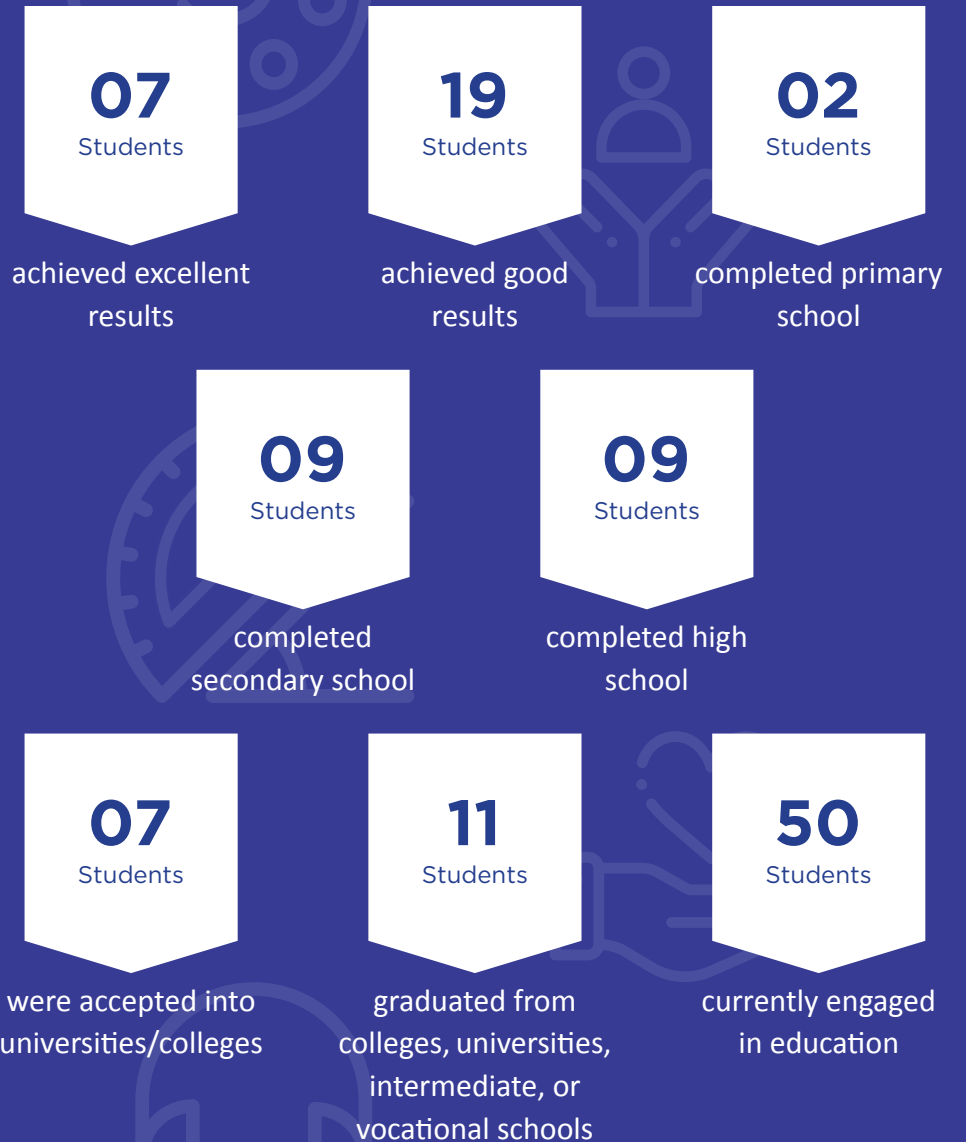
## Education Support

Providing financial assistance for education is the main activity of the ESP. In 2018, **114 children** from Ho Chi Minh City and two provinces in the Mekong Delta - Kien Giang and Long An - were enrolled. Children attending primary, secondary and high school as well as those attending university, college and vocational training received scholarships.

### Education Level (number of students)



### Educational Achievements (number of students)



## Scholarship Disbursement

In 2018, all ESP students received fixed scholarships based on education level and the province in which they attend school.

ESP staff in cooperation with the officers of local partners organised scholarship disbursement ceremonies for all children enrolled in the programme. This gave the team the opportunity to meet the students and their parents/guardians, to talk, to listen, to gain valuable insights into the difficulties the families face and offer timely help and advice.

