



ANNUAL REPORT 2017
**BLUE SKIES ARTS & MUSIC
PROGRAMME MONGOLIA**

"Once you feed a child's stomach you must feed their spirit. Let the children laugh sing dance and play. Childhood is the very foundations of life and that is why I call this a foundation as opposed to a charity."

Christina Noble OBE



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ABBREVIATIONS

CNCF	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
CSP	Child Sponsorship Programme

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 emotional, physical, medical and educational 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.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2017, the Blue Skies Arts & Music Programme continued to provide disadvantaged children who for most have suffered very traumatic childhoods the opportunity to participate in art and music activities that allow them to explore their creativity and build self-esteem, confidence, and social skills.

The Arts & Music Programme has helped fulfil our founder Christina Noble's mission of giving children in our care an emotionally rich and happy childhood. By introducing our young people to creative experiences and forms of self-expression, we help them build a strong platform upon which they can build well-rounded lives.

This year, the programme included lessons in visual arts, craft making, dance, and music and benefitted 242 children: 71 children from the Blue Skies Ger Village, 155 children in the Child Sponsorship Programme, and 16 children in the Boys' prison. We also provided art therapy sessions for all children living in the Ger Village.

In 2018, we will continue to provide access to creative activities that support our children's happy and healthy development. In addition to maintaining our current curriculum, we plan to enrich our young people's creative experience by seeking out new avenues for self-expression and learning, such as trips to art galleries, performing in concerts, holding exhibitions, and volunteer visits from professional musicians, artists, and dancers. We also plan to extend our music and crafts activities to the teenagers at the boys' prison.

Through our full range of creative activities, our children can discover new talents and interests, communicate their emotions in a safe and supportive environment, and explore their active imaginations. It helps heal the traumas of their past and create new memories of a childhood where they were loved, encouraged, and inspired. Lucy Morris - Programme Manager.

2017 Operating Costs: USD \$15,416.04

Since inception in 2008 over

1,500

children had access
to the Arts & Music Programme



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

ESTABLISHED	2008	BENEFICIARIES	Children from the Blue Skies Ger Village, Child Sponsorship Programme, and Boys' Prison
LOCATION	Blue Skies Ger Village, Songino Khaikhan District, Ulaanbaatar The 411th Brigade Boys' Prison CNCF Office, Sukhbaatar District, TananCenter, Ulaanbaatar	LOCAL PARTNERS	Aim4R Dance Studio and Aimar Foundation (Dance), ArtiCour Gallery (Art)
OBJECTIVES	To use the transformative power of the arts to help disadvantaged children build self-esteem, confidence, and social skills by allowing them to explore their imaginations and creativity in a safe, supportive, and loving environment	CNCF INVOLVEMENT	Entirely responsible for funding and programme management, monitoring, and evaluation
PROGRAMME COMPONENTS	Classes in visual arts, music, dance, and crafts; art therapy	CNCF MANAGEMENT	Helenita Noble CEO; Thomas Minter Director of Operations; Lucy Morris, Arts & Music Programme Manager; Amaraa Bor Operations Manager

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

CNCF STAFF

Gonchig Lkhagva, Music Teacher; Oyunsuren Naran, Traditional Music Teacher; Tsolmonkhuu Uugankhuu, Ger Village and Boys' Prison Art Teacher; Uugankhuu Grisha, Ger Village Art Teacher; Dalaitseren Bat-Ireedui, Sponsorship Programme Art Teacher; KhorolsurenTserendorj, Crafts Teacher; AnudariZolbayar, Ger Village Dance Teacher; Undral Batbayar, Studio Dance Teacher

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

CNCF is directly responsible for funding and programme management, monitoring and evaluation activities are carried out regularly. The Program Manager conducts monitoring visits during programme activities. Weekly internal meetings are organised for CNCF staff to discuss programme-related issues and updates and an annual report are sent to all stakeholders. Most importantly, the progress the children are making is on display at various events such as talent shows and celebrations that are held at least once per quarter

2017 ACTUAL COST

USD \$15,416.04

PRIMARY DONOR

The Sovereign Art Foundation

FUTURE PLANS

The objective of our programme is to continue to provide access to the creative activities that currently support our children's happy and healthy development. In addition to maintaining our current curriculum, we plan to enrich our young people's creative experience by seeking out new avenues for self-expression and learning, such as trips to art galleries, performing in concerts, holding exhibitions, and volunteer visits from professional musicians, artists, and dancers. We also plan to extend our music and crafts activities to the teenagers at the boys' prison

