



Veloo Foundation Directors' Report 2016





2016 Overview

2016 was a year of great change up at the children of the Peak Sanctuary. From a purely physical perspective, we made great improvement to our facilities by acquiring the lot across the road and then annexing the roadway itself so as to more than double the size of our campus. This allowed us to expand our job creation and vocational training centres along with our parking area. This also resulted in improved safety for the children, as we no longer have a road running past our front gate. We are now, in effect, at the end of a dead end street. In order to accommodate the community's needs we also purchased a strip of adjoining land to build an alternative road for community members so that everyone still has full easy access to their properties. We opened our community library, installed a septic system and retrofitted the kindergarten with flush toilets and running water making it the first public building with modern facilities in our area. In addition, in an effort to beautify our playground and other outdoor areas we planted upwards of 10 trees on our land. Relocation of our storage container and the construction of additional fencing means that we have a safe and secure spot for the children.

Once again the children at the kindergarten benefitted from educational excursions and incursions from well-prepared and interested groups interested in expanding the children's exposure to arts, language, culture, transportation services and nutritional variety. 2016 also saw the official opening of the Soaring Crane summer camp, which in this, its inaugural year served 126 children and provided historical, cultural and experiential learning opportunities for the children – along with some good old-fashioned fun. In addition to the regular activities we celebrated the opening of the summer camp with a local Naadam, which featured over 40 local youths racing their horses. All jockeys (and a few other local children who didn't ride) received a gift of a brand new school backpack full of school supplies as a prize for having participated. For many of these families buying school supplies for their children at the start of each school year represents a significant financial burden and it was most welcome to receive the backpacks and supplies as gifts.

At the Naadam everyone was welcome to participate in the archery and wrestling and some of the other counselors participated and one did, in fact, win.

We once again hosted medical and dental check ups for the children and celebrated festival days, New Year's and Tsagaan Sar with traditional food, dress, songs and dance. In 2016 at the close of our 3rd year of operation, 56 children graduated from our kindergarten and went on to primary school.

Our volunteer programme was strong and vibrant in 2016 and we had regular English language teachers, health nurses, teacher's helpers and playmates for children come up every Friday and other days as they were available. The enrichment that these interactions bring not only to the children but also to the community as a whole cannot be over stated. For children who previously had the sheltered existence with limited stimulation as they were often home alone or up at the rubbish tip scavenging, spending days with toys and learning, friends and food and interactions with a wide variety of people and abilities illustrates the potential that this world has to offer.

Below I have compiled a brief list of some of our highlights for the year. These programs, initiatives, exercises were made possible by the combined talents, efforts and caring of not only our staff and families that we serve but by individuals and companies in Mongolia and around the world. Please see our appendix for a list of donors.



Education

2016 was another year rich in educational opportunities for the children from the community. We are very proud of our staff and volunteers for working so hard to allow us to achieve:

- 132 Children at the Children of the Peak Sanctuary kindergarten
- 5 children on full academic scholarship at a variety of private primary schools including the English School of Mongolia & Ulaanbaatar Primary.
- 1 high school graduate sponsored at culinary school
- Private tuition & educational support for one student from the dump community currently living out of Ulaanbaatar
- 126 children at the Soaring Crane Summer Camp
- Professional university level certification of our Accountant



2016 Infrastructure achievements:

- Septic system installed at Children of the Peak Kindergarten
- Flush toilets and running water
- Brad Winters community library opened
- Construction of Sewing Centre
- Building of Soaring Crane Summer Camp
- MOU signed with the Songino Khairkhan District to construct a second kindergarten to serve the still disenfranchised preschool children in the area.
- Cameras installed inside and outside



Infrastructure

Helping with the integration of our community members into the greater urban setting means giving them the tools to be able to function in an urban environment.



Community Outreach & Relief

Until our community members have found ways to meet their basic needs it is unlikely that their participation in programmes designed to improve their employment, education and health opportunities will be as effective as they should. To that end we offer a number of initiatives design to provide immediate and direct assistance to those most in need to alleviate their suffering. Thanks to wonderful community , individual and corporate donors we have been able to assist our community to move forward in the following ways:

- Importing and distribution of approx. 300 wheelchairs, medical lifts, commode chairs and other devices to help the handicapped.
- 5 abused children cared for in our Foster Care Programme
- Health Check ups
- Dental screening
- Tsagaan Sar food drive (80 Families)
- Ger Donations
- Essential surgery to repair birth defects and burns
- Weekly cooked food delivery to needy families
- Coal deliveries





Employment and Vocational Training

“Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny.”

