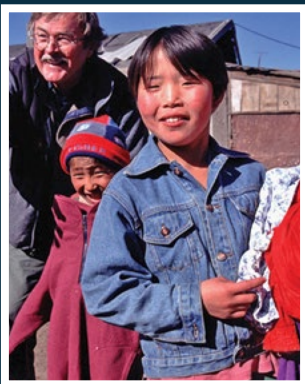




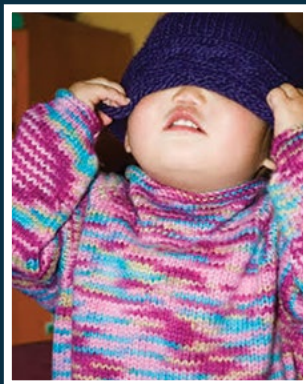
HOW FAR WE'VE COME

DELIVERING SUPPORT PERSON
TO PERSON SINCE 1999



1999

As the Mongolian Orphans Association, led by David Edwards, Flagstaff volunteers filled the first of 10, 40-foot sea containers with winter clothing, education and medical supplies and delivered it hand-to-hand in rural Mongolia, eventually reaching 15 of 21 provinces with 7 volunteer-powered aid distribution trips over the next 10 years. The name changed to FIRE in 2000.



2005

Began the *Dulaan Project, Knitting for Mongolia*, adding more than 45,000 beautiful handmade items to our shipping containers. Began shipping two 40-foot containers per year. Added medical volunteers and a full 40-foot container of only medical supplies that were delivered in rural Mongolia with onsite medical training.



2007

Began a multi-year orthopedic training program with National Trauma and Orthopedic Research Center of Mongolia and Northern Arizona Volunteer Medical Corps (NAVMC), FIRE's first long-term medical education and empowerment program. Conducted a detailed needs assessment of the medical environment to inform future, long term projects.



2009

Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mongolian Ministry of Health, becoming the first non-profit organization in Mongolia to focus on hepatitis, liver related issues, and hospital infection prevention and control issues. Hired our first full time Medical Director in Mongolia and opened our permanent office in Ulaanbaatar.



FIRE began as one person's vision to directly assist the most vulnerable members of a remote community with aid that the community felt was needed, and given directly, without middlemen, without graft—hand-to-hand, person-to-person.

As the communities we work in have grown and changed over the last 20 years, FIRE has also grown and developed. Through it all, we have maintained our close connection to the people we serve, listening closely when told what is needed, conducting formal needs assessments, and building programs in collaboration with locals.

We constantly evaluate and review our programs and make necessary adjustments to improve impact and efficiency. We strive to design programs that empower communities to continue to help themselves responsibly and sustainably, in ways that can be replicated in other parts of the world.

MONGOLIA : Making an impact with health initiatives and innovative programs.

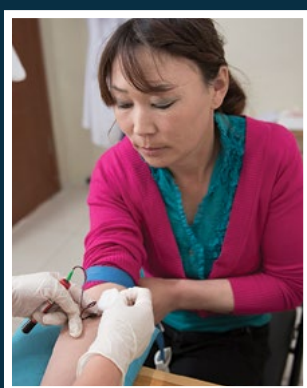
FIRE began its hepatitis work in Mongolia in 2009. It was the only non-profit organization working on hepatitis then, and for many years after. At that time, Mongolia had the highest rate of liver cancer in the world; less than 7% of health care workers had been vaccinated for hepatitis B; and most of the population could not differentiate between hepatitis B, C, liver cancer, cirrhosis or other liver-related diseases. Mongolia was suffering from endemic “liver issues.”

Ten years later, Mongolia still has the highest rate of liver cancer in the world. But it also has a government-led national strategy to eliminate hepatitis by 2030. Mongolia has become a recognized global leader in exemplifying



2010

Began a long-term partnership with Rotary International to deliver 155,000 sharps containers to 10 provinces with corresponding training for health care workers, developed a unique model for rural health care worker training. Began a long-term partnership with the US National Institute of Health, eventually screening 1,100 health care workers for viral hepatitis. Officially registered as a “Branch Office NGO” in Mongolia.



2011

Began a multi-year partnership with Oyu Tolgoi to build a scalable hepatitis screening program, health care worker training programs, and a hospital infection, prevention, and control project. Worked with Rotary International to vaccinate 200 health care workers for hepatitis B. Began an ongoing partnership with the World Health Organization to annually promote World Hepatitis Day.