Furthermore, some networking and team-building activities were included in the scholarship disbursement ceremonies for students attending college, university, or vocational training with the aim of building a network for these students to enable them to improve their soft skills, especially their communication and team work skills.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The ESP team monitors the family situation, social environment and economic conditions of each programme beneficiary. They also assess any risks the children might face. Based on this information, intervention and support plans are put in place. The team tries to arrange frequent meetings with parents, phone calls, and other means of communication to follow-up regularly with all ESP scholars. The team also conducts home visits when financially feasible.

Another important aspect of programme monitoring is regular follow-up with schools and families for updates on academic performance. Our staff work closely with local partners and students to collect school reports.





## Visits from Sponsors and Guests

In 2018, **10** ESP students met their sponsors. These meetings offer sponsors a glimpse into the students' lives and help inspire and encourage the students to strive to be the best they can be, confident in the knowledge that there are people who support them.

## Additional Support

### Holiday Gifts

Additional support during the Vietnamese New Year; Tet, was provided to 20 children whose families were facing extreme financial hardship.

### Counselling

This year, **25** students received counselling from our programme staff. Students received advice about their education, career plans and study methods. Our social workers ensure all students in need of counselling received sufficient support.

# OUR STORIES

## From Poverty to University

Ever since she was a little girl, **Binh\*** struggled to stay in school. Born into a family facing extreme financial difficulties, Binh's parents had to focus on providing meals each day and paying rent each month. Binh's parents did not have stable jobs and scrounged for money by doing various odd jobs. The money they made was never enough to feed a family, let alone pay for tuition fees for two children.

The ESP provided a lifeline for Binh and her family. Binh dreamed of being a teacher and the support she received from the ESP inspired her to stay in school and pursue her dream. In 2015, Binh passed the challenging national high school graduation exam and was accepted into university where she majored in history. At university, Binh has consistently received excellent marks and will soon complete her studies.

Binh's future is bright. Thanks to the ESP and our generous donors.

\*Names changed to protect privacy.

## Overcoming Tragedy

**Linh\*** was born into a poor family with four children. Linh's father suffered with medical conditions caused by long-term exposure to pesticides and was unable to work. Linh's mother was the family's breadwinner but was tragically killed in a motorbike accident in 2016.

The sudden loss of their mother left Linh's family devastated and adrift. At the time, Linh was in her second year at university, double majoring in Russian and English. If not for the ESP, she would've been forced to drop out and go to work to support herself and her family. However, with support from the ESP, Linh has balanced her studies and work as a part-time tutor for the past three years.

Linh excels academically and after completing her fourth year at university, she was selected as one of three students to receive a national grant for a one-year exchange program in Russia. Linh is now in her final year at university and is well on her way to achieving her dream of becoming a professor!

\*Names changed to protect privacy.





## Staying the Course

### Nguyen\*

Joined the ESP in 2012 after completing fifth grade at the Sunshine School. Nguyen's father passed away when he was only five resulting in Nguyen and his mother living a nomadic existence because they were unable to afford stable housing. As a result, Nguyen's studies were continuously interrupted. By the time he completed fifth grade at the Sunshine School, Nguyen was already fifteen.

Scholarships from the ESP have allowed Nguyen to continue his studies through secondary and now into high school. Despite the challenges he has faced, Nguyen has never given up. In fact, he has achieved excellent academic results. CNCF has provided Nguyen multi-faceted support throughout his journey. Despite constant pressure from others to quit school and go to work full-time, at age 23, Nguyen continues to hold onto his dream of attending college. He understands the value of education and the support he has received continues to inspire him to stay the course and build a better future.

\*Names changed to protect privacy.





## A Glimmer of Hope

### Quan\*

Was born into a poor and broken family. Quan's father abandoned him and his mother when Quan was a baby. Then, in 2010, when the little boy was only three, Quan's mother passed away leaving Quan in the care of his aunt. Quan, his aunt and grandmother live in a cramped, dilapidated house in the slums. To make a living, Quan's aunt sells lottery tickets on the street and his grandmother collects recyclable materials. Their financial circumstances are so dire that Quan almost dropped out of school after second grade.