REPORTING PERIOD

January - December 2017

PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

In 2007, a celebration was held at the Blue Skies Ger Village to mark CNCF's tenth anniversary in Mongolia. The highlight of the celebration was a concert put on by the children from our Blue Skies Ger Village and the Child Sponsorship Programme. Christina Noble's daughter, Helenita Noble who is now the Foundation's CEO (2016), and who had previously set-up the Arts, Music and Sports programme in CNCF Vietnam in 1997, was so impressed with the children's singing and dancing that she proposed the formation of a full-time arts, music and dance programme.

From this initial idea, the Blue Skies Arts & Music Programme has grown and developed. Over the past ten years, the programme has played a central role in helping us fulfil Christina's vision of giving Mongolia's most neglected and deprived children back their childhoods through the Arts.

Most of the young people in our care come from exceptionally disadvantaged and traumatic backgrounds. For these children, art can facilitate healing and give them tools to channel their emotions in a healthy and positive way. We believe that encouraging our children to explore their imaginations and express themselves creatively in a safe and supportive environment is fundamental to their happy and healthy development.

The Blue Skies Arts & Music Programme offers introductory classes for children just beginning in the arts and more advanced classes so children can continue to develop their talents and interests. From making felt crafts to lessons in street dance, our programme provides a diverse range of creative activities to accommodate our children's unique characters and interests.

Since inception in 2008 over 1,500 children had access to the Arts & Music Programme



OUR YEAR

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

The Blue Skies Arts & Music Programme operates across three of our Foundation's projects: The Blue Skies Ger Village, Child Sponsorship Programme, and Boys' Prison Education Programme. In 2017, the programme included lessons in visual arts, craft making, dance, and music and benefitted **242 children**: **71 children** from the Blue Skies Ger Village, **155 children** in the Child Sponsorship Programme, and **16 children** in the boys' prison. We also provided art therapy sessions for all children living in the Ger Village. In addition, the children participated in an exciting and enriching range of events, field trips, performances, and exhibitions.

242 CHILDREN

benefited by the Programme

71 CHILDREN

from the Blue Skies Ger Village

155 CHILDREN

in the Child Sponsorship Programme

16 CHILDREN

in the Boys' Prison

1 CHILD

Art exhibited in Mongolian National Art

1 CHILD

received Art Scholarship

Programme included lessons:



Arts Therapy Sessions



Music



Visual Arts



Craft Making



Dance

Photo: Ger Village children singing performance



Message from Lucy Morris, Arts & Music Programme Manager:

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Through our full range of creative activities, our children can discover new talents and interests, communicate their emotions in a safe and supportive environment, and explore their active imaginations. It helps heal the traumas of their past and create new memories of a childhood where they were loved, encouraged, and inspired. I am so proud to be part of this programme, which gives children who were previously unable to do so, the opportunity to express themselves as free, unique, and creative individuals. Both the Foundation and I believe this is fundamental to any happy and fulfilled life.

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PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

ART

Children participating in our art classes have fun exploring different mediums such as clay, pastels, paints, and pencils while expressing their unique imaginations and creative ideas. We also work to spark interest in artists, styles, and genres using books, online resources, and trips to galleries. We encourage the children to reflect upon and discuss how pieces of art make them think and feel.

Blue Skies Ger Village – Visual Art

From January to September, art lessons took place every Sunday in our Ger Village classroom. The creative sessions, taught by professional artist Tsolmonkhoo, were open to all residents; however, over the course of the year, a core group of fifteen students was formed. These children have shown a keen interest in art and attend their lessons with great enthusiasm and commitment.

From October to the end of the year, Tsolmonkhoo's mother, Uugankhuu, led the class. She is a talented artist and co-owner of one of Mongolia's top galleries, ArtiCour. As a passionate oil painter, Uugankhuu introduced the children to this rich and flexible medium. They loved working with oils and in a short period of time have produced some captivating pieces of art.

Since October, we have also expanded our art programme at the village by introducing a second, more casual class. Everyone is welcome to attend the three-hour lesson, which includes basic drawing techniques and fun and creative activities such as painting colourful sea creatures or moulding Plaster of Paris dinosaurs. This class has quickly become popular at the village with between fifteen and twenty children attending each session.





PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Blue Skies Ger Village – Art Therapy

A primary goal of the Blue Skies Ger Village is to heal the emotional trauma that affects all the resident children. Our full-time psychotherapist, Nomin-Erdene, plays a crucial role in this process and, since beginning with us in April 2015, she has helped many children regain trust in a world that has previously caused them significant pain and sadness. It is mainly through the techniques of art therapy that she has been able to connect with these children's internal realities and help them break negative thought patterns and behaviours.

Nomin-Erdene meets with every child in the village at least once a month. She provides art therapy sessions one to five times per week to the children she identifies as being most vulnerable. All children also participate in group sessions, which incorporate art, crafts, and other creative activities.

Through talking to our children about their drawings, paintings, and crafts, and considering the underlying inspirations of their art, Nomin-Erdene has gained a deeper understanding of our young people and learned how to better help them work through their problems. Through the creative process, our children have been able to explore their feelings, resolve emotional conflicts, foster self-awareness, manage their behaviour, develop social skills, reduce anxiety, and increase self-esteem.

This year, seventy-one children living in the Ger Village participated in art therapy sessions.



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Boys' Prison – Visual Art

This year, art classes at the boys' prison took place from January to May. Sixteen students participated. The art programme was suspended in June because a national amnesty law resulted in all but one of the boys being released. We plan to restart the lessons in January 2018 when the number of boys living at the prison has increased.

From January to May, two three-hour classes were taught each week by professional artist and Blue Skies Ger Village teacher, Tsolmonkhuu. Tsolmonkhuu focused on building the boys' confidence and ability through teaching the basics of drawing. All the boys came from extremely disadvantaged backgrounds and art was an entirely new experience. When the boys had gained a basic understanding, coloured pencils and paints were introduced to the programme along with sculpting.

Because of the art lessons, we have seen significant improvements in the teenagers' attitudes and behaviours. As they open up creatively and learn to express their thoughts and feelings through art, the boys' have become calmer and more patient and have developed confidence and self-belief.



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Child Sponsorship Programme – Visual Art

Our Child Sponsorship Programme provides support for children and their families who live in extreme poverty and hardship. In addition to financial support, our social work team works closely with every family, supporting them emotionally and offering opportunities such as workshops and seminars to encourage their personal development. The art workshops form part of this additional and valuable support by providing children who have no access to art materials the opportunity to develop their artistic skills and express themselves creatively.

Thanks to the support of ArtiCour Gallery, this year we were able to conduct our monthly child sponsorship art workshops in one of Ulaanbaatar's leading galleries. The sessions were led by one of the gallery's professional teachers and provided a chance for our children to explore their imaginations, have fun, and make new friends. This year, ArtiCour's workshops benefited seventy-two children from our sponsorship programme.

In December, we were excited to be able to expand our child sponsorship art programme by offering additional classes in our Foundation's central office. The lessons are aimed at developing the artistic skills of a core group of thirty-six students who were chosen because of their commitment and talent. The classes are taught by twenty-one-year-old Dalaitseren who used to live at our Blue Skies Ger Village and is currently on our Child Sponsorship Programme while studying at university.



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Crafts

Craft classes have been part of our Blue Skies Arts & Music Programme since 2016. The fun and imaginative sessions take place in our central office with an average attendance of twelve children. During the lessons, our children learn a wide range of craft techniques such as sewing, stuffing, beading, and following patterns.

Our children love attending the classes, which take place every other week with different groups of students. The children have produced a variety of beautiful and well-designed crafts such as decorative gers (traditional Mongolian felt tents), cushions, camels, frames, and felt bags.

One of the children's favourite activities this year was making teddy bears, which they personalised with clothing and accessories such as hats, capes, and necklaces.

In addition to these fun and casual lessons, this year a specialist class was established for children who wanted to develop their craft skills further. Twelve children attended the sessions, which were held on alternate weeks to the casual classes.

We hope to extend our craft activities to the students in the boys' prison during 2018.



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Music

Music has the unique ability to connect with and heal aspects of the soul. It fuels and inspires the mind, stirs emotions, relieves anxieties, and creates memories.

