

CHRISTINA NOBLE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION



PROJECT INFORMATION

VIETNAM

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PHILOSOPHY

The Christina Noble Children's Foundation is an international partnership of people dedicated to serving children in need of emergency and long-term medical care, nutritional rehabilitation, educational opportunities, vocational training, job placement and the protection of children at risk of economic and sexual exploitation. The Foundation seeks to maximize the potential of each child. This is accomplished within the context of the family and the community whenever possible and always with love and respect for the dignity of each child as an individual.

CHRISTINA NOBLE - FOUNDER

Christina Noble is the founder and driving force behind the Foundation. Christina's passion for children's rights is rooted in her own tragic upbringing. Christina understands what it is like to be young, homeless and desperate. Born in the slums of Dublin, Ireland, on 23 December 1944, she was to embark on a childhood of pain and betrayal. Their mother raised her and three siblings while their father drank away what little money the family earned. Her mother died when Christina was 10 and the children were separated and sent to different orphanages; Christina spent four desperate years in the west of Ireland in an institution where she was told that her brothers and sisters were dead. She later escaped back to Dublin where she lived in Phoenix Park and slept in a hole under some bushes for several years. It was during this vulnerable time that Christina was gang raped and became pregnant. A baby boy was born but given up for adoption against her will.

At the age of 18, Christina ran away to England to be with her brother. She married there and had three children, but tragically the cycle of abuse continued and she was later forced to undertake shock treatment for a mental breakdown.

It was during this particularly low ebb in her life, circa 1971, that she had a dream about Vietnam: *"I don't know why I*

dreamed about Vietnam; perhaps it was because the country was so much in the news at the time. In the dream, naked Vietnamese children were running down a dirt road fleeing from a napalm bombing. The ground under the children was cracked and was coming apart and the children were reaching out to me. One of the girls had a look in her eyes that implored me to pick her up, protect her and take her to safety. Above the terrified children was a brilliant white light that contained the word 'Vietnam'." This was a dream that she would one day triumphantly fulfill, albeit 20 years later: *"When I arrived in 1989, I was nobody. I had no credentials, no contacts, and no money."*

However with a determination to alleviate the suffering of the street children she could empathize with from her own background, she began raising money. The local branch of a foreign oil company 'Enterprise Oil' provided her with a start-up grant of \$10,000. She also sang in clubs and made speeches, all in an effort to raise money to protect these helpless children. Now known affectionately by the street children as "Mama Tina", she has achieved remarkable results in the lives of many children. *A more detailed account of Christina's life can be read in "Bridge Across My Sorrow," published in 1994, and "Mama*

Tina" which was published at the end of 1998.

Thanks to the generous donations and support from several foreign companies, a Social & Medical Center for abandoned and malnourished children was inaugurated in Ho Chi Minh City on 24 December 1990, and later in 1991, The Christina Noble Children's Foundation was established. The Center, now a landmark in many children's lives, is a tribute to Christina Noble's vision, her courage and her unconditional love for children. The Foundation is now well established in Vietnam and has a strong relationship with the Ministry of MOLISA (Ministry of Labour Invalids & Social Affairs). Since its inception, well over 80,000 children and families have received help in the wide variety of projects the Foundation is now operating.

These projects range from an outpatients clinic, a dental clinic, a physiotherapy clinic and an intensive care unit for malnourished babies, Sunshine School, Shelters, vocational training programs and various development projects in the Provinces outside Ho Chi Minh City.

Although the Foundation has grown considerably, Christina continues to be the principal driving force and inspiration behind all projects and she retains close personal contact with the children.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIAL AND MEDICAL CENTER
38 Tu Xuong Street, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

The Medical Center located near the City Center consists of three floors with a large courtyard to the front. It was officially opened on 1 July 1991. It provides an integrated program of services for abandoned babies, street children, and for sick and malnourished infants. It includes curative and preventative health services for the poor and maternal child health programs and day care facilities for poor parents. There is an average of 80 inpatients and 400 to 600 outpatients each month. The staffing levels are 3 full-time qualified doctors, 7 full-time nurses, 1 qualified dentist, 1 dental assistant and 31 ChildCare Workers who operate on rotational shifts. There are 43 staff in total. The above staff are entirely Vietnamese. We generally have three expatriate volunteers working and assisting the full-time Vietnamese staff.

The Intensive Care Unit

The ICU, which is situated on the ground floor of the Medical Center, receives children referred from local hospitals and institutions, as well as seriously malnourished or otherwise acutely ill children who are brought to the maternal child health clinic. Over half of these children are permanent residents, while the others represent children coming from

families for day care services. An individual care-plan is devised for each child including special diets to help them regain strength as quickly as possible.

