

SUNSHINE SCHOOL VIETNAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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Sunshine School

CNCF	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
нсмс	Ho Chi Minh City
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

By donating to our Sunshine School, you help provide primary education to boys and girls who are either from very poor families or were living on the streets and were at high risk of commercial and sexual exploitation, drug trafficking, and violence.

Throughout 2018, our Sunshine children had many opportunities to interact with, and be inspired by, professional artists and musicians. We would like to thank everyone who gave their time. We would also like to thank the venues in Ho Chi Minh City that gave our children spaces to express their creativity and showcase their talents.

We also thank our local government partner, the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), who makes it possible for us to run the Sunshine School successfully.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, the Sunshine School continues to help us realise our Founder Christina's mission of giving the children in our care an education, so they can break the cycle of poverty and achieve a brighter future.

We are deeply grateful to our following generous donors for their generous support in 2018.

John May and Team Lotus Challengers, Ireland
United World College of South East Asia, Singapore
Le Huong Thuy, Vietnam
Tieu Hue Ngoc, Vietnam



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

- Christina Noble OBE -





OUR VISION, MISSION, VALUES

Vision: A united world where children are free from suffering, poverty, exploitation, fear, and oppression. Where children are aware of their fundamental human rights.

Mission: The Christina Noble Children's Foundation is dedicated to serving the physical, medical, educational and emotional needs of vulnerable children. We believe that every child deserves love, respect and freedom from all forms of exploitation.

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

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

LOCATION

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

OBJECTIVES

To provide free, holistic, primary education to disadvantaged children and to help them integrate into the mainstream school system; to develop literacy and other skills that help students prepare for higher education; to promote well-rounded development by providing students with extracurricular activities such as sports, music, arts, and excursions; to protect vulnerable children from risks posed by organised crime, such as child prostitution, trafficking, and drug abuse; to bring vulnerable children into the Foundation's care and provide access to other facilities and support through the Child Sponsorship Programme, Education Scholarship Programme, Health Care Programme, and Bicycle Support Programme; to help obtain legal identification papers so children are acknowledged as citizens and are able to access government services and mainstream schooling and gain employment as adults; to help children and their families break the cycle of poverty

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS Primary school education up to Grade 5; extracurricular activities including arts, music, and sports; health check-ups and medical assistance; life skills training; counselling; and support through other CNCF programmes

BENEFICIARIES

Children (ages 6–16 years) from disadvantaged backgrounds who are unable to attend mainstream primary schools because they do not possess required legal documents to enrol in school, are over the maximum age allowed to enrol in public primary schools, or cannot afford it. These children come from families living in poverty including migrant children and children from ethnic minorities whose families have moved to the city for work, children whose parents/guardians cannot afford their education, children who live and work on the streets to support themselves and their families, and those who have faced or are at high risk of commercial and sexual exploitation, drug trafficking, and violence

LOCAL PARTNERS

Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA)

CNCF INVOLVEMENT

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

CNCF MANAGEMENT

Helenita Noble, CEO;

Son Thu Trinh, Director of Operations, Vietnam;

Nguyen Hong Nhung, Sunshine School Project Coordinator;

Lam Ngoc Thien Huong, Social Worker

MONITORING AND **EVALUATION**

Because CNCF is directly responsible for funding and programme management, we conduct regular monitoring and evaluation activities. Daily monitoring visits during programme activities are carried out by the Project Coordinator. Information and updates about the children are collected during these visits and timely support is provided where necessary. Meetings with the teachers and other staff are held for project updates and to resolve any issues. Prior to enrolment and as issues arise, our social worker and project coordinator conduct home visits. Weekly internal meetings are conducted for CNCF staff to discuss programme-related issues and updates. Monthly reports and semi-annual reports are sent by CNCF staff to the Board of Management and an Annual Review of the programme is

sent to all stakeholders

2018 ACTUAL COSTS

USD \$57.640.52

FUTURE PLANS

In 2019, our aim is to continue to provide primary education to 140-160 students and additional support through other CNCF programmes. In addition, we plan to enhance the school's social work services by offering more counselling, group work, and psychotherapy, reinforce the quality of teaching by providing additional training courses for teachers and staff, and increase awareness among parents by offering training and communication seminars

