



# GIVE-A-GER PROGRAMME MONGOLIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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# ABBREVIATIONS

**CIS** Chinese International School

**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. 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

We believe that all children need a home to grow up in. A place where they can lay their heads at night with peace in their hearts, surrounded by love, security and protection. It seems so simple, yet countless children in Mongolia lack even this.

Our Give-a-Ger donors create real and lasting change by providing children and their families a warm, safe, and beautiful home. For many who apply to our programme, CNCF is their only hope to escape a lifetime of violence, abuse and exploitation that often comes with homelessness and destitution.



**We would like to thank the following donors and organisations that supported our Give-a-Ger Programme in 2018:**



Hildegard Mayhew  
Aoife Burke  
Fédération Française de Camping et de Caravaning  
Mr. SL Moore  
the Chinese International School & friends



“

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

- Christina Noble, Founder, CNCF -



# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	2001
<b>LOCATION</b>	Ulaanbaatar, Songinokhairkhan, Khan-Uul, Sukhbaatar and Bayanzurkh districts
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	To provide homeless families, those at risk of becoming homeless, or families living in dangerous and/or barely habitable conditions with a warm, safe and functional new home of their own. Through improving their standards of living, we offer the whole family a platform from which they can flourish, helping reignite their confidence, self-belief and optimism for the future. By taking away the enormous pressure of surviving without the most basic necessity, we allow them to embark on a fulfilling and bright future together, one where the parents have peace of mind and the children can focus on their education.
<b>PROGRAMME COMPONENTS</b>	Provision and set up of a four or five-wall gers including a full set of furniture; social, psychological and healthcare support to families where required; additional assistance to at least one child in the family through the Child Sponsorship Programme; access to our Child Sponsorship Programme subprojects including the Special Assistance Fund and Education Scholarship Programme; personal development and training workshops
<b>BENEFICIARIES</b>	Our ger recipients include children and their families on the Child Sponsorship Programme, children moving out of the Blue Skies Ger Village either to be reunited with family members or to begin an independent adult life and homeless and/or vulnerable families in dire need of assistance.
<b>LOCAL PARTNERS</b>	The Family and Child Development Department of Ulaanbaatar; Bat-Uyanga LLC; Sanjbumbadari LLC; Mrs. D. Sanaa

## CNCF INVOLVEMENT

Entirely responsible for funding, programme management, monitoring and evaluation

## CNCF STAFF

Thomas Minter, Director of Operations; Munkhtuul Togooch, Programme Manager; Munkhtsetseg Bold, Programme Officer; Baigalmaa Batkhuyag, Social Worker; Altanzul Tsedev, Social Worker & Head of Give-a-Ger; Tuvshintuya Batmagnai, Social Worker; Naranbaatar Batmunkh, Social Worker; Bayaraa Munguntsetseg, Driver

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

First, we receive requests from families in need of assistance, which include a detailed family history and description of their current living conditions. Our social workers then visit the family and meet with their responsible district and khoroo community workers to assess whether they are eligible to receive a ger through our programme. If they meet our requirements and funding is acquired, CNCF provides the ger and basic furniture and helps the family set up their new home. A full report is then sent out to donor(s) of the ger. Our social workers remain in regular contact with the families to monitor their progress and provide additional assistance if necessary. Regular updates are provided to the Programme Coordinator. Written monthly reports are submitted to the Director of Operations, and an annual report is sent to all stakeholders. Weekly internal meetings are conducted for CNCF staff to discuss programme-related issues and updates.

## 2018 ACTUAL COSTS

USD \$19,235.65

## FUTURE PLANS

We will continue to deliver high-quality gers to families in desperate need and all families who receive a ger will continue to have access to our subprojects and training sessions. In addition to maintaining our current services, we always strive to improve our work and strengthen our ability to create lasting change in the lives of those we support. In 2019, we plan to carry out an assessment of all gers donated in 2017 and 2018 and replace or fix any damaged components or furniture.

## REPORTING PERIOD

January – December 2018

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2018, the Give-a-Ger Programme continued to provide families who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless, or living in dangerous conditions with warm, safe, and functional new homes. By improving their standard of living, we offer the whole family a platform from which to grow and flourish.