The Outpatient Clinic provides free medical services, free medicine, milk, vitamins and nutritious meals to malnourished children. An average of 400-600 children benefit from this program each month.

The Dental Program has been operating since December 1993, three mornings each week, by two dentists employed at the Medical Center. An Australian dentist, Dr. Sandra Short, first visited the Medical Center in 1993. After examining the teeth of the children, Dr. Short stated that 94% of them had bad teeth. The dental office now provides FREE dental care to over 380 students of our Sunshine school program, the children in the center, the patients who visit the outpatient clinic and to any poor children in the city who require dental care.

English Classes

On a regular basis, the nurses and childcare workers attend regular English classes to help improve their English. Workshops on childcare education and other development courses have also been given to the nurses. The English classes are also open to some of the

older street children who are interested in obtaining employment through the foundation, or with the foundation's assistance through potential employers who visit or support the Foundation.

The Residential Care Facility is available for the children once their acute period is over in the ICU. Here they receive special nutrition and treatment programs as well as social work therapy that focuses on their various developmental needs.

Play Groups are held every Wednesday morning between 8am to 10:30am, a group of volunteers living in Ho Chi Minh City play with the children using games and songs. The playgroup has become very successful and both the children and staff thoroughly enjoy the experience.

Day Care

The third floor of the clinic operates as a Day Nursery. Parents drop off their children by 7am and pick them up at 4pm; this gives the parents the opportunity to attempt to earn a living. Generally the parents work as Cyclo riders, or sell fruits or cigarettes on the street. Single or very poor parents who are able to find employment during the day also leave their children to attend the day nursery. While staying at the Nursery, the children receive nutritional food and are encouraged to partake in social events, such as singing songs, and playing games.

THE SUNSHINE SCHOOL
38 Tu Xuong St., District 3, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

The Sunshine School, also located at Tu Xuong St. was established in 1991. The school provides street children with FREE education, medical monitoring and a provision of food for over 300 children between the ages of five to fifteen and from preparatory class to grade 5. There are 6 different classes and evening classes that are taught six nights each week. Once the children graduate from grade 5, they can be integrated into main stream education.

THE RESIDENTIAL BOYS SHELTER
District 10 - Ho Chi Minh City

Commonly known by the children as the Sunshine Nest, the shelter was opened on 26 October 1994. This shelter provides a sanctuary of safety, good nutritional meals, clean clothing and emergency accommodation for twenty boys from a few years of age up to sixteen. The children also receive education, vocational training and after discussion, they are placed into apprenticeship courses to teach them a skill, thus preparing them for the future. Without the loss of their independence and pride, children are encouraged to drop in for comfort and advice. It also provides street and poor children with the opportunity to grow, develop and be educated like other children. The shelter can accommodate up to 20 children and 12 day care children who are in need of a safe home and who are willing to help themselves toward a better future. While living at the shelter, the children have the chance to be educated, to learn about personal hygiene and responsibility, and to prepare to reintegrate themselves as productive members of society.

Efforts are made to identify and locate the child's family and whenever it is possible, reunite the child with their family once their concerns or differences have been resolved.

Working with the same philosophy and objectives, the Foundation is supporting a center for street children in Dong Anh, Hanoi. Up to 94 street children are benefiting from this assistance. They also receive education, vocational training and job placement once they finish their apprenticeship.

THE RESIDENTIAL GIRLS SHELTER
Phu Nhuan District-Ho Chi Minh City

Due to the urgent need to set up a shelter for girls, The Christina Noble Children's Foundation in cooperation with the Women's Union of Ho Chi Minh City implemented the operation of a girl's shelter on February 20th 1998. The Girls Shelter was established to provide a safe haven for young girls at risk. All of the girls prior to living at the shelter were homeless, some had literally lost their parents, whilst others were abandoned at birth. A majority of the girls had never attended school and the average income per child was approximately \$18 USD per month. This income was earned by selling Lottery tickets, chewing gum or cigarettes.

With a capacity for 20 girls, the shelter is now providing meals, clothing, education, vocational training (sewing skills) and most importantly, security and a caring environment. There are five full time staff residing at the shelter, who work very closely with the girls, sharing their daily chores and to help them overcome the experiences they have endured and to assist in reinstalling the love, respect and dignity they deserve.

The girls are also encouraged to participate in various social events, such as theatre, play and sports. There are currently eight girls enrolled in our tennis project, which is implemented once a week and coached by 2 foreign ex-professional tennis players. There are also 12 girls participating in the Sunshine Music Choir. All of the girls are thoroughly enjoying their newfound activities and are beginning to lead a normal life, and enjoy the challenge of play, as all children should.

