



## Christina's Dream

Christina Noble was bullied, sexually abused by her uncle and living in dire poverty as her father drank away the house-keeping money. After surviving the loss of her mother, being separated from her siblings and sent to a cruel orphanage she ended up living in Phoenix Park and was gang raped. She gave birth to a son who was taken from her. She went to England and married what turned out to be an abusive husband who threatened to kill her if she left him. She eventually escaped without her three children after psychiatrists finally believed that it was her husband who was the problem, not her.

Thankfully, she got a house and a job that could pay for the counselling that she needed. Her children one by one returned to her as they had all witnessed their father's cruelty towards her. She had a caring second marriage which helped her to heal but she never forgot the dreams she had during her previous abuse, of helping street children in Vietnam.

When her own children were grown she went to Vietnam with only enough money to stay in a hotel for a while. Little by little she made friends with some of the abandoned street children, she organised parties and swimming (to give them a chance to shower) and made them feel loved.

Christina kept searching for a way to help more permanently and linked up with the coordinator of an orphanage who gave her a building she could use to set up a dignified living and play space for the children. She approached businesses to get support and kept on begging for financial support until she got it, she would even sing in nightclubs to raise money. She kept repeating that these children deserved to be loved explaining that she herself had been like them when she was growing up. She had been picking up food from the street and she had taken to begging to survive.

Christina Noble has started more than 100 projects that help thousands of children each year to get homes with playground, medical support and education. She is an inspiration to all of us never to give up in spite of resistance, cruelty and opposition.

## Which of the Courage Strengths is Christina using?

Reflecting on the **Courage Strengths** which ones do you observe in Christina Noble's story and how is she using these:

- **Bravery**
- **Enthusiasm & Passion**
- **Honesty**
- **Perseverance**

One of the Courage Strengths Christina uses is

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