# Volunteer - help us with your time and talents

Volunteering is a wonderful way to give something back and to really make a difference. The rewards can be endless for all involved. Feedback from our past volunteers tells us that living and working in Mongolia is a deeply rewarding experience. Mongolia is a beautiful country with a proud and interesting culture and everyone that comes here is sure to remember the experience fondly for many years.

Lotus asks for many types of volunteers: skilled professional, long-term volunteers, short-term volunteers and summer camp volunteers. We treasure the time that volunteers give to us. Over the years we have had volunteers who have come back time and again and have formed close relationships with the children.

If you are interested in volunteering at Lotus Children's Centre, please contact us for an information pack and an application form.



The Lotus Children's Centre was founded in 1993 by Didi Kalika, an Australian yoga teacher.

Didi was moved by the plight of street children living in and around Ulaanbaatar city. She started by taking children in to give them a hot meal or to use her shower. Lotus grew from there and in 1995 was registered as a Mongolian charity.



"The Lotus Children are truly amazing; so happy and confident. I really enjoyed my time at the camp."

Summer camp volunteer

Contact us on (+976) 99 132 100 (+976) 95 600 096 info@lotuschild.org or on the web at www.lotuschild.org

P.O. Box 1018 Central Post Office Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia







Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Lotus Children's Centre Orphanage





Lotus Children's Centre is a Mongolian nonprofit, non-governmental organisation working with vulnerable children and families to provide the basic human rights of shelter, food and education.

### Providing care and education

Initially set up to provide basic needs for just a handful of children, Lotus has now developed a kindergarten and a primary school to provide an educational foundation. Lotus is also developing vocational pathways for employment opportunities such as additional training and work experience in the Lotus Guesthouse.

In 2012, 85 children were in the care of the centre, including many who have special needs or psychological issues. In stark contrast to state run orphanages the Lotus children's centre is run along the lines of a large family unit. Children from the age of 3 to 19 live in family units according to their age. A housemother supervises and runs each house taking care of the children just like a real mother.

## Helping Mongolian street children to find a better life...

Lotus Children's Centre has been helping abandoned and abused children for over 15 year and at one time was caring for up-to 150 children. In the past the centre took in mostly babies, but now many Lotus children are in secondary school and have different needs.

#### Our Locations>>>

The main orphanage centre is located on a brand new site in Gachuurt village, 25km from the centre of Ulaanbaatar. It is in a beautiful location in the mountains with lots of potential for growth. Here we have the Lotus Primary School, housing for 65 children, the dining room and kitchen facilities and the administration facilities. Future plans include building sports facilities and a community centre.

We have a small house in the city where our special needs children live. This is designed especially for them and is more suitable for their needs. It is close to the special school that they attend. We have centre in Erdenet, a city in the north of Mongolia, where some of our older boys live and go to school.

#### Education >>>

Lotus Children's Centre prides itself in providing all children in our care with excellent primary education and the opportunity to continue all the way through university.

Lotus believes passionately that a

complete education is a means of breaking the poverty cycle. Lotus children attend the Lotus Primary School up to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade (around ages 12 and 13). The older children attend a variety of diffwelcomed back for

erent High Schools in Ulaanbaatar and Erdenet depending on their individual

needs and abilities. The children are encouraged and enabled to go on to university or vocational training once they have completed compulsory schooling.

#### Future Lives >>>

All Lotus children go on to make their own lives after leaving. Lotus runs development and

> transition projects that provide both employment and training as the children grow up. Even the Lotus Guest-house is run by an ex-Lotus

child who now has her own family. Some children have gone on to have families while others have focused on their careers. They often come back to visit.



#### How you can help >>>

Our operating funds come from an extensive support base and there are many ways that individuals can help. Some of our friends raise awareness in their communities through dinners, talks and through schools. Our newsletter has information about items that are urgently needed, and financial assistance is always greatly appreciated. Please email us at <u>info@lotuschild.org</u> if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

If you would like to donate or take part in our child sponsorship scheme please contact us using the above email address. Thank you!

#### The Lotus Guesthouse >>>

A home away from home; the Lotus Guesthouse supports the Lotus Children's Centre financially and provides excellent vocational training for the older Lotus children.

It is situated in the centre of Ulaanbaatar surrounded by cultural sites and traditional and vegetarian restaurants. Contact: <u>lotusguest@gmail.com</u> (+976) 11 325 967