JOB PLACEMENT PROGRAM

In more recent years, the Foundation has procured employment for some of the children that have participated in the Foundation's program.

The job placement program provides former street children who have grown up with the opportunity to obtain steady employment for their future. To date, the various employers are very happy and satisfied with the performance of the employees recommended by the Foundation.

The following list represents some of the companies who have assisted with this project: Saigon Prince Hotel, Rydian Saigon, Price Waterhouse, British Gas, Pfizer's, Lucy Wayne & Associates, Theiss and Leightons. We hope that many more local and multi-national firms will consider our applicants for full-time or part-time vacancies that may arise in their firms.

If you are able and would like to assist us with this program please contact CNCF office in Vietnam if a suitable position is available in your company. Thank you.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO STREET AND POOR CHILDREN

Determined on a case-by-case basis, the Foundation supports children who are in desperate need of medical assistance. The activities range from helping the child pay for an emergency, life-saving operation, to corrective surgeries which enable the child to eventually lead a normal life.

Thanks to the generous support and assistance from the Stichting Medische Hulp Voo Kinderen (Medical Care for Children's Foundation) in Holland, CNCF has successfully sent children to Holland to receive medical treatment. With our two organizations working together, we continue to assess and send children for medical care to Holland that they could not acquire in Vietnam.

RED CROSS PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC *Phu Nhuan District, Ho Chi Minh City*

The Christina Noble Children's Foundation began funding the Red Cross Physiotherapy Clinic in Phu Nhuan District of Ho Chi Minh City in December 1996.

The clinic assists children with physical disabilities and the elderly that have had strokes or who are physically challenged. It provides treatment with physiotherapy and acupuncture techniques and is staffed by a team of two doctors, one acupuncturist, and two nurses and two physiotherapists.

With funding from the Christina Noble Children's Foundation, medical care, medicine and therapy is given free of charge. CNCF has also provided the funding for special equipment required for rehabilitation and muscular building. The clinic is currently providing care for an average of 1,500 outpatients each month. CNCF will continue this project and provide funding for salaries, equipment and medicine.

THE SUNSHINE MUSIC CLUB

"ONCE YOU FEED A CHILDS STOMACH YOU THEN NEED TO FEED THEIR SPIRIT"
Christina Noble

The Sunshine Music Club was set up in May 1997. Giving children access to music lessons, for those who are dedicated, CNCF is actually providing vocational training for their future. Theory & reading are taught as well as instrumental lessons in keyboard, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, drums and a variety of percussion. The Sunshine Music Choir has become very well known in Saigon, with an impressive list of venues to their name. They have performed at The Saigon Trade Center,

The Saigon Business Center, Art Exhibitions, Black Tie events, Christmas Balls, Children's Party's and private functions and exclusive Hotels in HCM City.

The Music Club is a positive way of bringing to the attention of all people and especially the children involved that a street child has the same ability, dreams and enthusiasm to achieve as all other children of the world.

THE SUNSHINE SPORTS CLUB

The foundation aims to create environments for the children so that they are able to express themselves physically and socially. As a result of this, the Sports Club was established in July 1998. The foundation now boasts 5 football teams, 30 children playing tennis, 40 children attending gymnastic classes and a Table Tennis program for physically impaired children, which is currently being implemented. The kindness of local sports companies and professionals has enabled the foundation to provide a great standard of coaching with the use of high quality equipment. By keeping to the philosophy of maximizing the potential of each child, yet prioritizing each sports session with fun, teamwork and cooperation we have witnessed a great progress in the children's health, fitness and most importantly their confidence and social skills. The Foundation provides all drinking water and vitamin supplements and educates the children on the importance of nutrition and exercise throughout the program. Whenever possible, the Foundation also provides outings to local tournaments and competitions giving the children the opportunity to witness a focus in any activity.

EXCURSIONS

The Christina Noble Children's Foundation is committed to providing shelter, food and medical care for our children as the main priority.

However, the foundation believes in the importance of excursions for the children to enhance their quality of life by gaining life experiences that other more fortunate children are able to have. Excursions provide many benefits such as social skills, awareness of local issues, conservation and the environment. These excursions are to places such as Vung Tau Beach, which is especially beneficial to Blind children and physically and mentally disabled children. Excursions also include Roller-skating, Bowling, Music Theatres, Parks, Sporting Tournaments and Ice-Cream Parlors. These excursions allow the children to be children, albeit momentarily, by allowing them to forget the responsibilities that they are faced with in their daily lives.

EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE **Hamlet 9th Gia Canh Village, Dinh Quan, Dong Nai Province**

Hamlet 9 of Gia Canh village is located in a remote area approximately 18km from the center of Dinh Quan City and three hours drive from Ho Chi Minh City. The landscape of this region was traditionally dense forest but in recent years the community has transformed the land into banana plantations and grazing areas for small farm breeding. The terrain is very harsh and there is little infrastructure. The roads are dirt tracks and are in very poor condition, thus making transportation between villages very difficult, especially during the rainy season when many of the roads are flooded. The housing and living areas of the community are mainly made of wooden walls and thatched roofs. The majority of the people live by agricultural means within 60 hectares of land and the average income per worker is 40,000 - 60,000 Vietnamese Dong, which is the equivalent of \$5 USD each month. The Foundation was made aware of the plight of this community in 1995 and immediately commenced an investigative study on the most urgent requirements needed to support these families. Since this time, the

Foundation has successfully funded and supported the following four projects in Hamlet 9th of Gia Canh Village:

- a) Construction & Equipping of Six Classrooms*
- b) The Construction & Development of Three Water Wells*
- c) Construction & Development of a First Aid Medical Station*
- d) Water system and electricity installation at Thanh Tung School.*

The Construction & Equipping of Classrooms

The Foundation first funded the construction of two classrooms for a school. There previously were not enough education facilities in the area and the teachers were unable to cope with the growing number of children requiring education from the 9th Hamlet. In 1996, the Foundation completed the construction of two classrooms, which were fully equipped and furnished to cater for children in the area. Since this time a further four classrooms have been built. These classrooms are now providing free education in a safe, secure and comfortable environment for over 500 elementary students who could not previously attend school or had to travel long distances due to the lack of educational facilities.

Many of the children's parents have also become involved by taking responsibility for their child's welfare and education, thus becoming aware of the importance of ensuring their children receive an education and regularly attend school.

The Construction & Development of Three Water Wells

The objective of this project was to provide clean water for the people of Gia Canh Village through building three water wells, which would enable fresh water to be pumped up to the surface for consumption. Through research carried out by the local government of Gia Canh, it had been established that the geological make-up below the soils was hard and rocky; therefore to reach the underground water source, it was necessary to drill to a depth of 60 meters. Once the water-source had been tapped, pipes were then laid. With the support of the Foundation, the entire community of Gia Canh are now able to cook their food, ensure personal hygiene, consume and irrigate their crops with clean water. The project has helped to reduce illness and disease that had been causing so much suffering to the local populace.

Construction & Development of a First Aid Medical Station

There was no facility for medical care in the Hamlet. The local community had to make the arduous journey into the town of Dinh Quan (18km away) for any medical assistance and all emergency treatments. The hygienic conditions were poor in Hamlet 9th leaving the community susceptible to malaria and many other contaminating diseases. The Foundation has built and equipped a First Aid Medical Station, as well as provided a generator for an electric water pump. The Station was officially opened in August 1997 and is now fully operational. The main illnesses currently being treated at the Medical Station are Malaria, Diarrhea, Cholera, Gastrointestinal infection and Dysentery. It also serves the mothers of Gia Canh village both in delivery and post-natal follow-up.

Many of the families and poor people of the Hamlet and surrounding areas are now closely involved in the project. Regular contact and visits to the Medical Station have commenced and the staff, which consists of one doctor and one nurse, are helping the community to monitor their sicknesses and educate them in the importance of personal sanitation, health and hygiene.

Water system and electricity installation at Thanh Tung School

The rainy season proved to be unusually dry in Vietnam in 1998, with vast areas of farm & agricultural land being affected, and in some cases destroyed due to the lack of irrigation & water supply. The water well which is located within close proximity to the school is controlled by a manual pump. Due to the low water levels, which are a direct result of the low rainfall, the manual pumps are no longer able to pump sufficient quantities of water from the floor of the well. It has been established that the geological structure below the soil is hard and rocky, which is a contributing factor to the inefficiency of the manual pump.

In June 1999, the Foundation installed a generator and electric pump, capable of pumping fresh water from the existing well to the surface, and then stored in a water tank. At the same time the Foundation built a new lavatory for the school.

Due to the close proximity of the water well to the school, the generator is also utilised for providing electricity to the children's classrooms.

SCHOOL BUILDING IN TAM PHUOC, Long Thanh District, Dong Nai Province

There has been a tremendous increase in the Vietnamese population over the last 20 years, almost doubling from 45 million to 75 million. As a result of this, many of the schools in the little villages have become too small and cannot admit all children in the area. In general, classroom conditions have deteriorated because there has been no money for refurbishment. The villages themselves cannot afford the costs and the government is not able to give money for schools or kindergartens. The Hamlet Tam Phuoc is situated about 40-km northeast of Ho Chi Minh City. With the help of a German organization "Children", the Gemini Foundation and Mr. Mark Knight, The Christina Noble Children's Foundation has built 5 new classrooms for the children of this village.

