



ANNUAL REPORT 2017  
**SPORTS PROGRAMME**  
**MONGOLIA**



*Our Foundation is about survival in the first instance – but once our children are surviving, we want them to start thriving – and we do that by combating poverty by offering new experiences, new horizons and hope.*

*Christina Noble OBE*





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## ABBREVIATIONS



# 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.

Photo: Founder Christina Noble 1989





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2017, the Sports Programme in Mongolia continued to provide the children in our care with a variety of fun sporting opportunities to help their physical, psychological, and social development. This year, the programme provided lessons in taekwondo, cricket, archery, and general fitness, and organised a variety of fun, team-building sports days and competitions.

All 72 children living at the Blue Skies Ger Village and 16 children from the Child Sponsorship Programme participated in Sports Programme activities in 2017.

A programme highlight in 2017 was the addition of a new community centre at the Ger Village that houses a kitchen, dining room, main hall, classroom, reception area, and storage facilities. The centre is a much-needed improvement on the awkward, cramped space provided by a ger, and will significantly benefit our children's taekwondo practice.

This year, 53 children from the Ger Village participated in taekwondo lessons. Taekwondo students participated in sixteen international and domestic tournaments, winning a total of 105 medals.

In 2017, the cricket team participated in two competitive matches: the Championship Cup, where they took fourth place, and an amateur game with young people from another children's organisation, in which CNCF won first place.

In 2018, we will continue to provide children opportunities to learn and participate in a variety of sport and fitness activities that improve their fitness and skills while helping their psychological and social development. To improve our programme, we plan to build a cricket net at our Ger Village so children can practice regularly and improve their skills





# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

## ESTABLISHED

2010

## LOCATION

Ulaanbaatar and the Songino Khairkhan District, Mongolia

## OBJECTIVES

To provide the children in our care with a variety of fun sporting opportunities to help their physical, psychological, and social development

## PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

Taekwondo, cricket, archery, and general fitness classes; sports days and tournaments; facilities and opportunities that support development in a range of sports activities

## BENEFICIARIES

Children from the Blue Skies Ger Village and Child Sponsorship Programme

## LOCAL PARTNERS

Good Neighbours Mongolia; Mongolian Taekwondo Association; Mongolian Olympic Association; Tulga Taekwondo Club; Songino Khairkhan District's Sport's Agency; Songino Khairkhan District's Mayor; Songino Khairkhan District's Children's Development Centre; Mongolian Rugby Association; Seoul Taekwondo Association; Jeonju Taekwondo Association; Tsahilgaan Nudarga Taekwondo Club; Child, Family and Youth Development Authority; Unur Bul Mongolian National Orphanage; Dambosko Centre - Children's shelter; Mongolian Cricket Association

## CNCF INVOLVEMENT

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



# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

## CNCF STAFF

Thomas Minter, Director of Operations; Battulga Nasankhuu, Taekwondo Coach; Munkhsukh Davaasuren, Ger Village Cricket Coach

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Director of Operations and Ger Village Management Team conduct regular monitoring visits during programme activities. Weekly internal meetings are organised for CNCF staff to discuss programme-related issues and updates and an annual report is sent to all stakeholders. Most importantly, the progress the children are making is on display at various performances, sporting events, and tournaments throughout the year.

## 2017 ACTUAL COST

USD \$16,679.85

## FUTURE PLANS

In 2018, we will continue to provide children opportunities to learn and participate in a variety of sport and fitness activities that improve their fitness and skills while helping their psychological and social development. In addition to maintaining our current sports curriculum, we always strive to improve our services and strengthen our ability to create lasting change in the lives of those we support. Toward this end, we plan to build a cricket net at our Ger Village so children can practice regularly and improve their skills. We also hope that our Junior Psychologist, Munkhsukh, will complete his training this year to become one of the country's first qualified community cricket coaches.

## REPORTING PERIOD

January - December 2017

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*We have been working closely with the Christina Noble Childrens' Foundation since they began their operations in Mongolia in 1997. Over the past twenty years the Foundation on has truly been the sunshine for the marginalised and most in need people of our district. I am honoured to write this testimonial for one the best children's homes and charitable organisations in the whole country.*

– Songino Khairkhan District: Family, Children and Youth Development Department, Director, N.Uranchimeg

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# PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

Our Sports Programme was established in 2010 at our *Blue Skies Ger Village*, a residential care facility for children who have experienced a childhood shaped by poverty, abuse, and extreme neglect. The village provides a safe, happy, and supportive home for these children, one where they are surrounded by unconditional love and respect.