Fortunately, that was also the year Quan enrolled in the ESP. Thanks to the financial support and encouragement he has received through the years, Quan has completed his elementary education. He is now in sixth grade, and while the path ahead is long and full of obstacles, he has the confidence and support he needs to achieve his dreams.

\*Names changed to protect privacy.





## On the Rise

### Mai\*

When we first visited Mai's home in one of the most underdeveloped districts in HCMC, the little 8-year-old girl was shy and timid. Mai's house was one of the poorest and dilapidated in the neighborhood, yet it housed a family of six. With four school-age children, Mai's parents, who earned minimal incomes as a bricklayer and collector of recyclable materials, struggled to make ends meet.

They worked hard, but their dreams of sending their children to school seemed to be fading - until they joined the ESP. For thirteen years, the ESP has provided Mai and her siblings the financial resources, support and motivation they need to stay in school and excel. In fact, Mai and two of her siblings were admitted to the intermediate level of the University of Pharmacy. In 2018, Mai graduated with a degree in nursing, a credential that will serve as a solid foundation for her career.

\*Names changed to protect privacy.



## Graduate Makes Her Family Proud

### Yen\*

Yen\* is the oldest child of a family that has faced many challenges. They lived in a slum area of HCMC, and for many years, Yen's mother was physically and verbally abused by her alcoholic father. Thankfully, local authorities intervened in 2007 and her father was forced to leave. At that time, Yen was only eleven and her little brother was two. Yen's mother has worked hard selling lottery tickets on the streets to support her two children alone. Despite her best efforts, the family has struggled financially and in eleventh grade Yen was considering finishing high school and working to support her family, giving up future studies she desperately wanted.

However, the ESP opened another door for Yen and inspired her to face down a new challenge. Yen became the first person in her family to attend university. For seven years, ESP scholarships helped Yen pursue higher education.

Yen recently graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and her mother's smile on graduation day could have powered the whole city. With her education completed, Yen is confident she is well-equipped to support herself and her family as they build a better life.

\*Names changed to protect privacy.



## A Family Affair

### Tam\*

Tam\* is the oldest of three children in her family. When we first visited her home in a remote area of HCMC, Tam's family was one of the poorest in the neighborhood. The raw and humid house was bare of furniture. There was one desk, the three siblings took turns using it to study.

For twelve years, ESP supported Tam's educational journey. We were there for her elementary school graduation and her university graduation. In addition to the annual scholarships, Tam also received a bicycle and laptop from CNCF. As a determined and hard-working student, Tam always strove for excellence and set a great example for her siblings. As the health of their parents declined due to their long-time hardships, Tam and her siblings took on part-time jobs in addition to their school work to support them. In 2018, Tam received her Bachelor's Degree in Law and her two younger siblings have also started their college studies.

"The Foundation has been my enduring anchor," wrote Tam in a note after her graduation. "You have given me love and support to help me believe in myself and motivation through my studies and life...Thank you for leading me to a better future...I will always be your child."

\*Names changed to protect privacy.





## A Family's Hope

### Xuan\*

When we first met Xuan\* in 2011, we were struck by the financial difficulties his six-member family faced. Xuan's father's vision is seriously impaired, making it difficult for him to find stable work. Xuan's house was full of family members. His Grandmother was 82 years old at the time and the family also took care of an aunt who was mentally ill. Xuan's mother, a street vendor, provided for the entire family.

The family's financial hardships forced Xuan's elder sister to drop out after sixth grade; however, she too had difficulty finding stable work. Xuan is the family's last hope for a better future. Since he was little, Xuan has been a hardworking and determined student. However, when he reached high school, the school fees became more burdensome and he would have dropped out if not for the support provided by the ESP. In 2014, Xuan became the first person in his family to earn a high school diploma.

With counseling from his teachers and CNCF staff, Xuan applied to the College of Arts and Tourism to study tourism management. After graduating from college this year, he was accepted into a travel agency where he will begin training to become a professional tour guide. Thanks to the ESP, the future looks much brighter for Xuan and his family.

\*Names changed to protect privacy.

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# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The total cost of running the Education Scholarship Programme Vietnam in 2018 was:

**\$28,300**

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 online  
<https://www.cncf.org/finance-policies>





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

 38 Tu Xuong Street, Dist.3, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

 +84 283 932 6484

 international@cncf.org

 www.cncf.org

 @ChristinaNobleChildrensFoundationInt

 @CNCF\_int

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