

Annual Report 2013



FIRE 
Flagstaff International Relief Effort

*“Placing aid directly in
the hands of the people”*

Mission and Vision



Flagstaff International Relief Effort (FIRE) is a non-profit and non-government (NGO) organization. FIRE is a registered 501c.3 organization in the United States, headquartered in Flagstaff, Arizona, with a registered NGO branch office in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. After 16 years of work, FIRE continues to evolve, meeting the challenges of a rapidly changing country. Through sustainable programs, FIRE strives to empower the Mongolian community. These programs currently focus primarily on viral hepatitis and liver cancer prevention through research, training, supply distribution, awareness campaigns, testing, and vaccination targeted at the general population and health care facilities and workers.

Mission

The Flagstaff International Relief Effort (FIRE) is dedicated to providing resources and support to communities in need, reducing poverty, and improving the quality of life. Currently, FIRE's programs are focused in Mongolia.

Vision

FIRE works with partners at all levels — local, national, and international — to improve education and health care through Empowering Programs targeted at communities.

Letter from the Director



Dear Friends of FIRE,

2013 was another busy and successful year for FIRE. We celebrated 15 years of life changing work in Mongolia! We vastly expanded our programs and continued to dramatically increase our grant funding.

In 2013, we continued to develop our partnership with Oyu Tolgoi, Mongolia's largest mine. Through a series of grants, we were able to build a multi-level intervention and awareness campaign. Each grant project built on the previous project. We started by distributing "safety boxes" or sharps containers, distributing our DVD for health care workers, and providing training to the entire province of Umnogovi. We upgraded safety boxes from the World Health Organization approved cardboard boxes that were distributed in the previous 9 provinces, to the red plastic boxes that are more commonly seen in the West.

From here, we narrowed our scope to three soums (counties) in the Umnogovi province. This smaller geographical focus gave us the opportunity to go more in-depth with our programs, since we were focused on a smaller population. As a result, we have created a comprehensive program structure that addresses viral hepatitis and liver cancer prevention from every level in a sustainable, repeatable method. We have executed and tested several new programs that we are now ready to spread across the country.

The contributions and volunteer hours of all of our friends and supporters make our programs possible. We cannot thank each of you enough for your continued and generous support, and the variety of ways in which it is shown.

Please continue reading for a summary of what you helped make happen in 2013.

Respectfully,



Meredith Potts
Executive Director

2013 Program Highlights

Community Awareness Campaigns



For World Hepatitis Day 2013, FIRE collaborated with local, state, and community-based organizations to implement awareness campaigns through the media and community events. FIRE conducted training for health care workers on the diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis, and provided educational materials for members of the community. Residents received informational brochures on hepatitis, were shown videos about hepatitis, received counseling from doctors about hepatitis treatment options, and were given training on how to protect against the risk of contracting hepatitis. A total of 1000 people participated in campaign events. As a result of these awareness campaigns, the community is now equipped with a better understanding of hepatitis diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

Hepatitis Testing

FIRE joined forces with local health care facilities to organize a free hepatitis testing event for members of the community. To inform the public of the event, radio and television announcements were played at regular intervals, banners were hung at the local Health Department, and posters were placed in stores, motels, and cafés. The testing event had a remarkable turnout, with 764 members of the population being tested for hepatitis B and C. Out of the 764 people tested, 75 were diagnosed with viral hepatitis B and 80 were diagnosed with viral hepatitis C. As a result of this testing event, newly diagnosed individuals will have the opportunity to pursue treatment options, so that they can effectively manage their conditions.



Health Safety Training Program



To prevent the risk of disease transmission to doctors and nurses, and eventually to the general public, FIRE has developed a systematic training program for health care workers on proper medical waste management (MWM) procedures. This training program addresses issues that health care workers face at all levels of the health care environment. MWM training was held for health care workers and 184 health care workers completed the training, accounting for 90% of health care professionals in these areas. After participating in training, health care workers were given knowledge assessment tests, the results of which demonstrated that health care worker

Medical Waste Management Supply Distribution



In accordance with the National Strategy for Improving Health Care Waste Management in Mongolia, FIRE distributed internationally approved supplies to health care facilities. Supplies distributed include:

- Plastic sharp boxes complete with needle removers
- 30 liter plastic watertight containers for infectious waste
- 60 liter plastic containers for transporting and storing medical waste
- Red and yellow plastic bags for biohazardous, infectious waste

These supplies enabled health care workers and administrators to upgrade their medical waste management practices, protecting themselves and their patients from disease transmission.