The objective of our Sports Programme is to provide the children in our care with opportunities to cultivate interest in activities that will help their physical, psychological, and social development. Initially, this was achieved by introducing **taekwondo classes** at our village: a popular sport in Mongolia which has proven benefits in improving **fitness, focus, discipline, self-confidence, and respect for self and others**. It is also a fun team activity through which the children can release built up emotions in a controlled and therapeutic way.

Taekwondo classes were suspended in 2013 and reintroduced in 2015. Since 2015, all children living at our village have benefited from the lessons; however, because taekwondo is a non-compulsory activity, a core group of the most dedicated children has emerged and formed our CNCF team. These children regularly compete in external tournaments, which has helped them build their skills and confidence. They have also earned many awards and recognition.

Since its conception, our Sports Programme has expanded its scope to include classes in cricket and archery, and now also includes disadvantaged children from our Child Sponsorship Programme in many of the activities.

The children also have access to a **basketball, football, and volleyball** court, which are located on our Ger Village grounds. In the summer months, this space becomes the heart of the village and is a place where the children and CNCF team can come together to enjoy group games.

Throughout the year, our staff organises a variety of activities, such as morning exercise classes and a Ger Village Sports Day. The children also participate in numerous competitions and tournaments, which are arranged by different children's organisations to promote friendship and physical activity within the community.





# OUR YEAR

Our Sports Programme operates across two of our Foundation's projects: The Blue Skies Ger Village and Child Sponsorship Programme. In 2017, the programme provided lessons in taekwondo, cricket, archery, and general fitness, and organised a variety of fun, team-building sports days and competitions. The programme benefited all **72 children** living at our Ger Village and **16 children** from our Child Sponsorship Programme.

## | 72 CHILDREN

live in Ger Village

## | 16 CHILDREN

from our Child Sponsorship Programme

## | 105 MEDALS

attained

## | 16 TOURNAMENTS

International and Domestic









# PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

## TAEKWONDO

Taekwondo lessons were reintroduced at the Blue Skies Ger Village in April 2015 after a two-year break. Since reintroduction of the lessons, the children have shown noticeable improvements in fitness, self-esteem, focus, and respect toward themselves and others. Taekwondo provides the children, most of whom have suffered significant emotional trauma, an outlet to express their emotions in a controlled and therapeutic way. The children learn essential self-defence techniques and have fun letting off steam in a sport that exercises their whole bodies and engages their minds.

In 2017, **34 children** from the Ger Village participated in taekwondo lessons. They were joined by **13 children** from the Child Sponsorship Programme, **5 sponsored children's siblings**, and **1 child** from our CNCF Day Care. The children are divided into three groups and each group has three 2 hour lessons per week.



Our professional coach, Battulga Nasankhuu, is passionate about teaching taekwondo to children and leads each class with authority and considerable attention to the needs of each child. He is a well-respected and loved member of our community and his hard work and commitment to the children, combined with their motivation, has resulted in many victories and achievements for the taekwondo team over the past 2 years.

In 2017, the children participated in **16 international and domestic tournaments**, receiving an impressive number of medals: **25 gold, 30 silver**, and **50 bronze**.

Furthermore, **5 children** from the Ger Village have been officially recognised as **Sports Masters** and **3 children** as **Sports Sub-Masters**. **2 children** have also attained the **Dan Black Belt** from the **World Taekwondo Association**.



## 2017 Taekwondo Awards and Recognitions

**2 girls** received the **Black Master Belt** and **1 girl** received a **Red Belt** from the World Taekwondo Association. Those who received the Black Belt are now eligible to take part in the **Mongolian Taekwondo Association's** selection process for the National Team that will represent Mongolia in the **2018 Asian World Championship** in Vietnam, the **Youth World Championship tournament**, the **Tokyo 2020 Olympics**, and the **Paris 2024 Olympics**.

Taekwondo team members earned **25 gold, 30 silver**, and **50 bronze** medals at **16 national and international tournaments**.

**3 members** of our taekwondo team were selected to represent Mongolia at two International tournaments held in Korea: **The Korea Open G2** and **Jeonju Open**. We thank Good Neighbours Mongolia for sponsoring one of these children for this event.

One of our girls took part in the **Kimyonu Cup**, where she won a **silver medal**. This was her third tournament in Korea this year. Over two thousand athletes attended the event from sixty-two different countries.

**2 girls** met the conditions to receive the title **Mongolian Sports Master** and **2 girls** met the requirements for **Mongolian Sports Sub-Master**.