REPORTING PERIOD

January - December 2018



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2018, the Sunshine School in Vietnam continued to provide free, holistic, primary education to children from impoverished backgrounds who are unable to attend mainstream primary schools because they cannot afford tuition and fees, do not possess the required identification documents, or are over the maximum age allowed to enrol in public primary schools. All children come from families living in poverty. In addition to schooling, students in grades one through five participated in art, music, sports, and yoga classes and received social support and healthcare through the school and affiliated CNCF programmes.

147 STUDENTS ages 6-16 attended the Sunshine School.

78% STUDENTS achieved excellent, good, or satisfactory results.

19 fifth grade STUDENTS passed their primary school graduation exams.

12,9% Nineteen STUDENTS were recognized as outstanding

were recognized as outstanding students of the year.

In 2019, we will continue to provide primary education to 140–160 students and additional support through other CNCF programmes. In addition, we plan to enhance the school's social work services by offering more counselling, group work and psychotherapy, reinforce the quality of teaching by providing additional training courses for teachers and staff, and increase awareness among parents by offering training and communication seminars.





PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

Getting children into school and helping them stay there can counteract the negative effects of poverty. Basic literacy and education is the first step toward vocational training, higher education, and gainful employment.

Despite Vietnam's progress in achieving universal primary education, the quality of education remains uneven with a lack of well-trained teachers and appropriate curricula. In addition, while primary school students in public schools are not required to pay tuition fees, parents often must pay other costs, such as transportation, uniforms, learning materials, and informal fees set by schools or communes at the local level. Many children from poor households simply cannot go to school or complete their primary education due to economic constraints or their need to work to help support their families.

Our Founder, Christina Noble, believed education was the best way to break the cycle of poverty. This led to her founding a school in 1991 for both street children and children from destitute families. Christina called the street children of Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) her 'Sunshine Children' and the school became known as the Sunshine School. The school is located at CNCF's centre of operations in Vietnam. The school has grown considerably in its more than twenty-five years and now offers six primary education classes, grades one through five.



Beneficiaries

The children enrolled in our Sunshine School are:

- Between the ages of 6 and 16 years
- Come from underprivileged families, are street children, or come from migrant families, including ethnic minorities who have moved to HCMC to work
- Children who are over the maximum school age or otherwise excluded from mainstream schools because they lack the required legal documents to enrol (often the case for migrants to HCMC)





their families

Demographic Data and Background of Sunshine School Students (each student/family may fall under multiple categories)

Domestic violence (1)	36%
Child separated from parent(s) (2)	60%
Prostitution or affected by HIV/AIDS (3)	13%
Crime (4)	14%
Addictions (5)	27%
History of family mental illness (6)	12%
Child labour (7)	16%
Legal issues (8)	3%
Minority (9)	8%
Migrant (10)	19%
Disabilities (mental & physical) (11)	8%
Disabilities (mental & physical) (11)	10%

OUR YEAR 2018 Highlights

In 2018, our Sunshine School continued to provide holistic education comprising academic coursework that follows the national curriculum; extracurricular activities including languages, arts, music, and sports; healthcare; counseling; and social and life skills training.

147 CHILDREN

from disadvantaged, poor and migrant families were enrolled in the Sunshine School

74 73
BOYS GIRLS

78% STUDENTS achieved good academic results.

19 fifth grade STUDENTS passed their primary school graduation exams.

301 HOME VISIT were conducted by school social workers

Sunshine School children continued to receive healthcare through CNCF and participated in extracurricular activities, events, and celebrations throughout the year.