At the Blue Skies Ger Village, our professional music teacher, Gonchig, works three days a week helping our children learn a variety of instruments including the drums, guitar, and piano. He also leads group singing lessons with all our children in preparation for special events such as concerts, visitors, and birthdays, as well as Saturday choir classes with ten of our youngest children ages seven and under. Our little ones love their singing lessons and always attend with great excitement and enthusiasm. The lessons have helped them grow in confidence and feel part of the Ger Village community.

This year, fourteen children attended piano lessons, six children attended guitar lessons, and one child attended drum lessons. Classes are open to all our young people, and at different times throughout the year, all children living at the Ger Village took part in the music programme. However, these twenty-one children have shown particular dedication to becoming accomplished musicians and have committed to attending lessons on a regular basis.

In addition to learning contemporary music, in July, we were happy to introduce twice-weekly traditional music classes to our programme. Twelve children attend the lessons where they learn traditional Mongolian instruments such as the Yatag, which is the Mongolian half-tube zither, and the Shanz, a plucked three-string instrument that is commonly played across Asia. By incorporating these traditional instruments into the music programme, we have helped maintain and support our young people's cultural identity and heritage.

In 2018, we hope to extend our musical activities to the students in the boys' prison by offering twice-weekly guitar and Morin Khuur (also known as the horsehead fiddle) classes.



14 CHILDREN
attended piano lessons



6 CHILDREN
attended guitar lessons



1 CHILD
attended drum lessons



12 CHILDREN
attended Yatag and Shanz instruments

Photo: Playing the Yatag





Photo: Keyboard lessons



Photo: Traditional Music Practise

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Dance

We believe in the power of dance and the wide-reaching benefits it can have for children. Dance allows children to explore and communicate their emotions, build self-confidence, and develop their social skills. It is also highly physical and provides a fun and effective way for our children to improve their overall health and fitness.

In 2015, we were able to fulfil our children's wish to learn street dance by partnering with one of Mongolia's most prestigious Hip Hop dancers, Tuuguu-Saruultugs. Since then, thirteen of our older Ger Village children have attended weekly dance classes at Tuuguu's Aim4R Dance Studio, a professional street dance facility located in the centre of Ulaanbaatar. Nine children from our Child Sponsorship Programme were also selected to join the class of which three have taken part regularly. Since beginning the classes, the children have developed into a unified, dedicated, and talented dance group.

In addition to the classes in the city, each week a dance teacher from Aim4R Dance Studio comes to the village to teach fifteen of our younger children.

This year, our children also had the opportunity to develop their talents in traditional Mongolian dance. Our Ger Village psychotherapist, Nomin-Erdene, who is a skilled dancer, helped the children learn this unique art form. Four of our older girls attended the classes and have left many audiences in awe of their beautiful performances.



13 CHILDREN

attend professional street dance



OPPORTUNITY

to attend traditional Mongolian dance





CHRISTINA NOBLE CHILDREN'S
FOUNDATION MONGOLIA
20TH ANNIVERSARY, 1997-2017



Христина Нобли Хүүхдийн Сүм
20 жилийн ой

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

20th Anniversary Celebration

This year, CNCF celebrated its twentieth anniversary in Mongolia. Supporters of the Foundation, local partners, and past and present international and local employees attended the celebratory event.

Ger Village children were joined by Blue Skies Day Care children and our child sponsorship children to put on a magical concert for the celebration attendees. The acts included traditional and contemporary dance and music, singing, taekwondo, drama, and contortion.

Beautiful gift bags were handed out to the guests filled with our children's handmade crafts, painted hearts, decorative Cyrillic scrolls, and colourful cards for them to keep as mementos.

The event provided an opportunity for our children to have fun, make friends, and showcase their creative talents. It was an incredibly moving day, which left everyone feeling proud of the Foundation's achievements in Mongolia and the amazing young people we support.



OTHER ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

The Sovereign Art Foundation – Imaginative Hat Workshop

In July, our children welcomed two special visitors to the Ger Village, Tiffany Pinkstone and Tanya Bennett from our generous sponsor, The Sovereign Art Foundation. They were able to see first-hand the tremendous impact the Arts & Music Programme has on the young people we support.

During their stay, our children enjoyed a three-day hat-making workshop, which was organised by Tiffany and Tanya to foster creativity and introduce our children to the basic concepts of design. Twenty-one children took part in the workshop where they used a variety of beautiful craft materials to create their stunning personalised hats.

