



# LOTUS CHILDREN'S CENTRE

## SEPTEMBER 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**  
**12/10/2012**



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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.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

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As of September 2012 LCC has three operating orphanage centres:

- Gachuurt – a new centre which accommodates 65 children around 20km from the centre of Ulaanbaatar.
- Special Needs Apartment – The new apartment in the city where the Special Needs children live. This is managed separately from the rest of the Lotus orphanage and provides a secure home and development opportunities for these children.
- Erdenet – an apartment in Mongolia's second largest city. This is where between 7-10 older boys can 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
- Bayanzurkh House – the old kindergarten building is now being rented out to a community organisation



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## DEPENDANTS/LOTUS RESIDENTS

Age (2012)	Number
0-2	0
3-6 (kindergarten)	5
7-12 (primary school)	35
13-17 (secondary school)	35
18 and above	12
	Total = 86

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

One child returned to his mother at the start of September

### 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	4
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		9
National Ballet School	UB	Dance	1
Sharhad Hospital	UB	Mental Health	1

## STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

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

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<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	
Primary Teacher	2	
Translation (part-time)		2
Social Work Trainer		1
Business Manager/Advisor		1
Nutritionist (part-time)	1	
Guesthouse advisor	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: music teacher, sports teacher

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



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# ACTIVITIES UPDATE

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## New School Year

A new school year has started with many new exciting opportunities for the Lotus Children. The Primary school was opened this year and welcomed its newest pupils, Naranbayar, Tuvshinjargal, Gerelmaa and Dalaijargal. Our youngest resident is now attending a 24 hour kindergarten.



Our new secondary school pupils have also a lot to look forward to this year. One of our most talented children, Enkhzul, is now attending the state ballet school and is training to become a ballet dancer. Some of our new college students are studying hairdressing, accounting, construction and cooking. We wish them the best of luck for their new year in school!

## Mongol Rally

The Mongol Rally is now over but funds are still trickling in from teams all over the world! These funds will enable Lotus to continue running projects that require a lot of financial support while still maintaining high standards in the everyday running of the orphanage. The projects that this money will go towards will include helping to support the Transition Program (buying gers and furniture for Lotus leavers, funding university fees and college fees), supporting the Education programs and Primary school, and ensuring all the lotus children have suitable winter clothes and shoes.

The centre has received many visits and volunteers who participated in the Mongol Rally, including the Fire Fairies team who dedicated a whole week to helping in the kitchen in the new centre in Gachuurt. Thank you Fire Fairies for teaching our hard working cook how to make a new healthy and tasty meal. Thank you to everyone who raised money for Lotus Children's Centre!

## Education and Development

Thinking about the future, Lotus provides vocational training for the children in its care. Lotus was very lucky this month to be visited by professional chef Paul Wilderbeek who held an intense baking training course for the Lotus Children. Some of the tasty treats the children learnt to make included apple pies and cup cakes. The children are now making cakes and pies for everyone! This training is a follow-up to last years baking training, and Lotus hopes to continue this relationship and encourage some of the children to become professional bakers. One of the Lotus children who has graduated is

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now working in a cafe, and another one is attending vocational college for cooking. We hope soon to re-open the Ananda Cafe in Ulaanbaatar where the skills the older children have learnt can be put into practice for their work-experience.



### Transition

Development Solutions job development training took place during one weekend during September for all secondary school children.

### Special Needs Project

A generous donation from a Mongolian company toward the furnishing of the new Special Needs apartment has meant that the children will soon be able to move into their new home. Alexandre Balson, a long-term volunteer Social Worker, is now the Manager of the Special Needs project and is determined to do his best for the children. The new apartment is in a central location, very close to the 'Rainbow' School that the Lotus special needs children attend. With the help of volunteer Benoit Balazoit, the furniture in the apartment has started to go up!



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## Primary School

With the help of our two new Primary School volunteers, Fritz and Stanny, the orphanage centre is getting a new lease of life. A new routine is being worked out for the children including after school activities and extra-curricular activities. Fritz and Stanny have dedicated a year of their lives to the Lotus children, leaving behind their home and jobs in the Netherlands.



## Saying Goodbye

It is always sad when we have to say goodbye, but this time there is much joy in the occasion. The Lotus primary student, Iderbold, has been reunited with his mother. Iderbold is now able to return to a normal family life.



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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.

## NEEDS SEPTEMBER 2012

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Further landscaping and gardening advice for new centre in Gachuurt

Playground Equipment

Internet at new centre in Gachuurt

Special Needs Project – funding for a new apartment home near their school



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# THANK YOU'S

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## VOLUNTEERS

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Fire Fairies  
Benoit Balazoit  
Lisa Daginder  
Beckie Vaughan  
Carmelita, Beckie and Maggie (American School of Ulaanbaatar)

## DONORS

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Rolf Leiber  
Ian Neale  
Wahroonga Rotary Club  
Bayanzurkh 100 Rotary Club  
ANT Foundation  
Mongolian Company  
Garrison Capital

## 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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