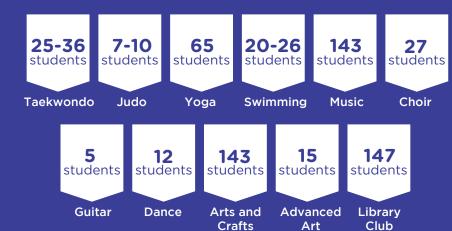






147 STUDENTS attended the Sunshine School

Extracurricular Activity Participation by Sunshine School Students



Other CNCF Programmes Providing Support to Sunshine Students



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Education

Our Sunshine School curriculum aligns with the national public educational system. Subjects taught include mathematics, Vietnamese, science, history, geography, ethics, English, music, and arts. Our students attain the same knowledge and develop the same skills as their peers in mainstream schools. The solid educational foundation they build helps underprivileged children make a smooth transition to higher education.

The school's curriculum is based on modern social theory and equips children with basic primary education while developing their skills, behaviour, and attitude through extracurricular activities. We provide life skills training to develop social and interpersonal skills and music, art, and sports activities to facilitate social and physical development. We believe that by providing children with high-quality education we can break the poverty cycle and help build a new generation of community leaders.

In Vietnam, few vocational training schemes or high-quality jobs admit students who do not have at least a school certificate. Our Sunshine School provides children with the educational skills they need to attain this much-needed certificate.

In 2018, the school served **147 students** in grades one through to five.



147 CHILDREN Number of Sunshine School students - at the beginnin of school year

74 73
BOYS GIRLS

130 CHILDREN

Number of Sunshine School students - at the end

of school year

69 61

BOYS GIRLS

19 CHILDREN

Number of 5th graders who passed final primary school examinations

07 12

BOYS GIRLS

Number of Sunshine School students by grade



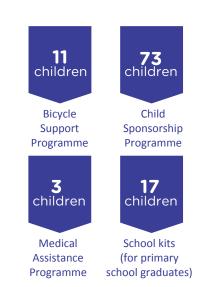


17 CHILDREN

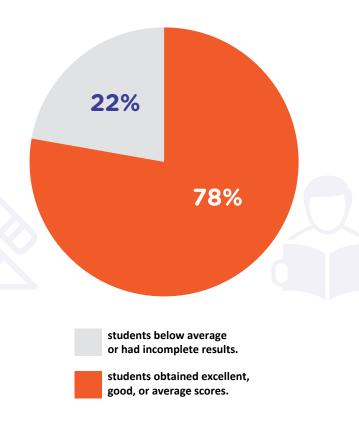
Number of 5th graders who passed final primary school exams and moved up to mainstream secondary schools (other two students went to work to support their families)



Number of Sunshine School Students impacted by other CNCF programmes



Academic Results



These children are given extra tutoring when possible. It is important to note that our children come from homes that do not provide a conducive learning environment, many children are behind academically, and some have learning difficulties.

Tutoring

Our teaching and programme staff work to introduce the proper tools to address academic performance issues in our children. To maximise our children's academic performance, we hold tutoring classes three times each week. These extra lessons for children experiencing difficulties help prevent them from dropping out of school. In addition to providing disadvantaged children with free primary education, thus relieving their parents of the burden of tuition and other fees, we also offer lunchtime tutoring and reading sessions for students whose parents work in other districts and cannot pick their children up on time.

Secondary and Higher Education

Access to continuing education is critical for breaking the cycle of poverty. It is always a matter of great pride for us when our Sunshine children continue their education, and we endeavour to continue supporting these children through other CNCF programmes. In 2017, all sixteen fifth grade students graduated from primary school after passing their primary level examinations.

Dropout rate

An issue we continue to face every year is dropouts. Whenever a child is taken out of school, we make every effort to meet and talk to the parents to see if there is any other solution. In most cases, the reason for a child being withdrawn from school is financial. We try to provide alternative solutions, but unfortunately, we are not always successful.

In 2018

17 CHILDREN dropped out during the school year

06 11



Testimonials from Our Students and Parents.