Thank you, Tiffany and Tanya, for taking the time to visit our children and bringing such happiness and creative fun to our village.



OTHER ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Boys' Prison Art Exhibition

In March, an exhibition was arranged at the boys' prison to showcase the students' art work. Family, friends, CNCF team members, government officials, and local organisations attended the event, which was both a celebration of the boys' artistic accomplishments and a valuable opportunity to promote the excellent service the prison is now providing to these disadvantaged young men because of the on-going support that CNCF has provided for twenty years in educational and social services at the juvenile centre.

We were all incredibly proud of the boys' artwork, which ranged from pencil still life drawings to colourful, imaginative paintings. It was very powerful to see the student's artistic expressions of their inner worlds, many of whom have grown up in extremely disadvantaged and traumatic backgrounds never having experienced any creative stimulation or exposure to the arts.

One painting that stood out was of a male holding an umbrella over a sad looking woman while offering her a pink heart. The young man who had painted the piece said, 'I drew this for my girlfriend to say that I'm so sorry. I don't think that I will ever be able to give it to her as I fear that now I am in here I have lost her forever.'

His words moved us all and reminded us of the lives that these boys had left behind.

Drawing Nature in Terelj National Park

In spring, twelve Ger Village children went to the countryside to one of Mongolia's most popular parks to paint the beautiful natural surroundings and enjoy the sunshine. Trips like this lift our children's spirits and play an essential role in cultivating their imaginations and artistic skills.

Visit to The Mongolian National Art Gallery

Ger Village art students enjoyed a fun and educational day out at the Mongolian National Art Gallery where they were introduced to a fascinating range of ancient and modern works of art.

Visit to Choijin Lama Winter Palace and Bogd Khan Museum

Ger Village art students visited two of Mongolia's most famous museums, Choijin Lama Winter Palace and Bogd Khan. This was an exciting experience for our children who were taken on a guided tour around the museums learning about ancient Mongolian life and art.

Felt Making Craft Class at Caritas Mongolia

Five Ger Village girls attended a four-week course in felt making. The children learned the process of making felt and how to transform it into items such as slippers and bags. The children loved the classes and, as a result, are considering starting their own felt-making business.

Exhibition by the Child, Family and Youth Development Agency

Our children's crafts were chosen by the Child, Family and Youth Development Agency to be displayed at their exhibition held in recognition of Mongolia's talented children.

Exhibition at the Mongolian National Art Gallery

We were all very proud of one of our older Ger Village girls whose artwork was chosen to be displayed at the Mongolian National Art Gallery as part of an exhibition held in recognition of Mongolia's most talented children.



OUR STORIES



OUR STORIES

A Former Street Child Shines

*Saindoo had a traumatic early life. His mother suffers with severe mental illness and Saindoo and his younger sister were raised by their chronically ill father in deplorable conditions. In 2013, their father passed away and the children were left homeless. With no one to care for them, no food, and no home, the two siblings begged for money on the streets and searched through garbage to find food.

Exposed and vulnerable to the many threats posed by life on the streets, it is not surprising that during this time Saindoo and his sister were subject to ongoing mental and physical abuse.

When the authorities became aware of the children's appalling living conditions, they immediately brought them to our Blue Skies Ger Village. Saindoo was eleven when he arrived and was clearly affected by his difficult past. He was angry and often lashed out. He didn't want to make friends and often picked fights. Saindoo and his sister preferred to be alone; they didn't trust anyone.

After observing Saindoo's behaviour and meeting with him regularly, our psychotherapist could tell he was a very creative and imaginative child. She used art therapy techniques to connect with Saindoo and help him release some of the trauma from his early childhood. Over time, he became more relaxed and started to share his thoughts and feelings more freely.

In addition to the individual sessions, we encouraged Saindoo to take part in weekly art, crafts, dance, and music classes. He quickly developed a passion for these creative activities and his powerful imagination and innovative thinking stood out. We often see Saindoo roaming the village in search of old items he can use to build his next creation!

The Arts & Music Programme has helped Saindoo build confidence and integrate into the Ger Village community. He now has lots of friends and has become far less confrontational. His favourite class is visual art, which he eagerly attends each week.