CA MAU CENTER FOR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE, Ca Mau Province

Ca Mau Center for Social Assistance is situated in the most southern province of Minh Hai. The center is financially supported and operated under the jurisdiction of Ca Mau SELISA which is the Service of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs. Unfortunately, funding and budgets from SELISA are very limited, as the region is extremely poor.

In September 1997, the Foundation commenced funding this project to alleviate some of the financial burdens of the orphanage directors, and most importantly to enhance the lives of the children living there. The Foundation's support includes: extra food allowances, medical care, clothing and school supplies for each child and salary to the staff. CNCF has also encouraged the orphanage directors to use some of this money towards extra curriculum activities for the children (i.e. sports, trips to the seaside and social events).

The funding for this program has been set up through the CNCF sponsorship program, through which people living in the United Kingdom have been agreed to sponsor a child living at the orphanage. Some of the children have special needs during the time that the older children are attending local schools. The center's staff are very supportive to the children and care for them a great deal.

THE CONSTRUCTION & EQUIPPING OF CLASSROOMS U Minh District, Ca Mau Province

U Minh District is a remote area of Ca Mau province, situated in the region of the U Minh jungle. Unfortunately this area of Vietnam endures more than its fair share of natural disasters. Following the devastation of typhoon Linda in November 1998, the poorly built existing classrooms were demolished. Due to the limitation of the areas resources, the contributions of the population to build a new school were very poor and the local government could only afford to build a temporary school with wood and leaves, ensuring at least the continuity of the children's education. When this was brought to the foundations attention there was no hesitation in deciding to help the community and in April 1999 and with the financial assistance of The Gemini Foundation two strongly built classrooms, which will endure future typhoons etc, were opened.

KINDERGARTEN

Sar Sang Village, Bao Lam, Lam Dong Province

Bao Lam is a newly formed district in Bao Loc, 4 hours of drive from Ho Chi Minh City (200kms). This is a very poor district mostly populated by ethnic minorities (Ma, K'Ho) and others who have recently emigrated from the north. The main source of industry in this area is generated through the production of tealeaves and coffee beans, the average income per capita is 80,000VND per month (around \$5.70USD). On a project visit site to officially open water wells constructed by the foundation, discussions with the parents revealed that all pre-school children were accompanying their parents into the fields. The alternative was to leave the children at home unattended and unsupervised, which all were not prepared to do because of the safety risks. It was also clear that due to the ages of the children, many parents productivity in the fields was being hampered because of the care and attention that is required for children so young. It was very apparent to the foundation that the community and especially the children desperately needed a kindergarten/crèche facility.

On the 30th April 1999 the foundation officially opened a kindergarten for the children of Sar Sang Village.

DONG ANH SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER, Hanoi

This shelter is situated near Hanoi and provides living quarters for up to 94 street children; the facility is open to both boys and girls. The project activities include: nurturing, health promotion, education, vocational training, job creation and job placements for disadvantaged children and street children including the sexually exploited. The Center is also used to carry out social workers training for all provinces in Vietnam. To date, the Center has trained children for the following employment opportunities: sewing, motorcycle repair, domestic electricity, and carpentry, welding techniques and embroidery. Most of these children are now working.

EQUIPPING SHELTER FOR STREET CHILDREN Dong Thap Province

The Committee of Protection and Care of Children (CPCC) and the Youth Association of Dong Thap province constructed a shelter to help street children currently living on the streets in that particular area. The funds were contributed by workers and public servants of the province however they were lacking the funds to equip the shelter with the necessary facilities to accommodate the children and their needs. The above organisations approached the foundation in the hope that we would help. In April 99 the foundation gave the necessary funds for the shelter to be completed and to start the admission of children.

The shelter provides a safe environment, an education, vocational training and the reunification with the children's families whenever possible.

CENTER FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN Tay Ninh Province

Tay Ninh was once considered a politically sensitive area due to its location of close proximity with the Cambodian border. It came to the attention of the Foundation as a particular needy area where social problems are compounded by malnutrition, inadequate facilities for a startling number of visually impaired children and a lack of educational opportunities and health care facilities. No other NGO is undertaking work in providing facilities for the visually impaired in this area nor is planning to do so (according to our research).

Construction of five residential homes within a compound purpose-built to meet the needs of 50 visually impaired street children was completed in November 1999. Undertaken in cooperation with UNESCO, this Boarding and Educational Center will provide a long-term sanctuary of safety, periodical monitoring of health, educational and vocational training.

REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM FOR HON DAT DISTRICT, *Kien Giang Province*

This project is a social assistance program, which provides poor families in remote hamlets with very low interest loans to start up their micro-enterprises. Each family receives an average of \$150 USD to initiate their micro-enterprise, which will then enable them to escape the poverty/starvation cycle. An interest rate of 7.2% per annum (in comparison to 12% per annum standard loan rate in Vietnam), is applied to help cover the service charges of the Women's Union Committee of the district, which helps monitor the progress of the program and which is responsible for recovering the fund at the end of the loan year. This province is in the tropical Mekong Delta, about 300 km from Saigon (a 10-hour drive). It is a tropical area in the Mekong Delta and the majority of employment is generated through the growing of rice. We feel that this project is one of the most effective means to help the families escape poverty and starvation. The loan enables these poor families to develop their own micro-enterprises such as rice farming, live stock breeding and farming or vegetable planting, which

currently does not exist in the area. Once the loan is returned, the fund can be used to help other needy families in the region. With this particular project, the aim of the Foundation is to provide and generate an interest by the local community to stay and work on the land and generate their own incomes, thus hopefully reducing the huge number of people from the region going to the commercial cities to find work, and who usually end up living on the street.

FRESH WATER SUPPLIES TO DESTITUTE COMMUNITIES

Kien Giang Province

Kien Giang is situated in the South West of Vietnam, connected to Cambodia on it's northern border and to the Gulf of Thailand to it's West side. The major part of the land has absorbed alum and salt water from the sea as well as existing contamination of Agent Orange left over from the war, bringing with it a shortage of fresh water for the communities and especially the poor of this province.

The foundation is presently constructing 34 fresh water wells in the province, providing clean water to 3,400 people, mainly from the Khmer ethnic group who are a deprived community. Prior to the foundations intervention, these communities were using contaminated water from the canals for their daily living, with a very high percentage of people suffering from all kinds of diseases, especially women (frequent contact with water, cooking, laundry...) and children (weaker immunity system).

WATER WELLS

Lam Dong Province

This project was implemented for the children of a kindergarten in Loc Thang Village (one well), for the children of another kindergarten and also for one primary school in Loc Ngai Village (one well), Bao Lam district, Lam Dong Province. The objective of this project was to provide clean and hygienic water for 1020 children, as well as the remaining community of this district. As a result of this project being undertaken, the percentage of illness and diseases have significantly dropped. This had previously caused much suffering to the local people and their children.

REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM IN LONG THANH DISTRICT

Dong Nai Province

This project was implemented in order to reduce the unemployment rate of long Thanh and to combat the increase of families falling into the poverty trap. An urgent funding requirement needed to be established to help further develop the economics program and enhance the lives of these disadvantaged families and their children and assist in eliminating starvation. Ultimately, through this project, the families will generate a regular income and therefore, be able to provide their children with food, clothing, healthcare and education.

REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

Can Gio District Ho Chi Minh City

Can Gio is one of the five surbaban districts of HCM City, which is divided into 7 villages. The geographical location of the district has seriously affected business in farming and animal breeding. The increasing absorption of salt water in to the land from the sea has limited the harvest to only once a year. The districts Peoples Committee is establishing new directions to alter the agricultural structure in order to enable poverty stricken families to develop their farming work and become self sufficient. One of the new directions is to change the cultivation of rice farming (presently only one harvest a year) to breeding prawns.

The purpose of this project is for the families to obtain loans to develop the production and transform the farming structure of the community. Once the loan is paid back the funds are returned into the community to continue helping other families achieve the same objectives.

REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

District 2 & Cu Chi Ho Chi Minh City

Foundation staff undertook research as the preliminary start-up phase to this program. What was encountered was a serious level of poverty and deprivation in these two districts. The objective of the program is to assist in the alleviation of poverty and eradication of starvation amongst these communities. Through the achievement of this goal, we can contribute to helping these people become independent, self sufficient and most importantly regain their pride and dignity, through reintegration as productive members of society. With the income generated from the loan the beneficiaries will be able to purchase the necessary tools and materials needed to enhance existing small business or an enterprise of their choice. The increase of income to the parents will allow them to contribute to the nutrition, education and general welfare of their children creating a positive cycle that their children and grand children will benefit from for many years. Once the loan is paid back the funds are returned into the community to continue helping other families achieve the same objectives.

THE CONSTRUCTION & EQUIPPING OF CLASSROOMS

District 9, Ho Chi Minh City

District 9 is a new district created in 1997. It's infrastructure is still very poorly established in comparison to other districts in HCM City, especially the educational facilities. The need for these particular facilities is urgent and the foundation is ready to proceed with construction as soon as the necessary arrangements have been finalized.