I started studying at the Sunshine School during the 2016-2017 school year when I was in third grade. At first, I was very worried because I did not know anything about the school environment here—how were the other students? How were the teachers? I also did not know I would receive free books, paper, and uniforms. The school experience has exceeded my expectations. The students here are very good to me and treat me well. Besides the main subjects I learn every day at school, I also get to learn other subjects like singing, dancing, martial arts, and take part in other activities like interacting with international students and singing in Christmas choirs at beautiful places. Also, the teachers and CNCF staff are so caring and supportive. They always help me to overcome difficulties in my life. The knowledge and skills that I have learned here will be a solid foundation for my future.

- Fifth grade Sunshine School student.

My granddaughter attended the Sunshine School for five years. First of all, I would like to send my gratitude to the Sunshine School teachers, management, and all CNCF staff for all the support they provided my granddaughter and my family. I remember when my granddaughter first stepped into the Sunshine School. I never thought there would be a free primary school that did so much good for poor students. The CNCF staff care for the children with their whole heart. My children could not go to school because I did not have enough money to send them, but thanks to the Sunshine School, my granddaughter had a chance to build a better life. She is in fifth grade this year and is thriving. Once again, thank you very much for all the support.

- Grandmother of fifth grade Sunshine School student.

I have been studying at the Sunshine School for four years. During my time here, I have learned so much that will be useful to me in the future. I remember the early days when my family moved from the countryside to HCMC and my mother applied to many schools but was not accepted because we didn't have residency documents. Through an acquaintance, my mother came to the Sunshine School. It was our last ray of hope. Not only did the Sunshine School welcome me, I received monthly scholarship money from CNCF to help my family. I love studying and participating in extracurricular activities such as drawing, music, dance, and singing. The attention and care provided by the Sunshine School staff and teachers motivates me to work harder. Thank you to the Sunshine School and CNCF for supporting me and providing me and other students the opportunity to learn in a friendly environment.

- Fourth grade Sunshine School student.

My son has studied at the Sunshine School for four years. I am so thankful for all the support the Sunshine School and CNCF has provided to my family and my son. Thanks to the Sunshine School, my son has a place to learn. And not only do poor children get the chance to go to school, they learn to be good people. Timely support from the Sunshine School and CNCF helped my family overcome our difficulties and has encouraged and pushed me to move forward with my life as a single mom. Because of CNCF, I feel that I am not alone. I have the Sunshine School and CNCF to help me overcome hardships and crises, so I can continue to provide for my children.

- Mother of fourth grade Sunshine School student



Extracurricular Activities

The Sunshine School employs a holistic approach to education that provides students access to extracurricular activities including music and arts, sports, and essential living values and positive life skills trainings. These activities encourage and nurture children's skills, self-expression, and self-confidence, and thus, boost their creativity and imagination. In addition, because our Sunshine students are at high risk of drug abuse, violence, and prostitution because of their complex living environments and neighbourhoods, after-school activities help keep children at school and limit their time spent on the streets. Furthermore, extracurricular programmes serve as channels through which our staff quickly identify children potentially at risk and in need of help as indicated by changes in behaviour and/or decreased class attendance. When necessary, we provide timely interventions such as home visits, comprehensive counselling, and group work.

The Sunshine School also houses a library with hundreds of books and magazines. Students come to the library to read after class and borrow books and magazines to read at home. To promote reading, the library organises many extracurricular activities.

Social Work Services

What sets our Sunshine School apart from other schools and organisations offering primary education is that for us, our Sunshine children are not just students, they are family. In addition to free primary education, we provide a holistic range of care designed to facilitate child development. Because our Sunshine children are vulnerable and come from disadvantaged backgrounds that put them at risk of dropping out of school and in danger of exploitation, we established the school social work service to help our children manage problems they face.