**04** FAMILIES received four-wall gers

**07** LARGER FAMILIES received five-wall gers

**35** **18**

CHILDREN ADULTS are provided with a new Ger creating a safe and comfortable place to live

**02**

FAMILIES received financial support to repair their gers in preparation for winter

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2001

**887**

FAMILIES have been assisted by the Give-a-Ger Programme in Mongolia



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# PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

Since expanding its work into Mongolia in 1997, the Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) has worked to provide homeless families with gers of their own. In 2001, the Give-a-Ger Programme was officially established. The programme was formed in response to the desperate poverty and hardship engulfing the nation that left thousands of children and their families fighting for survival in a country notorious for its harsh climate and difficult living conditions.

In sixteen years of operation, the Give-a-Ger Programme has provided safe, warm, and beautiful homes to 887 families who were homeless or living in desperate and vulnerable situations. For many programme applicants, CNCF offers their only hope to escape a life of violence, abuse and exploitation that often comes with homelessness and extreme poverty.

Time after time, families who have come to us downtrodden by the harsh reality of surviving without a home have rebuilt their lives and flourished once they are able to live together in an environment that is free from fear and uncertainty.

Those who donate to the Give-a-Ger Programme do not just give a ger, they reignite a family's confidence, self-belief and optimism for the future. They give families back their hope.



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# OUR YEAR

IN 2018

**86** FAMILIES  
applied to the Give-a-Ger Programme

After carefully assessing the living conditions of each family and gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges they were facing, our social workers identified 11 families who were most in need. Each had their own heart-breaking story of with common themes of hardship, abuse, loss of loved ones and chronic health conditions.

**11** FAMILIES received new gers

- 04** FAMILIES received four-wall gers
- 07** LARGER FAMILIES received five-wall gers

**35**  
CHILDREN

**18**  
ADULTS

By providing fully-furnished homes to these struggling families they have a safe, comfortable and beautiful place to live that they can be proud of. For all our families, the gift of a new ger has allowed them to start a new chapter in their lives and move forward with hope and optimism. By providing fully-furnished homes to these struggling families

Our Give-a-Ger Programme helped two families on our sponsorship programme carry out desperately needed renovations to their homes. This included, repairing the floors, the roof and replacing the felt walls. Without this support, both families would have been forced to endure the bitterly cold winter in a home that provided little to no protection from the harsh climate.



## BENEFICIARIES



**35** CHILDREN  
**18** ADULTS

**11** GERS built

**02** GERS repaired and renovated

**96** PROJECT visits carried out

**58**  
assessments

**23**  
preparation visits

**15**  
follow-up visits



## Message from Altanzul Tsedev, Social Worker & Head Of Give-A-Ger

“

I have been working with the Give-a-Ger Programme for four years. It brings me a great sense of satisfaction and pride to be able to give so many struggling families back their smiles, hope and happiness and help them start a new chapter in their lives. CNCF does not just provide a ger, we also make sure that their new home is set up with furniture, a child is enrolled in the sponsorship programme and that the family is supported on an ongoing basis.

Every ger given through our programme is of the highest quality and provides families with a sense of security for the future. Although the gift of a home can transform a family's whole world in an instant, we want to ensure that we have done everything we can to make it sustainable and that the family has all the tools they need to build a bright and independent future.

For most of the children, this is the first time they have had a home of their own. They can't believe it when they see all the new furniture and the pristine white ger covers; the children are always beaming with excitement! You can see the look of relief in the parents' eyes that their children now have a safe and warm place to grow up. They are truly appreciative to feel some genuine compassion and support, and often thank me and the other staff for working with such a pure heart and care for their well-being.

During my time with CNCF, I have been able to see first-hand the life-changing impact of this programme. It is like a magic wand that changes a family's life completely. I want to thank all of CNCF's ger donors from around the world for helping these families have a chance in life. You have given them the most special gift anyone could ever give, not only by providing them with a home of their own, but by showing them kindness and light at a time when many of these families have felt totally desperate and alone.



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# PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES



## Our Gers

Mongolian ger sizes are determined by the number of walls. A four-wall ger, which costs \$3,100 USD through CNCF, can house a family of four, but larger families needing more space are given five-wall gers, costing \$3,800 USD. A Mongolian ger consists of two main components: wood, which forms the roof, pillars, skylight, walls and door and a thick felt covering to insulate the home.