EQUIPPING OF CENTER FOR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

GIA LAI PROVINCE.

An appeal from the Center for Social Assistance in Pleiku City, (Gia Lai Province) was made, requesting assistance to the Vocational Training Program in equipping the workshop at the center. A visit by a member of staff confirmed the request, and the Foundation provided the assistance in May 1999.

PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION

Further to the construction of the Boarding and Educational Center for the visually impaired, the Foundation is working at equipping the Center for operation.

Due to the shortage of water in Bao Lam District (Lam Dong Province), the Foundation is planning to provide a well and a water system for the kindergarten of Sar Sang Village.

Building more classrooms in destitute areas of Ho Chi Minh City.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

The following list is a brief summary of gifts in kind that we received and distributed:

COMPUTER BOOKS AND SOFTWARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology and English Language Club.
SEEDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Institute of Agricultural Science, the Ockenden Venture in Ho Chi Minh City and to 34 other areas.
EDUCATIONAL AND MUSICAL EQUIPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nguyen Dinh Chieu Blind School and The Bung Sang Blind School in HCM City.
TELEVISION, RADIO CASSETTE, SPORT EQUIPMENT AND WHEELCHAIRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School for the Physically and Mentally Challenged children of Ben Tre province.
TELEVISIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation Center of HCM City for the in-patient's entertainment. • Social & Medical Center
FOOD AND CLOTHING ASSISTANCE TO POOR CHILDREN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCM City and remote villages in different provinces.
TWO BICYCLES DONATED MONTHLY BY THE SAIGON PRINCE HOTEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given to local street children or the Sunshine school students
PAINT DONATED BY I.C.I.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given to the Medical Center and some local hospital for repairs
Wheelchairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given to physically disabled children
CHRISTMAS TOYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used for Christmas presents for the children at the Sunshine School and children residing at the Medical Center
RICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The free canteen of Pediatric Hospital #1 • Long Hoa Shelter • The Center for Handicapped children of District 4 • The Nourishing Center for Children of Go Vap district • Dieu Giac Pagoda's Shelter • Da Thien Center for Orphans and Handicapped children
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND MEDICINE SUPPLIES FROM ABROAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tu Du Women hospital • The Cancer Institute of Ho Chi Minh city • Binh Dan hospital • Medical Station of Binh Hung, Binh Chanh • Pediatric 1 hospital • Dien Bien Phu hospital • Center for Orthopedics and Traumatology of HCM city • An Binh Hospital

CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The CNCF sponsorship program was established in 1996. This program assists and encourages young street children to gain an education and continue in the mainstream of study as most of these children are at high risk of leaving school. With the extreme poverty most live in, this program financially supports both the child and the family.

* WHAT IS A SPONSOR?

A sponsor is an individual who gives life and hope to a needy child. For just \$24USD each month, a sponsor can provide the opportunity for an education, proper health care or vocational training to a specific child in Vietnam. The Christina Noble Children's Foundation provides the biography and photograph of the sponsored child to the sponsor as well as 2 progress reports a year.

* WHAT DOES SPONSORSHIP PAY FOR AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

Each child in the sponsorship program receives the basic necessities of an appropriate education, primary health care or vocational training - something we consider to be a basic right, but which is only a dream for many in Vietnam. The activities are done within the context of the child being part of a family and a community. As such, the needs of each individual child and family are different and there is not a set 'package of benefits' for all. A Sunshine school child that works on the streets part of the day needs a special alternative education program to allow for the needed work as well as education and health care. Older children need meaningful vocational training, health care or job placement assistance. All of this is done; however, recognizing the child is part of a family and a community to achieve the best results for the child.

*

HOW LONG DOES THE SPONSORSHIP LAST?

For as long as the child remains in the Foundation program of care or until the sponsor wishes to withdraw. Children may progress from the Sunshine school or regular primary school to a higher school or vocational training over a period of years. When an older child completes training and is able to become self-supporting or a child leaves the program for some other reason, the sponsor is offered another child to assist.

* WHAT ABOUT VIETNAMESE NAMES?

In Vietnam, it is customary for the family name to come first, followed by a middle name, which usually indicates the sex of the person, followed by a personal name. For example, a girl may be called Tran Thi Hoa, and her brother Tran Van Minh. Tran is the family name. It is also customary in Vietnam not to use the family name formally, so the girl would be Ms. Hoa, and the boy would be Mr. Minh. Some Vietnamese families/children may adopt a western name.

* HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

If you are interested in sponsoring a child or would like more information about this project, please contact the office here in Vietnam or refer to the local contacts on our Global Network of Foundations. It is best to contact the local or regional CNCF office to save local and Vietnam bank charges.



