



Lotus Children's Centre

Lotus Children's Centre was set up by Didi Dowling, a follower of Ananda Marga. She arrived in Mongolia to teach in a kindergarten in 1993 but since 1995 has run Lotus House, a home for children and orphans. She now has Mongolian staff to assist, plus one volunteer worker from Australian Volunteers International and two from the British organisation, Volunteer Service Organisation.

Lotus Children's Centre aims to provide care for children in especially difficult circumstances. There are approximately 120 homeless children, some with special needs. They range in age from new-born to teenage. The children are variously victims of abandonment, abuse or neglect. Alcoholism has become endemic among the urban poor. Domestic violence and brutal crime are on the increase. Government resources are limited.

There is some money for medicines and necessary aids but there is never enough. Didi and her team are now working on developing their own school and are running training and income generation programs for the older children. The Lotus Foundation also runs a kindergarten and two soup kitchens in cooperation with other Mongolian organisations. Didi and the children depend entirely on donations to survive.

Australian Volunteers International has placed AVA Laurie Beck as a nurse (1999-2000) and Associate Di Carlton (Development Worker 2000), Capacity Builder Helen Lynes (2001) and Jenny and Stan Brown (Nurse and Maintenance Worker, 2001) at Lotus. Tom Dyer is our current volunteer and is working on the sustainable development of Lotus.

Australian Volunteers International has a memorandum of understanding with Lotus to support its work. Australian Volunteers International accepts tax-deductible donations for Lotus and sends the money to Lotus without deducting processing fees.

Didi Dowling can be contacted at Lotus by email at:
lotuschild@magicnet.mn

The lotus center also has a web page, which is:
www.lotuschild.org



Tax deductible donations for Lotus Children's Centre can be sent to Australian Volunteers International at PO Box 350 Fitzroy Vic 3057. We will then send the donor a receipt for tax purposes. Lotus Children's Centre will also send you updates on how your money is being used for the children.

The most effective means of supporting the Lotus Children's Centre is by making a regular payment, which can be done through your credit card. Please use the form below. Please contact Glenda Lasslett directly at Australian Volunteers International for details as to how regular payments can be made from bank accounts.

I would like to support the Australian Volunteers Lotus Children's Centre Fund with a donation of ...

\$100 \$50 \$25 other \$ _____

My cheque/money order is enclosed.
(payable to 'Australian Volunteers International – Lotus Children's Centre')

OR

Please debit my credit card.

Bankcard MasterCard Visa Amex

Credit card number

Expiry date: / / Signature.....

OR

Please deduct monthly donations of \$ from my credit card until further notice.

(Please print)

Mr/Mrs.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....
Email.....

I would also appreciate the quarterly Friends of the Lotus Center's newsletter being emailed to me.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

**Please send your completed donation slip to:
Australian Volunteers International PO Box 350 Fitzroy VICTORIA 3065**