The Mongolian climate is notoriously volatile; heavy snowfall, strong windstorms and temperatures reaching -40°C are common. Poor quality gers are unable to endure this extreme climate and are prone to collapsing or suffering severe and costly damage. Gers made from low-grade materials have an effective lifespan of one to two years. After that, a family's only options are to buy a new ger, move to a new home, or continue to live in a cold, worn out home that offers little defense against the elements.



CNCF aims to provide gers that last, giving the families peace of mind and security for their future. Therefore, we suspended our programme this year for two months to research and meet with different suppliers and compare the quality and price of gers. As a result of this work, we have raised the standard of our gers even higher, thus ensuring our families have warm and safe homes for many years to come.

In addition to receiving a ger, our families receive a full set of furniture including sofas with expandable beds, cushions, a table/desk, chairs, a kitchen unit with sink, a large wardrobe, a chest of drawers, a mirror and the all-important ger stove, used both for cooking and for keeping the family warm in winter. The majority of our families would not be able to afford these items, all of which play an essential role in creating a comfortable and functional home that they can feel proud of.

The ger is assembled through the combined efforts of a professional ger construction company, our CNCF team, and members of the family. Because gers are designed for nomadic life, they are relatively quick and easy to erect; most Mongolians have at least a simple understanding of how they are constructed. It is always heartwarming to watch the children get involved and see their excited smiles as they help to build their new home.



# PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

## Our Daily Activities

Families in need of assistance submit requests for support that include a detailed family history and description of their current living conditions. Most applications come from families that are currently or about to become homeless. Our team also identifies families who are in need during their sponsorship home visits and can make a formal request on their behalf.

The social worker assigned to each application visits the family and meets with their responsible district and khoroo community workers to determine if they are eligible to receive a ger through our programme. A decision is made based on a combination of the following criteria:

- ◆ Family income
- ◆ Living conditions
- ◆ Number of children
- ◆ Family status
- ◆ Health conditions and disabilities
- ◆ Threats to the family's safety

When we secure the financial support of a donor, families are chosen based on their level of need. Because many of our families do not own their own land, our team helps them find a suitable location to rent. If they are unable to afford the rent, we provide additional financial assistance until the family is able to support themselves fully. After all prerequisites have been met, our team contacts the ger company and schedules a date and time for delivery of the new home.

Before the delivery date, our team conducts a site visit to ensure the land has been sufficiently prepared. The assigned social worker and CNCF driver are always present on the day the home is delivered and take an active role in helping to construct the ger. During this process, our social worker documents the special day by taking photos and talking to the family about how they feel as their new home comes together. This is later used to compile a report for the donor, which also includes the family's history and how the gift of a ger will impact their lives.

For a family who may have been homeless just a few hours before, receiving a fully-furnished ger of their own can feel almost magical. The children often look around their new home with excitement and disbelief, amazed they now have a wardrobe to put their clothes in, a bright and comfortable sofa to relax on and a desk to work on. Our team is always filled with a tremendous sense of achievement when they see such happiness, hope and pride restored in the lives of our families.

We remain in close contact with all our Give-a-Ger beneficiaries and help them wherever possible. This includes providing financial assistance through our Child Sponsorship Programme so that they can continue to improve their quality of life. Furthermore, our social workers monitor the families' progress and provide any necessary social support through annual home visits and monthly informal chats during sponsorship distribution weekends.

# MONITORING AND PROGRAMME VISITS

This year, our team carried out 41 home visits to assess the living conditions of families applying to the Give-a-Ger Programme. Following the selection of the most in need families, a further visit was made to ensure the suitability of the site where their new ger would be built and if necessary, help the family prepare the land. Due to unsuitable conditions, some of the families were instructed to find different locations, therefore, additional visits were made to each new site before approving ger delivery.

Follow-up visits were carried out to all ger recipients to see how they were enjoying their new home and maintaining it well.

- ◆ **58** assessment home visits were carried out by our social workers
- ◆ All **11** selected families received at least one preparation home visit by our social workers prior to receiving the ger to ensure their land was in a suitable location and to help them to prepare the ground
- ◆ **23** preparation home visits were carried out by our team
- ◆ **15** follow-up visits were conducted by our social workers to check progress
- ◆ **Total project visits: 96**



# PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

## Chinese International School Visit

Every year a group of students and teachers from the Chinese International School (CIS), Hong Kong, visit our programmes in Mongolia and donate a ger, which they have worked hard to raise the money for prior to their trip. To see the students smiling, laughing and interacting with the family as they help build their new home is always a special moment in our year.