Photo: Director of Operations Tom Minter celebrates with our medal winners



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*I want everyone at the village and in Mongolia to visit Korea – a place we have only ever seen in movies. I saw the city's bright lights as well as the beautiful countryside. We always thought that only Mongolia had a blue sky, but surprisingly Korea does too!*

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*Going to Korea was one of the most magical...experiences of my life. I didn't think that I would be chosen because I was older than the other children at the village, but I was, and it is one of the most beautiful memories in my life.*

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*Going to Korea with our Ger Village Manager Urnaa was just like going with my mother. I felt safe and so happy, and proud that I was there to represent Mongolia among the many other talented children who had been chosen from their own countries. It was my second time in Korea and has given me a lot of confidence in my taekwondo abilities. I wish that everyone could have the opportunity to see the world beyond Mongolia. It has opened my eyes to life.*

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## CRICKET

CNCF children began attending cricket lessons in 2016 at the Mongolian Cricket Association, the first cricket organisation established in Mongolia. Since then, **10** of our **children** have shown a keen interest in the sport, attending weekly three-hour coaching sessions held at the club's grounds located in one of the capital city's main parks.

Because the Crickey Association aims to promote cricket and produce more qualified coaches, our Ger Village Junior Psychologist, Munkhsukh Davaasuren, attends a weekly cricket coaching course organised by the club and he hopes to qualify as a Community Coach in 2018, which will make him part of Mongolia's first wave of cricket professionals.

In 2017, the cricket team participated in two competitive matches: the **Championship Cup**, where they took **fourth place**, and an amateur game with young people from another children's organisation, in which CNCF won **first place**. The children were thrilled that members of their CNCF family including the foundation's CEO attended the amateur match to watch them play.

We are proud to be part of the **Mongolian Cricket Association**, who are doing great work teaching the children a sport that helps them develop coordination, fitness, and focus while having fun outdoors and making new friends.



### 10 CHILDREN

attending weekly three-hour coaching



### 4<sup>th</sup> PLACE

participating the Championship Cup



### 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

participating an amateur game with young people from another children's organisation

“

*It is always a great inspiration for us at the Mongolian Cricket Association to see the passion of the children from CNCF that come to our sessions. They were some of the first to play cricket, and we love watching them playing together as a team, getting better and better and making new friends!*

**– Chris Hurd, Mongolian Cricket Association**

”

“

*I am proud to announce that the children from CNCF are part of the first wave of cricketers in Mongolia; they are the first to practice the sport, and they are members of the country's first ever team. This means that if we participate in an international world championship tournament, the children from CNCF will almost certainly take part, and be the ones to represent their country – this will be a fantastic achievement.*

**– Battulga Gombo, Head Coach, Mongolian Cricket Association**

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## ARCHERY

During the summer, **18 children** living at the Ger Village and **3 children** from the Child Sponsorship Programme enjoyed a two-week archery course led by national and world champion archers Simon and Michèle from Belgium. This was an excellent opportunity for our young people to build on their learning from previous years in a sport that benefits them physically while helping to develop their confidence, concentration, patience, and connection to Mongolian culture.

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*For the last three years Michele has taught music and piano, and I have taught Archery to the children living in the Ger Village and to some of the sponsorship children...I enjoy their freshness, their company, their inherent kindness. I enjoy (seeing) them grow and, year after year, see them blooming into great people.*

– Simon De Wrangel.

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### 18 CHILDREN

from Ger Village enjoyed a course by world champion archers Simon and Michèle



### 3 CHILDREN

from Child Sponsorship Programme enjoyed a course by world champion archers Simon and Michèle





## OTHER PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

### ***New Ger Village Community Centre***

A significant development in our Sports Programme this year was the addition of a new community centre at the Ger Village that houses a kitchen, dining room, main hall, classroom, reception area, and storage facilities. The centre is a much-needed improvement on the awkward, cramped space provided by a ger, and will significantly benefit our children's taekwondo practice.

The centre has already become the heart of our community and is the modern, spacious facility that our children and staff have been dreaming of for a long time.

“

Our practice sessions in the ger were restricted by the confined space, and our children couldn't move freely and really go for it. They were always conscious that they might hit something and so (they) couldn't perform at their best. Since beginning classes in the new centre, the children have become more motivated, and their taekwondo is improving significantly. They love having such a big, bright space where they can practice together. I am excited to arrange tournaments in the new facility and put on taekwondo performances to showcase what the team has been learning to the rest of the Ger Village Community.”

