



# LOTUS CHILDREN'S CENTRE

## AUGUST REPORT, 2012

This report documents the activities that have happened in the above stated month at the Lotus Children's Centre, Mongolia. Activities such as outings, events, annual events, celebrations and the development of the organisation.

**A.Butler**  
**31/08/2012**



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# SUMMARY

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The Lotus Children's Centre (LCC) is a Mongolian non-profit, non-governmental organization working with vulnerable children and families to provide the basic human rights of shelter, food and education. We care for up to 100 abused, orphaned and abandoned children in Ulaanbaatar and Erdenet.

Lotus has developed a kindergarten and a primary school to provide educational foundation and is developing vocational pathways for employment opportunities. LCC has recently opened a new orphanage centre with living accommodation, school and there are plans to develop the centre including a recreational building, gardens and vocational training facilities.

LCC receives little financial support from the Mongolian authorities so the organisation remains entirely dependent on the generosity of donors.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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As of January 2012 LCC has three operating orphanage centres:

- Gachuurt – a new centre which accommodates 65 children around 20km from the centre of Ulaanbaatar.
- Bayanzurkh House – The old kindergarten is now where the Special Needs children and some older boys reside. This centre is due to be closed at the end of 2012
- Erdenet – an apartment in Mongolia's second largest city. This is where 7-10 older boys live and go to school.

There are also several business which are run by, and support the LCC.

- The Lotus Guesthouse – a “home away from home” for tourists and volunteers, the guesthouse opened in 2009 and employs 5 girls from LCC, 3 ex-Lotus girls and 2 teenagers, and over the summer a further 2 or 3 will work here for experience. The manager is also an ex-Lotus girl, and as well as supporting LCC financially, it also offers work experience and training to Lotus children over the summer months.
- Khutul Café – A café run by old Lotus Residents, it provides a relaxed atmosphere to have a quiet coffee and enjoy traditional Mongolian food with a vegetarian twist. The cafe also acts as a community centre for local residents.

Other locations which are linked to LCC include:

- Yarmag – the original location of the orphanage centre and school. Here, a number of ‘yards’ and four houses are situated where old residents of LCC reside. The school building and residential buildings are currently not in use, except for storage.
- Farm – A small-holding supervised by an old Lotus resident
- Special Needs Apartment – Lotus has purchased a new apartment in Ulaanbaatar for the special needs children. They will move in September



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## DEPENDANTS/LOTUS RESIDENTS

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Age (2012)	Number
0-2	0
3-6 (kindergarten)	5
7-12 (primary school)	36
13-17 (secondary school)	35
18 and above	12
	Total = 87

Two new children arrived in August. One girl, aged 14, and one boy, aged 14.

### School Attendance:

Name of School	Location	Specialization	Nº of Children
Lotus Primary	Gachuurt	Primary	37
Gete German School	UB	German	3
Solongo (Rainbow) School	Bayanzurkh District	Disabilities/Special Needs	5
Altan Zam Chinese School	UB	Chinese	2
Ikh Zasag School	UB		1
Number 5 School	UB		1
Number 34 School	UB		1
Number 55 School	UB		4
Number 85 School	UB		10
Margad School	Erdenet		6

### Summer Locations:

Where	Location	For	Nº of Children
Summer Camp	Gachuurt	Holiday	58
Summer Camp	Ar Khondlon	Holiday	8
Guesthouse	Ulaanbaatar	Work experience	8
Bayanzurkh House	Ulaanbaatar	Work	6
Various	Various	With family	5

## STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

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Role	Nº of staff	Nº Staff Needed
Director	1	
Centre Manager	1	
Centre Evening Manager	0	1
Housemother	4	6
Summer Camp Manager	1	
Social Worker	3	
Doctor	1	
Cook	1	1
Maintenance	1	
Guard	1	
Fire attendant	3	
Translator (part-time)	1	
Teacher	5	2

Driver	1	
Accountant	0	1
Administrator (part-time)	1	

<b>Volunteer Role</b>	<b>Nº of vols.</b>	<b>Nº Needed</b>
Admin/comms	1	
Transition social worker	1	
Special Needs social worker	1	
Translation (part-time)		2
Social Work Trainer		1
Business Manager/Advisor		1
Nutritionist (part-time)		1