The following is a reflection written by CIS student Sophie Astri McLean.



First and foremost, we 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 actually began in Hong Kong when we organised a sponsored hike to earn the necessary funds to build the ger. It was 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 to us and happily welcomed us into their space. On the second day of our trip, we drove out to the Blue Skies village where we learned even more about Mongolian culture and connected with kids of similar ages.

Despite our language barrier, we made connections through the universal language of the arts. Among other experiences, some that will stay with us forever were our visit to the boys' prison, conversing with an authentic nomadic family, and riding through the Mongolian plains on horseback. This trip wouldn't have been possible without 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."





## Visit by CNCF Chairman Mark Devadason

In April, we were happy to welcome Mark Devadason, Chairman of CNCF, to Mongolia to visit our programmes and meet some of the extraordinary children and families in our care. During his time with us, Mark spent a morning with our Give-a-Ger team, helping them build a new home for a family in need. It was wonderful to have Mark with us and be part of this life-changing moment for such a deserving family.

# OUR STORIES

## A Lifeline for a Family in Need

Tuya\*, 15 years old, lives with her mother and three sisters. She loves school and is currently in ninth grade. In her spare time, she attends a school crafts class where she makes beautiful embroidery. This has inspired her to go to college after she finishes school to become a tailor.

Her father was a heavy alcoholic, who regularly became violent and abusive. When he was drunk, he would often damage the ger in a rage, leaving his wife and children to live in a dangerous and broken home offering little protection against Mongolia's harsh climate.

In 2012, after years of domestic abuse, Tuya's parents divorced.

Sadly, Tuya's mother suffers from liver disease and has been bedridden for long periods of time, often developing painful bed sores on top of her already debilitating condition.

Due to her poor health, Tuya's mother is unable to work and has to be cared for by Tuya's older sister, who is unable to get a proper job or continue with her studies. The only regular income the family has is a small stipend from the government and Tuya's monthly sponsorship money she receives from CNCF. They also receive food coupons from the government, which is only provided to the poorest families in Mongolia.

With such a low income, the family was unable to carry out any necessary repair work on their ger, which was becoming more and more inhabitable with every winter that passed.

When our CNCF social worker visited the family's home and saw their deteriorating living conditions, she immediately brought their case to our team and identified the family as being in urgent need of a new ger.

When we told the family that they were going to receive a new home, they were overwhelmed with happiness. The children couldn't believe that they were going to have a beautiful place to live, where they could proudly invite their friends. Tuya said, "I never wanted anyone to come to our old ger because it was so broken and horrible. Now that we have this big, beautiful ger, I no longer feel ashamed and want people to come over all the time. Thank you so much for giving us such a nice, cozy home!"

Thanks to the love and support of one caring donor, this deserving family is now living in a safe and uplifting environment. Having experienced such a harsh and bleak existence, the gift of this ger has been like a ray of light and the beginning of a new, positive phase in their lives.

\*Names changed to protect privacy.

# OUR STORIES

## A Home to Be Proud Of

Bataar\*, 9 years old, enrolled in CNCF's Child Sponsorship Programme in 2017. He is a hardworking and talented young boy, who makes good grades at school and loves to draw and play the traditional Mongolian game "ankle bones" in his spare time.

Bataar was living with his mother, father, and two siblings in the small, dark basement of an apartment block. The space provided no ventilation or natural light and was unbearably cold in the winter. These unsuitable conditions meant that Bataar and his family would often get ill and in 2017 Bataar was taken to hospital due to respiratory problems.

Bataar's mother has epilepsy and is unable to work. However, to support her family, she often buys small wholesale items and sells them at retail prices. The small and unreliable income she earns, combined with the child sponsorship money and a government allowance of \$40 a month, is all the family has to live on. Apartment rent alone cost \$60 per month.

Bataar's father is an alcoholic and doesn't work. He spends most of his time drinking with his friends and often doesn't come home for days on end. Bataar's mother explained to us that her husband was often violent and abusive towards her after drinking and that the area they were living in was notorious for alcoholism. She desperately wanted to move her children away from this toxic environment, but with no money and nowhere else to go, she felt trapped in her situation and hopeless about her family's future. When our social workers discovered Bataar's unsafe living conditions, we immediately took steps to provide him and his family with a safe and comfortable home of their own. Thanks to one Give-a-Ger donor, Bataar, his mother and two siblings were able to move out of their unhealthy and unsafe basement into a place where they can begin to lead a secure and happy life together.