2014

Began a four-year partnership with the Mongolian Ministry of Health, Asian Development Bank, and Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) to assist with the *Fifth Health Sector Development Project* to improve blood safety, infection prevention and control, and medical waste management across Mongolia through a pilot demonstration project.



2015

Conducted Mongolia's first rural hepatitis screening project in Khovsgol province for community members and health care worker training. Began *Healthy Smiles*, an oral health program for kindergarten age children and their parents, reaching over 500 children. Started assisting Langtang, Nepal with aid and development after the April 25, 2015 earthquake.



how to eliminate this silent killer, and FIRE has been a part of this progress every step of the way. We have pioneered comprehensive liver screenings for the uninsured and under served remote and rural communities. FIRE was the first to address hospital safety, specifically medical waste management and handling of sharps, which was initially the most common way hepatitis was transmitted.

Most recently, we brought Hepatitis Coordinator training to rural Mongolia, filling a gap in the government's Healthy Liver Program. In 2020, we will again pioneer a project to eliminate hepatitis C in one province. This will be the first time total elimination of hepatitis C has been achieved at the province level — anywhere in the world.

NEPAL : Bringing health and heritage programs to a community in transition.

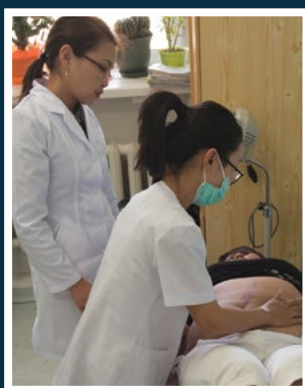
FIRE brings the same hand-to-hand, innovative, and community-based approach to our work in Nepal, working closely with the 400-person community of Langtang. Community discussions and meetings determine every step of our work there.

FIRE was the first organization to address the issue of the elders left homeless and without family support after the 2015 earthquake. We established the first "Elder House" and have provided over 8,000 pounds of aid. Currently FIRE is helping rebuild technical capacity and operations at the only clinic in Langtang Valley, and we have constructed the first structures in the area with the sole purpose of preserving and documenting this ancient but fading culture. We will continue to push forward with all of these projects, meeting the community's needs as they are described to us.



2016

Selected as one of five international organizations by the World Health Organization and European Association for Study of the Liver for exemplary innovative hepatitis screening programs. Led the first volunteer trip in Langtang, distributing 4,800 pounds of aid and food, and opened Langtang's first *Elder House*, giving care and shelter to Langtang's most vulnerable elders during winter.



2017

Started *Hepatitis Free Mongolia* in Dornod province providing comprehensive liver screening for 5,017 uninsured community members. *The Economist Intelligence Unit* magazine featured this screening program as an example of best practices, and FIRE's Executive Director was named one of 18 Hepatitis C Change Makers and one of 6 Hepatitis C Change Maker Honorees.



2018

Conducted training with rural health care workers on liver health. Finished a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey about hepatitis and related liver issues to inform future programming. Started a long-term partnership with Western Sydney University (Australia) leading cultural heritage projects in Langtang, Nepal. Awarded GuideStar's Platinum Seal of Transparency, its highest level of recognition.



2019

Trained rural social workers and primary health care workers to be Hepatitis Coordinators, a new concept in Mongolia developed by FIRE, Rotary International, and Saga University (Japan). Conducted our first medical-focused volunteer trip in Langtang to build capacity at the village's only clinic, in partnership with East Tennessee State University and Shenandoah University.

20 Years of Partnerships

Thank you to many, many donors and partners over the last 20 years who made FIRE's work possible. A few of our program partners...



Dear Friends,

We can not thank you enough for your support and collaboration over the last 20 years! It has been an honor to work together, with your trust, to effect change and improve lives in Mongolia and Nepal. Our work is only possible because of donors and program partners like yourself. Please join us in celebrating 20 years of the life changing work that you made possible.

We look forward to your support and partnership for the years to come as we continue to forge paths with new solutions to existing problems through our innovative, sustainable and empowering programs.

We are sending our best wishes to you and yours, now and always.

With gratitude,

M Potts

Meredith Potts
Executive Director