## VACANCIES

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### **LCC is actively looking for the following**

Full time paid positions: Housemother, evening manager, accountant, administrator

Part-time paid positions: cook, music teacher, sports teacher

Long term voluntary positions: A trainer for Housemothers and Social workers, Business Manager/advisor for guesthouse and community centre/cafe



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# ACTIVITIES UPDATE

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## Summer Camp

A bit of wet weather has made getting to camp difficult this month but with dedicated volunteers such as Australian social worker, Colin Holmes, student Hayley Wilson and engineer Veronika Stihler, many activities were planned and much fun had! Camp finished with a bang, as we held a closing party to mark the end of summer and a birthday party for all the children who had summer birthdays. The children enjoyed cake and activities on a beautiful sunny afternoon.



## Mongol Rally

This year the infamous Mongol Rally is supporting the Lotus Children's Centre. Many daring teams have arrived in Ulaanbaatar this month and have been eager to meet the Lotus children.



Trips to the children's summer camp were arranged and both ralliers and children enjoyed fun afternoons. Some of the children also performed at the Mongol Rally finish line and amazed the ralliers with their talented dance and song performances.

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## **Education and Development**

One of the social workers has been working with the older boys on their development, goals and wishes. As they are now nearing the time when they have to make some very important decisions it is crucial that they are armed with all the knowledge that they need.

The Lotus Primary School is in for a treat this year with the arrival of two new volunteer teachers. Fritz and Stanny from the Netherlands arrived this month and will be teaching English and Drama in the Primary School.

## **Construction Projects**

Over the summer construction projects are often planned to help the orphanage expand and grow. This year LCC was helped by many volunteers to make a vegetable garden plot for the children and a pebble mosaic for the Primary School. Volunteers also helped fix-up and make safe the outdoor areas of the orphanage including covering man-holes with child-safe wooden seats and mending stairs.

Special thanks to the World Challenge teams, Matt Zacarino and David Peake for starting the projects, and to Sue Tomkinson, Sophie, Manon, Caroline and Claire, and to Julian and Natacha.



## **Transition**

Development Solutions training now arranged to take place in September

## **Special Needs Project**

A new project 'Special Needs Sustainable Livelihoods' is now underway. A brand new apartment has been purchased just for the Lotus Special Needs children. We are now looking for funds to furnish it suitably and are searching for good staff.

## **Sad News**

Unfortunately the hard life that many of the Lotus children have lived haunts them still. Three of the older boys in the care of Lotus have been accused of theft and are attending a court hearing.

One of the Lotus Special Needs children has been in hospital this month after a fall from a second storey window broke her leg. She is now recuperating in Bayanzurkh House.

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# FUTURE

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## FUTURE PLANS

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New project for the special needs children: the Special Needs Sustainable Livelihoods Project. This involve moving the special needs children into more suitable accommodation and providing them with monitored support to help them grow into more independent individuals.

Baking Training – Next month a professional chief will come to give baking training to some of the children. The same chief came last year and the training was a great success.

English Lessons – The Primary School children are in for a treat with the start of a new year at school and two new volunteer teachers. Good luck to Fritz and Stanny from the Netherlands!

## NEEDS AUGUST 2012

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Further landscaping and gardening advice for new centre in Gachuurt

Playground Equipment

University fees for students who will be starting in September

Internet at new centre in Gachuurt

Funding for “Development Solutions” transition training program

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# THANK YOU'S

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## VOLUNTEERS

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Ellie Sansom  
Hayely Wilson  
Colin Holmes  
Lisa Edwards  
Faith Hill  
Veronika Stihler  
Jean-Luc  
Cleona Luc  
Ania and Kate  
Julian and Natacha  
Sophie, Caroline, Manon and Claire

## DONORS

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Rolf Leiber  
Ian Neale  
Wahroonga Rotary Club  
Bayanzurkh 100 Rotary Club  
ANT Foundation

## FRIENDS

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4 Op Reis and Floortj Dressing  
Lotus Children's Charitable Trust, UK  
AMURT Italy  
AMURT America  
Alliance4Kids  
Children's Health and Education Fund  
The Adventurists and all the Mongol Rally participants  
Lizzards Pre-School

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AND ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED US THIS MONTH

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