– **Battulga Nasankhuu, CNCF Taekwondo Coach**

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## Volunteer Sports Coordinator

In the summer, we welcomed volunteer sports coordinator Judith Baars to the Ger Village. During her two-month stay, she organised a variety of fun team sports to build the children's fitness, confidence, and sense of community. Thank you to Judith for sharing her talents with the children.

## Ger Village Sports Day

To cultivate a sense of team spirit and community, CNCF staff organised a fun day of friendly sports activities for our staff and children. The day included a **football** and **basketball tournament**, **relay races**, and **games**.

## Mini Olympics

In May, children from the Ger Village were invited to participate in a **Mini Olympics** organised by the Unur Bul State Orphanage. Young people from eleven children's organisations attended the event to enjoy a day of healthy competition in games such as volleyball, football, basketball, tennis, and chess.

## Outdoor Morning Exercises

Outdoor morning exercise classes were held at the Ger Village during the summer holidays. The fun, fitness-focused sessions were an excellent way for the children to get energised for the day ahead and maintain a good routine during their school break. Sessions included **jogging** around the village grounds and **aerobics** on the basketball court. We also held 'jumping up and down, litter collecting days' where the children bounced around the village **collecting** any **rubbish** that they could find. This was an effective way to combine fun and exercise with cultivating a sense of **respect** and **personal responsibility for the environment**.



Football tournament



Basketball tournament



Relay races



Mini Olympics



Aerobics



Jogging



Collect rubbish



Responsibility for the environment





### ***Sports Day Organised by The District's Social Welfare Department***

In October, Ger Village children joined young people from four other children's organisations to participate in a fun, friendship-building day of games and sports.

### ***Volleyball Tournaments***

To help foster a sense of community at our Ger Village and build good relations between our staff and children, regular **volleyball matches** were held **throughout the year**.

### ***Batsumber Camp***

In February, **22 children** went to Batsumber Camp to spend a fun-filled day playing football and taking part in activities such as sledge races and mountain climbing.



**22 CHILDREN**

went to Batsumber Camp

### ***Taekwondo Team Building Trip***

In September, the taekwondo team travelled to some of Mongolia's most renowned historical sites. The aim of the trip was to build team spirit and learn about Mongolia's rich cultural heritage.





### ***Taekwondo Performances***

Throughout the year, the taekwondo team showcased their skills at many Ger Village events including birthdays, leaving parties, and Children's Day. Most notably, our group performed a variety of impressive taekwondo routines at our twentieth anniversary, which was attended by supporters of the Foundation, local partners, our Noble Challenge participants, and past and present international and domestic employees. The special day included a collaborative taekwondo class, in which Noble Challenge participants joined the children to learn basic moves and take part in a friendly tournament.









# OUR STORIES

## *Rising Above with Taekwondo*

Before arriving at our Ger Village in February nine-year-old Zolboo\* and her two younger siblings lived in deplorable conditions in a small town in the countryside with their mother and the alcoholic father of the two younger children. They lacked necessities such as food, clothing, and heat to survive the cold winters.

Zolboo's older sister is on our Child Sponsorship Programme but lives with her grandmother in Ulaanbaatar. For this reason, when CNCF social workers were conducting their biannual countryside trip in November 2016 they went to check on the family to see if they needed support. When the social workers saw the family's incredibly poor living conditions, they immediately became concerned for the children's well-being. After buying them food and heating supplies, our team contacted the district's local social worker. The local social worker subsequently conducted an unplanned visit to the family's ger, where he was shocked to find Zolboo being sexually abused by her heavily intoxicated stepfather. The three children were removed from the home.

Arrangements were made to rehome the children at the Blue Skies Ger Village. Before their arrival, our experienced psychosocial, management, and medical teams were informed about the details of their case and a plan was put in place to support the children and help them feel comfortable in their new home. When the siblings arrived, our manager greeted them with a big hug and reassured the children that they were in a safe place, where they would be loved and cared for.

Our psychosocial team has worked closely with the siblings, particularly Zolboo, to help minimise the impact of her sexual abuse and to rebuild her trust in adults. We are happy to report that all three children are now thriving at the village.

Taekwondo has been critical to Zolboo's recovery because it has allowed her to channel her anger and pain in a disciplined, respectful, and therapeutic way. It has also allowed her to feel in control of her body and reclaim it as her own. She feels strong and has started to develop a positive self-image. She now sees her body as a source of power and strength. Since beginning taekwondo, Zolboo's behaviour has calmed, and she now interacts with the other children and staff in a more patient, peaceful, and light-hearted manner.