*Names changed for child protection

It has been beautiful to watch the changes in Saindoo since he arrived at our Ger Village. Through the Arts' & Music Programme he has been able to discover talents, build self-belief and communicate his inner world in a way that was not possible for him to do through words. The happy, open and relaxed child that we see today is worlds apart from the depressed, angry and distrusting little boy that we first met

Saindoo's says...

“

I started drawing three years ago after I came to live at the village. I won a school art contest, which made me think that I must be talented. I like drawing my favourite cartoon heroes because I feel like I am the hero. Since beginning art class I have become more patient, and my drawing skills are improving. Last year my art was in an exhibition, I still can't believe that my art was in an exhibition! I enjoyed watching people look at my pictures and was very excited when Myagaa (the Ger Village Director) came to see it and said how very special my work was. It felt really nice to look at my paintings hanging on the wall.

My art teacher supports me and motivates me by saying things like 'this came out very good Saindoo - well done!'. She always gives me positive feedback, which makes me want to keep trying harder to make it even better. I would like to have my own studio one day, hold exhibitions, send my paintings overseas and learn English really well, so that I can explain my artwork to others. I dream that one day I will become a famous artist and sell my work so that I can make a lot of money and support my family. If I didn't come to the village and discover my artistic talents, I would have probably just done nothing like I used to. If my dream comes true, and I become a famous artist, then I want to provide free classes to children and also go back to the village to teach art to the children here.

”

Little Four Dance Group

One of the most heart-warming successes of the Arts & Music Programme has been the formation of the self-styled dance group, Little Four. After beginning dance classes at our Ger Village in 2016, the four friends and enthusiastic dancers decided to create a street dance group, whose performances stunned audiences during the year, most notably at our twentieth anniversary celebration.

Watching the boys stand on stage beaming with confidence, pride, and charisma, fills us with happiness and is a testament to the powerful impact that the Arts & Music Programme has on the children we support.

Although it is easy to forget when looking at the smiles on these children's faces as they dance, each member of the Little Four came to us from an extremely traumatic and disadvantaged background. It is only because of the love, care, and encouragement they have received at the village that these talented boys are now enjoying their childhoods and are able to pursue their passions.

It is hard to believe that just three years ago one of the boys was found by our team severely neglected, bitterly cold, and so hungry that he and his siblings were eating coal to survive. Another was abandoned by his mother as a baby and left under the care of his grandmother and alcoholic aunt. When he was brought to the Ger Village, he had no legal identity and existed on no government records.

Through dance, these young men have built a strong bond with each other that is reflected in their unified dance routines. They have all shown improvements in their behaviour at the village and school. Having a creative outlet for their emotions and a hobby that they can focus on and cultivate has made them calmer and more fulfilled.

We are looking forward to watching them develop as a group over the course of 2018.

Photo: Little Four



Boys' Prison Art Student, *Bat-Erdene

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I am seventeen-years-old and I am in prison for one year for theft. I used to live with my auntie, who raised me growing up, even though we were very poor, my auntie loved me. I was abandoned by my own parents when I was three-years-old – I don't remember them. When I was in year nine I dropped out of school because I needed to make some money for us to be able to live. I have had many different jobs, such as washing cars, loading Lorries and construction work. However I could not always find work and at times we were desperate. I regret what I have done but I believe when I leave this place my life approach will be very different. I promised my auntie and CNCF that I will go back to school when I leave prison and continue to study. My dream is to become a road engineer and make lots of good roads in my country.

I attend CNCF art classes two times a week and I always look forward to it because it gives me happiness... a happiness that nothing else can bring me. I enjoy creating artwork – it feels very special when I look at my finished piece. Attending these art lessons has given me something wonderful and positive to focus on, I did not know I could draw and paint before now. It has really helped me to express my feelings that otherwise I find hard to do

My Art teacher from CNCF said that I have a very soft heart because he could read my feelings and my character through my work. It's amazing that you can read someone's mind through their art! I agree with him because I am a very soft person and I know how to care for others even though I was abandoned as child. My biggest dream is to see my parents and ask them, 'Why was I abandoned? Was I different?'.
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*Names changed for child protection



*Dance Success Story, *Bat-Erdene*

Fifteen-year-old Bat-Erdene came to live at CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village with his older brother in 2007 when he was just four-years-old. They had been brought to CNCF by the local authorities because of their father's ongoing severe physical and mental abuse – he would regularly beat the children and humiliate them in front of his friends.