The school social worker has an in-depth understanding of the family background of each student. She makes home visits and provides counseling to students and their families to identify appropriate approaches on a case-by-case basis. Through home visits, the social worker observes the living situation, social environment, and economic conditions in which the students and their families live and assesses risks children might be exposed to. Consulting, counseling, and referral services are provided in a responsive and timely manner to support students and help them stay in school. Our social worker uses a participatory approach to counseling that amplifies the voices of students and their families.

We introduce school social work activities to parents at yearly parent-teacher meetings and during home visits. We encourage students and parents to reach out to the social worker for help when in need.

Sunshine School Social Work in 2018

Home visits to student's families	301
 Counselling sessions for students and parents 	380
+ Counselling sessions for students	175
+ Counselling sessions for family (with or without students)	205
- To students at risk of dropping out	85
- To students with behavioural problems with friends/teachers/family	90
- To students with disabilities or families with financial problems	30



Healthcare

In 2018, the Sunshine School provided comprehensive healthcare to children including general check-ups, eye examinations, dental care, daily milk supplements, de-worming, and daily multivitamins.

Personal and Social Development

We seek out opportunities that allow our children to interact socially. Through social interaction with people from outside the Sunshine School, the children develop a sense of who they are, they learn appropriate social behaviours, and they begin to gain independence. The children also participate in social events with CNCF staff, volunteers, interns, and donors. During the year, most of the Sunshine students had the opportunity to interact with international school children from Singapore, Hong Kong, and Australia, as well as corporate visitors.

This year, Sunshine students had numerous opportunities to participate in festivities, such as the Mid-Autumn Festival, Vietnamese Teacher's Day, Children's Day, and Christmas.



OUR STORIES

Birthdays are Always Special at the Sunshine School

Cam* was born in 2007 to a poor family who were struggling just to get by. When she was in first grade at a government public school, her family was no longer able to afford the cost and Cam had to drop out. Rather than give up on Cam's education, her mother applied to the Sunshine School and Cam restarted first grade during 2014-2015 school year.

Cam is now a fifth-grade student and will graduate next year. During her time at the Sunshine School, Cam has thrived. She loves all the extra activities and is a voracious learner. Her favorite activity is the Birthday Party Programme. The Birthday Party Programme allows students to celebrate their birthdays with their friends at school and receive gifts from the Sunshine School. "Last April," Cam said, "I was overwhelmed with joy when I received a Lego set and wooden doll house. I literally jumped in excitement because now I have a Lego set to play with my cousin at home."

At home, Cam's mother sometimes managed to celebrate Cam's birthday with take-away food or by cooking special dishes for the entire family. However, Cam never had a birthday cake, nor could she invite friends to her birthday party, until the Sunshine School organised a party for her birthday two years ago. As a fifth-grade student, Cam has only one more chance to receive a wonderful birthday gift and celebrate her birthday with her school friends.

Cam shared, "I will never forget the joyful atmosphere at the Sunshine School during our birthday parties, where we all eat, drink, laugh, and talk together. I hope the Sunshine School will continue the Birthday Party Programme so other children from poor families will have the chance to experience the joy of a birthday celebration."

Star of the Month

When we first met Dinh*, he was a boy of very few words who rarely participated in class activities. However, after a few years at the Sunshine School, Dinh has transformed into a much more active student. He socializes more in class and has made many friends. Outside of school, he supports his mother by selling mixed-rice paper and takes care of his siblings when his parents leave home for work. Dinh's father is in poor health and his income as a motorbike taxi driver is low and unreliable. Thus, the family struggles to make ends meet. Without the Sunshine School, Dinh could not afford to continue his education.

Dinh loves studying at the Sunshine School because of the array of subjects and activities offered to students. Most of all, he likes the Star of the Month Programme best because it has encouraged him to work harder at school, contribute to class lessons, and become a better friend to his classmates. In recognition of Dinh's tremendous growth, Sunshine School teachers selected Dinh as the Star of the Month last August! Since receiving the award, Dinh has participated in even more activities at school, started helping classmates who are weaker in their studies, and volunteered to water plants and flowers around the school yard.