On the day we arrived to erect the ger, the sun was shining and there was great excitement in the air. The children were beaming and had lots of fun helping build their new home. They were particularly excited when it was time to move all of the new furniture inside, and they could finally see the home they had been dreaming of come to life!

Bataar's mother asked us to pass on this message to the donor of her ger:

"I wanted to give my children a proper home, but I couldn't imagine how that would ever be possible. I felt very sad that my children had to lie about where they lived because they felt so ashamed. It was terrible for me to know that their health was being affected by that horrible basement. I am now so happy that they can live like normal children and feel proud to bring their friends to their beautiful ger. Thank you so much for giving us this life-changing gift."

Bataar and his family are now living in safety and happiness in their ger, which is located on his uncle's land. As with all families on the sponsorship programme, our social workers check-in regularly and work with the family to continue to improve their quality of life.

\*Names changed to protect privacy.

# OUR STORIES

## A Home Changes Everything

Tuvshuu\*, 11 years old, was enrolled in CNCF's Child Sponsorship Programme in 2014. For the past six years, she has been living with her father and aunt, moving in between different rented accommodations such as old wooden huts and dormitories.

During the week, her father worked as an assistant doctor and on Sundays helps at his church. Her aunt also contributes a small amount to the family's income by working as a cleaner at a dental clinic. Their combined income, including the child sponsorship money, is just \$360 a month, of which \$175 would be spent on rent.

Tuvshuu's mother and father separated in 2012. Before the separation, the whole family lived together in Tuvshuu's grandmother's ger. Sadly, the grandmother passed away, and at the same time, Tuvshuu's parents' relationship broke down—her mother now lives separately but keeps in regular contact.

No longer able to stay in the grandmother's ger and unable to afford their own home, Tuvshuu, her father and aunt had no choice but live a nomadic existence in often very unsafe environments.



Tuvshuu's life has improved significantly since beginning sponsorship; she can now afford to pay for stationery, travel to and from school on the bus, buy clothes and school uniforms. Despite these improvements, being able to afford a home of their own seemed like an impossible dream.

Thanks to the love and care of one of our ger donors, we were able to provide Tuvshuu and her family a beautiful home where they could settle down. Tuvshuu can now focus on her education and enjoy her childhood in a secure and comfortable environment. Free from the pressure of having to find monthly rent, her father and aunt can now focus on further improving their lives and giving Tuvshuu the loving and nurturing upbringing that all young people need and deserve.

Tuvshuu's father said, "I want to convey my deepest gratitude to my daughter's sponsor and to everyone else who has helped to give us this ger. Thank you for making my daughter's living and learning environment so safe and warm."

Because of the love and kindness of one Give-a-Ger donor, this family's whole world has changed.

\*Names changed to protect privacy.



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## TESTIMONIAL FROM SAINAA, SOFA SUPPLIER FOR THE GIVE-A-GER PROGRAMME

“

I am very happy to be working with the Give-a-Ger Programme. In my view, this programme finds the most deserving people who need help. My organisation has been working with CNCF since 2014. During this time, I have watched many families receive new gers and as a result, new lives. I am always happy that our sofas are going to families who really need them and will love them. It makes me feel good to know that I am working with CNCF to bring smiles to children and their families at such a difficult time in their lives.



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## TESTIMONIAL FROM MRS. KHUKUU, FAMILY AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF ULAANBAATAR

“

I have participated in give-a-ger events organized by other NGOs. However, I have never seen one the same as your organization. Not only did CNCF provide a brand-new, top-quality ger, but they also gave all of the supplies and furniture. I can see that this programme changes a family's whole life and I can also see that you carefully choose the most in-need families.

CNCF's staff is working hard in the community and with a pure heart. I am very happy that Mongolia has had the chance to have this kind of organisation. I genuinely appreciate CNCF's incredible contribution to our community.

I am a single mother and didn't have my own ger for several years. So, I really know how difficult life is without your own home and what a life-changing impact this programme has on the families it supports. It gives people back their strength and hope.

\*Names changed to protect privacy.



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# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

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The total cost of running Give-a-Ger in 2018 was:

**USD \$19,235.65**

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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 Mongolia please contact:

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