The abuse that Bat-Erdene experienced at such a young and vulnerable age were evident in his lack of confidence, depressed mood and distrust of others. He has always been very quiet and withdrawn, and takes a long time to build relationships in which he feels comfortable opening up. He also struggles at school and lacks the focus and patience required in subjects that challenge him.

While living at the village our psychotherapist Nomin-Erdene and village staff have worked hard to build Bat-Erdene's self-esteem in a variety of ways, but it is since taking part in weekly dance classes that we have noticed the most significant changes in him. Through dance, he has been able to develop essential concentration skills and learn how to express himself in a positive and rewarding way. His confidence has grown, which is reflected in the way he stands and interacts with others.

Our dance teacher explained:

“

At first Bat-Erdene was having a hard time learning some of the moves and often got frustrated and angry. He didn't like to listen to instructions, and there were times when he would leave the class early due to his frustrations. I kept encouraging him, saying how well he was doing and that developing a talent takes time and commitment. After a while, he began to see himself improving, which made him feel proud and gave him a lot of motivation to keep practicing.

The child that attends my class today is entirely different from the child I first met. He enjoys listening and participating in my talks about dance, and when I am teaching a new move he is focused and determined to get it right no matter how long it takes. I am very proud of how far he has come.

”

We asked Bat-Erdene how he felt about dance:

“

I started dancing two years ago. When I dance I become calm and feel happy, I can express myself, and I feel focused.

My teacher has taught me how to feel the music and be in sync with the other dancers. He gives me motivation by saying that I can do it and not to give up. I want to thank my teacher, who dragged me out my ger and danced with me when I was feeling lazy and low. Because of him, I didn't give up, and recently I came second place in a school solo dance competition. It felt very good when my classmates and teacher congratulated me and said how well I danced.

If it wasn't for CNCF and the dance classes offered at the village, I wouldn't be the excellent dancer I am today. I am very thankful.

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*Names changed for child protection

*Art Scholarship for CNCF Ger Village Boy- *Orgil*

This year we were incredibly proud of one of our older boys, *Orgil, won a part scholarship from Badmaarag High School which specialises in art.

Orgil is naturally a highly creative and gifted young man, however before coming to the Ger Village his turbulent and poor living conditions meant that finding the space, time and money for painting, drawing and other creative pursuits was extremely difficult, if not impossible.

Through the Arts and Music Programme Orgil has had the resources, guidance, and support to express his powerful imagination and develop his artistic skills and confidence. From Dance to Art, Orgil has made the most of all of the creative opportunities available to him and stood out for his passion and talent.

As a result of his hard work and dedication, Orgil is now studying in his 10th grade at one of the top art schools in the country. He is focused on completing his education successfully and going on to study at the Mongolian Arts & Culture University. He is now one step closer to achieving his dream of becoming a professional contemporary artist.



*Names changed for child protection

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

It is with great thanks and deep appreciation for the generous support of our long-term donors The Sovereign Art Foundation since 2011, that the Blue Skies Arts & Music Programme Mongolia has helped fulfil our founder Christina's mission of giving children in our care an emotionally rich and happy childhood. By introducing our young people to creative experiences and forms of self-expression, we help them build a strong platform upon which they can build well-rounded lives. Only through this generous and consistent support have we been able to develop our Arts and Music programme.

We also thank the following groups and individuals for their valued and heartfelt contributions to our children's artistic development during 2017.

Primary Donors

The Sovereign Art Foundation



GIFT AND TIME IN KIND

Aimar Foundation
Aim4R Dance Studio
ArtiCour Gallery
Child Family and Youth Development Agency
Michèle Massina
Mongolian National Art Gallery
Tanya Bennett
Tiffany Pinkstone



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW


Items	FY2017 in USD
Venue Rental	4,167.50
Art Supplies	2,167.10
Children's Entertainment	150.21
Stationery	406.74
Furniture & Equipment	57.53
Coal	576.52
Electricity	484.19
Miscellaneous	12.20
Salaries and contributions	7,394.05
<u>TOTAL COST</u>	<u>15,416.04</u>


Thank you to all those who donated gifts and time in-kind throughout the year enabling us to keep our annual operating costs to a minimum.

***2017 Audit available upon request or online www.cncf.org**



If you are interested in supporting our humanitarian efforts please contact us:

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