The Star of the Month Programme helps encourage students like Dinh to work hard and grow in the classroom and as citizens.

The Sunshine School Prepares Students to Succeed

Nguyen* never met his biological parents. When he was four months old, his grandmother sent him to a woman named Anh to look after him temporarily. His grandmother never returned. Ms. Anh became Nguyen's foster mother, but because of her challenging circumstances, she was unable to care for him and sent him to live with her younger sister. Nguyen and his new caregiver live with three other relatives in a very small house. Nguyen used to ride an old, rickety bicycle to and from school. However, last year when he graduated from the Sunshine School, Nguyen received a bicycle from the Bicycle Support Programme. This school year, he started sixth grade at a secondary school in District 3 of HCMC.

In his first semester at secondary school, Nguyen was recognized as one of the top-10 students in his class! The additional financial burdens of secondary school have been difficult for Nguyen's family, but the education he received at the Sunshine School has prepared him to succeed.

Thao* and his mother moved from their hometown in Dong Thap province to HCMC in 2012. Thao's father still resides in Dong Thap where he works as a farmer but does not support Thao and his mother financially. Thao and his mother do odd jobs at a clothing shop and earn about \$4.5 USD per day. Thao goes to work in the mornings and school in the afternoons.

While attending the Sunshine School, Thao took buses to and from school every day. This year, he started sixth grade at a school closer to his home and received a bicycle kit from the Bicycle Support Programme.

Thao visited the Sunshine School before Tet holiday and told us that he missed his teachers and friends at the Sunshine School very much, particularly Ms. Thien Huong who was like a friend to him and his family. Thanks to his experience at the Sunshine School, he is much more motivated to continue his studies.



^{*} Names changed to protect privacy.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The operational cost of the Sunshine School was

USD \$57,640.52

Direct costs include the actual costs of running the Sunshine School including repairs and maintenance, providing education, life skills training, school supplies, and recreational activities for the children.

Indirect costs include salaries of project staff, stationery, communication, transportation, security fees, and water and electricity allocated to the project.

Heartfelt thanks to our kind donors who enable CNCF to keep this project operating and also to those who generously support with gift and time in-kind which enables us to keep our costs down.

Our 2018 audits are available on line https://www.cncf.org/finance.html



SUNSHINE SCHOOL EXPENDITURES IN 2018

	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET 2018 USD \$	ACTUALS IN 2018 USD \$	VARIANCE USD \$
	CHILD CARE	10,608.60	11,166.63	558.03
	Medical care	400.50	618.84	218.34
	Educational events	2,640.60	848.52	(1,792.08)
•	Special family assistance	3,345.00	96.84	(3,248.16)
	Food Items		807.65	807.65
•	Birthday parties and gifts for children		2,992.10	2,992.10
•	School uniforms, bags and shoes	3,112.50	5,679.09	2,566.59
•	Events for children (X'mas, Children Day, School year end, Teacher Day)	1,110.00	123.59	(986.41)

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET 2018 USD \$	ACTUALS IN 2018 USD \$	VARIANCE USD \$
	TEACHERS SALARY & ALLOWANCES	21,657.79	18,752.95	(2,904.84)
	Basic salaries	21,305.40	18,085.74	(3,219.66)
	Staff training	88.89		(88.89)
•	Health check for staff	263.50	430.89	167.39
•	Staff uniforms		236.32	236.32
	ADMINISTRATION	3,116.66	3,399.86	283.17
	Repair & maintenance	524.44	352.28	(172.16)
	Rental costs		19.49	19.49
9	Office supplies & expenses	2,342.22	2,793.47	451.25
	Social Work (travel to children's families)	250.00	234.60	(15.40)
9				

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET 2018 USD \$	ACTUALS IN 2018 USD \$	VARIANCE USD \$
PROJECT MANAGEMENT	24,000.00	24,321.08	321.08
 Project staff salary	24,000.00	24,321.08	321.08
 TOTAL COST	59,383.05	57,640.52	(1,742.56)
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