CHRISTINA NOBLE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

The Christina Noble Children's Social & Medical Center

P. O. Box 386, Saigon Post Office Center, Ho Chi Minh City,

Phone / Fax : 84-8-822 2276 – Phone: 84-8-820 3484

Email : <vietnam@cncf.org> -or- <cncfsponsorvn@hcm.vnn.vn>

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Yes, I want to become a Christina Noble Children's Foundation CHILDCARE sponsor. I understand that I will receive a photograph and the biography of my sponsored child and a semi-annual progress report.

First Name:

Surname:

Home Address:

Phone No:

Fax No:

E Mail:

My first payment will be from : 1st/...../.....

I would like to pay:

-Monthly ☐ \$ 24 USD (local transfer only) -Half-yearly ☐ \$144 USD

-Quarterly ☐ \$ 72 USD (local transfer only) -Annually ☐ \$288 USD

(a) Cheque or Money Order : Please make cheque and / or Money Order payable to :
Christina Noble Children's Foundation.

***See the attached Global Network addresses of Foundation's Worldwide. Please send this form and amount due to our office in your specific country of residence or the nearest one.

Note : We cannot accept cheques/money orders in Vietnam from abroad due to high transaction/service charges levied by the banks

TelexTransfer : Bank: Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
direct to Bank's address: 75 Pham Hong Thai Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
Vietnam Account No. 001-018548-022
Account Name: the Christina Noble Children's Foundation

Note: it is very important that you instruct your bank to display your name and purpose of the transfer.

Signature:

Date:

GLOBAL NETWORK

AUSTRALIA

P.O. Box 9131
Scoresby Vic. 3179
Tel. No: 61 3 9509 2315
Fax No: 61 3 9509 2315
Email: coh127@aol.com.au
Bank account details:
Account No. 062000 10706062
Commonwealth Bank

FRANCE

Association Christina Noble
83 boulevard de la Republique 92100
Boulogne
Tel. No: 33 1 4608 1847
Fax No: 33 1 4233 4498
Email: acnf@club-internet.fr
Bank account details:
Banque Credit Lyonnais
55, avenue des Champs Elysees
75008 PARIS
Account No: 448 369 B

HONG KONG

House No.2
3 Consort Rise
Pok Fu Lam, Hong Kong.
Tel. No : 852 2817 8646
Fax No : 852 2818 6124
Email: smythdd@hkstar.com

New Zealand

c/o Green & McCahill
374 Church street, Penrose, Auckland
Tel. No 64 9 579 5005
Fax No 64 9 579 2783
Email: erin@gmltd.co.nz

VIETNAM

Mailing Address : PO Box 386 Saigon
Post Office Center
Ho Chi Minh City

BELGIUM

De Villegasstraat 28
2600 Berchem / Antwerpen
Tel. No: 32 3 218 5709
Fax No: 32 2 761 0041
Email: cd00440@online.be
Bank account details:
KBC BANK
Account No: 427.2070609.04

GERMANY

c/o Mossbauer GmbH Weissenburger
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IRELAND

44 Grafton street,
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Tel/Fax No: 353 1 671 5729 Email:
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Bank account details:
Allied Irish Bank
Grafton Street, Dublin 2.
Account number 41516084
Sort Code 93 12 33

SWITZERLAND

P.O. Box 8021
Tel. No: 41 1 735 2166
Fax No: 41 1 483 0461
E-mail: beat@boesigerworld.ch

VIETNAM

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: 84-8 822 2276 Email:
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mamatina@hcm.vnn.vn

ENGLAND

Ground Floor, 10 Semley Place,
Belgravia, London SW1W 9QJ
Tel. No: 44 171 233 1413
Fax No: 44 171 233 1424
Email: cnoblecf@aol.com
Bank account details:
Account No: 03722090
Sort Code: 60-24-20
Natwest Bank

HOLLAND

Weteringstraat 27
1017 SL Amsterdam
Tel. No: 31 20 6276577
Fax No: 31 20 4222731
Email: jpmruijs@euronet.nl
Bank account details:
Account No: 449, Postbank (member of
ING Group)

MONGOLIA

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 74, Post
Office 48, Ulaanbaatar
Tel/Fax 976 1 325060
Tel. 976-1-325945 or 327446 Email:
mongolia@cncf.org
Bank account details:
Account No: 212 83 486
Trade and Development Bank of
Mongolia, Ulaan Bataar.

U.S.A.

To be advised

VIETNAM

Bank account details:
Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking
Corporation
75 Pham Hong Thai Street, District 1,
Ho Chi Minh City.
Account No. 001-018548-021

INTERNET HOMEPAGE ADDRESS: <http://www.cncf.org>