C.S. Lewis

In an effort to maximize the opportunities for small business and professional development along with job and vocational training in the community, we take every opportunity that we can to train, intern, recruit and hire people from the garbage dump community. By these means we hope to empower as many people as possible to move forward with a life off the dump. Our successes in this area in 2016 include:

- Received Canada Fund grant for the Greening Mongolia Bag Project & UpCycle Sofa
- Professional seamstress training and employment opportunities for 6 women and 2 men off the dump
- Employment for one family as caretakers and herders at the Soaring Crane Summer Camp
- Successful graduation of Accountant with her Bachelors Degree in Accounting
- Total # of people employed as a result of the Children of the Peak Sanctuary Project now =32





Media , Honours & Distinguished visitors

One of the ways in which the world at large finds out about the situation of the children and families that we help is by the publication and distribution of news and human-interest stories on T.V. , in magazines and in newspapers. Additionally, public recognition of our work also expands the people who know about what we're doing - some of who are then moved to help. With this in mind I would like to share a bit about the ways that in 2017 we were able to bring the stories of our children to the world.

Media & Honours included:

- [Globe and Mail - Veloo Foundation Article](#)
- Recipient of the Prestigious Silk Road Award from the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce [Read More](#)
- Featured in Horse Illustrated
- Horse & Rider Magazine



Visitors to the Children of the Peak Sanctuary Project in 2016 included:

- Ulaanbaatar Mayor
- Canadian Ambassador Mr. Ed Jager
- Canadian Speaker of the House Mr. Geoffrey Regan
- Mongolian Ambassador to Canada
- 2016 Gobi Gallopers





Fundraising & Special Events



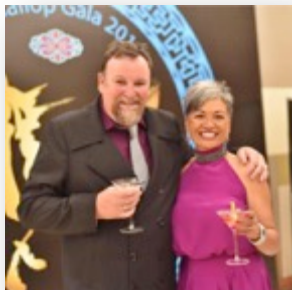
Gobi Gallop & Gobi Gallop Gala

2016 saw a very successful Gobi Gallop and Gobi Gallop Gala. With 10 riders from around the world and the Gala held at the prestigious Shangri-La Hotel, everything was great for a spectacular event and a great result. We ended up raising over \$100,000 USD to help the children through the combined events. We had wonderful auction items donated and a crowd willing to get in the spirit of things and make the event a great success



Christmas Markets & IWAM Fairs

With the establishment of the Greening Mongolia Bag project and the UpCycle Sofa Project the Children of the Peak Sanctuary Project began the process of providing training and small business opportunities in earnest for those currently scavenging at the tip. The Christmas season provided ample opportunities for the sale of these goods and the beginnings of establishing a truly self-sustaining work project.



Andrew Millers Madness

Smashing through his goal of raising \$5000 USD, Andrew Miller through his hard work and commitment to helping the children raised in excess of \$10,000.00. Truly an inspiration, it is because of such committed team members that we are able to continue the work we are doing. Thank you Andrew for coming up with this idea, following through and thank you to your friends for supporting us so beautifully.



[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



Stars evening

Our first North American fundraising event, An Evening Under Mongolian Stars proved a successful mélange of the Mongolian Association, the Mongolian Students association and friend and supporters of the foundation in the Vancouver area. Thanks to a lot of very generous donations and work by a whole host of volunteers we were able to introduce our project to a lot of new folks and raise over \$10,000 for the kindergarten



Monthly sponsorship Programme

We are excited and honoured that our monthly sponsorship programme continues to grow. We now have monthly sponsors from England, Australia, Canada, Mongolia, and America and beyond. To date, our Monthly sponsorship programme generates approximately \$2500 USD / month. We have maintained a steady web presence and initiated a number of mail out campaigns to let people know about the option of monthly support.



A Few Final Thoughts

2016 saw a great solidification of our programs, a lot of professional development for our employees, great opportunities out at the Soaring Crane summer camp and the beginnings of a robust and healthy community development initiative. With the expansion of and improvements to our land we are finding ourselves much better able to serve all levels of the community in a variety of ways. People have begun to rely on the fact that our goal is to help them and the children. All of us at Veloo Foundation are honoured that so many individuals, community organizations, government departments and companies have trusted us with their donations of time, materials and skills.

I don't know if it's possible for me to share with you all how much of a difference you are making. I hope the photos, stories and statistics in this document will show you what you've accomplished in 2016. Rest assured that you are helping. You are making a difference. Hundreds of children's lives are better because of you. Thousands of children's futures are more secure, healthy and happier because of you. Mongolian society may yet be lucky enough to escape the scourge of generational trash picking as a segment of their society. Thank you for your help, support and caring. As we work moving forward on in 2017, with plans to build another kindergarten that will get all the preschool aged children off of the garbage dump ([LEARN MORE HERE](#)) we look forward to your continued support, ideas and inspiration as we continue to strive to make a difference, one child at a time.

Chelvan Veloo – President, Veloo Foundation

Julie Veloo - Vice – President Veloo Foundation

Lorie Leitz – Secretary Veloo Foundation

Thank you all for your support. We are very much looking forward to another great year of making a difference, one child at a time. To donate or get info about all our projects including our upcoming 2nd kindergarten please visit our website



www.veloofoundation.com

As always, in 2016 100% of donated funds went to help the children.