"When Zolboo first started attending my classes, she was quiet, closed, lacked self-confidence, and was very difficult to communicate with," Coach Battulga explained. "She would often cause arguments and easily got upset and frustrated. I have been extremely proud to watch how Zolboo has developed over the year. She has started to believe in her capabilities and can now express herself in a more relaxed way to the other children and members of staff. She has become more independent, emotionally mature, and far less self-conscious."

In just a year, Zolboo has already participated in numerous tournaments, winning one gold, two silver, and ten bronze medals. It is wonderful to see Zolboo's energised, smiling face as she talks proudly about her progress and achievements.

When asked about taekwondo, Zolboo said, "It has been one year since I started training in taekwondo. I like my taekwondo teacher because he tries to teach us everything he knows and I am very thankful for what he does. Taekwondo has become an important part of my life. I felt very good when I took first place in the district championship and when my taekwondo teacher congratulated me and told me 'I am so proud of you!' I love taekwondo! I want to become an instructor in the future and live happily with my mother and three younger siblings."

\*Names changed for child protection.



## *Cricket as Therapy*

Thirteen-year-old Gerel\* came to live at the Ger Village with her older brother in 2012. The children had a very difficult home life: their mother was an alcoholic and they lived in a rundown ger on the city's main dumpsite. The children had different fathers, both of whom were absent. To survive, the children had no choice but to spend their days scouring the rubbish for leftover food and items to sell. The dirty and toxic environment adversely affected the children's physical and mental health—they were often sick and depressed.

When the authorities discovered the children's desperate situation, they removed them from their ger and rehomed them at our Ger Village.

At first, Gerel was an extremely withdrawn child who preferred to be alone and refused to participate in activities with the other children. She didn't like to be noticed and avoided attention. Our psychotherapist worked closely with Gerel, helping her to open up and release the trauma caused by years of neglect and abuse. Over time, her confidence grew and she began to engage in a warm and approachable way with the other children and staff.

Since arriving at the village, Gerel has become more comfortable stepping outside her comfort zone and has excelled in a wide range of extracurricular activities. Her favourite hobby is cricket, and she is one of the most active and talented members of our CNCF team.

The friendships she has built at the cricket association's club have helped Gerel build self-esteem and feel a greater sense of belonging and community. She is now a much more involved member of the village; she has taken on increased responsibilities such as assisting with general chores and caring for younger children.

'The Spirit of Cricket', which encourages healthy competition, sportsmanship, and discipline, has also had a positive influence on Gerel's behaviour. She is noticeably more respectful and takes great pride in completing tasks to a high standard without having to be asked.

Gerel is considering a career as a cricket coach because she wants to share her passion with other young people and help grow the cricket community in Mongolia.

Gerel's story is a testament to the important role our Sports Programme plays in helping young people discover new talents and cultivate valuable skills and character traits.

\*Names changed to protect privacy.





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

By donating to our Sports Programme, you help give disadvantaged children the opportunity to participate in activities that help them build strong, healthy bodies while having fun, making friends, and developing essential character traits such as confidence, discipline, and respect for themselves and others.

Because of your support, many boys and girls who come from backgrounds shaped by poverty, abuse, and extreme neglect have been able to discover new abilities, push their perceived boundaries, and establish constructive outlets to channel their emotions.

It is with our most heartfelt appreciation that we thank all our supporters for allowing us to give the children in our care the happy, fulfilled, and emotionally rich childhood they need and deserve.

Special thanks to the following organisations and individuals who were active supporters of the Sports Programme in 2017: Good Neighbours Mongolia; Mongolian Taekwondo Association; Mongolian Olympic Association; Tulga Taekwondo Club; Songino Khairkhan District's Sport's Agency; Songino Khairkhan District's Mayor; Songino Khairkhan District's Children's Development Centre; Mongolian Rugby Association; Seoul Taekwondo Association; Jeonju Taekwondo Association; Tsahilgaan Nudarga Taekwondo Club; Child, Family and Youth Development Authority; Unur Bul Mongolian National Orphanage; Dambosko Centre Children's shelter; Mongolian Cricket Association; Judith Baars; and Simon and Michèle.





# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The total cost of running the Sports Programme in 2017 was total **USD\$ 16,679,85**

Our 2017 audits are available upon request.

Description	FY2017 in USD
Salaries and contributions	5,567.10
Travel	5,683.97
Supplies	185.11
Competition expenses	2,389.10
Entertainment	187.10
Coal	576.52
Food	60.81
Clothes	342.07
Electricity	484.19
Donation to Cricket Association	1,203.89
<b><u>TOTAL COST</u></b>	<b>16,679.85</b>





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

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