Advocacy with Policy Makers

Through strategic meetings and information sessions, FIRE informed policy makers in four project sites in the Umnugovi province about improving medical waste management (MWM) in the health care system. During these meetings, local authorities received information about medical waste and the current state of MWM in health care facilities. As a result, authorities resolved to build medical waste disposal units and to establish a monitoring system for MWM procedures. By creating new disposal units and the monitoring system, MWM safety procedures were upgraded and will contribute to improved safety in health care facilities.

The Dulaan Project

In 2013, FIRE received 3,696 handmade, knitted winter items from knitters around the world. We distributed these items directly to the people who needed them most during the winter months of October, November, and December. Some of the recipients included orphanages, a school for disabled children, and homeless adults. These beautiful items helped brighten the day and warm the lives



Quotes From Mongolia

(Original quotes are translated from Mongolian)

“We would like thank you for...supporting the activities of Bayankhongor province’s health sector. We hope that your support will contribute a lot to the healthcare worker and...to the protection of public health. May good deeds spread.”
~ Bayankhongor province’s Health Department

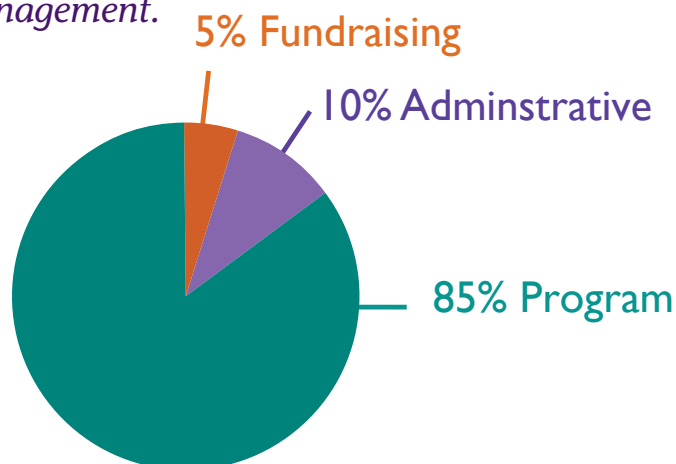
“Our khoroo ...is composed from migrants of the countryside, and poor population.We would like to thank you for distributing warm clothes for our children in order to pass the harsh winter. We wish... your heart be always warm same as your project ‘Dulaan’. ~Enkhtsetseg. Ch , social worker of Bayanzurkh district. 19 khoroo

“I tested for HBV, HCV and [was] diagnosed positive for HBV. I’m sure, many people like me are not aware that they are infected. Now I can do monitoring [of] my liver disease and change my lifestyle. It was helpful for me to prevent further damage.Thank you.” ~CH.Nyamsuren, resident of Khanbogd soum. Umnugobi province

2013 Financial Statements

	2013 Total	Donations	In-Kind Contribution	Grants & Specified Donations
Total Income Received	\$ 210,821	\$ 51,012	\$ 109,036	\$ 50,773
Medical Waste Management and Health Safety Training	\$ 72,604	\$ 33,194	\$ 14,700	\$ 24,710
World Hepatitis Day	\$ 10,736	\$ 1,701	\$ 1,050	\$ 7,985
NIH Research	\$ 61,232	\$ 8,082	\$ 53,150	
Hepatitis Vaccination	\$ 4,295	\$ 422	\$ 1,050	\$ 2,823
Hepatitis Testing	\$ 4,064	\$ 177	\$ 1,050	\$ 2,837
Ortho	\$ 27,000		\$ 27,000	
Dulaan	\$ 711	\$ 45	\$ 666	
Total Program Expenses	\$ 179,931	\$ 43,621	\$ 98,666	\$ 38,355
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 8,325	\$ 175	\$ 365	\$ 12,418
Administrative Expenses	\$ 20,015	\$ 475	\$ 6,127	
Total Expenses	\$ 208,271	\$ 44,271	\$ 105,158	\$ 50,773
Income Less Expenses				
Net Assets, Beginning of 2013	\$ 24,083			
Change from Year's Activities	\$ 2,368			
Total Net Assets, End of 2013	\$ 26,451			

FIRE is committed to keeping administrative expenses as low as possible. We are proud that in 2013, 85% of all income, including grants and specified and unspecified donations, went directly to program expenses in Mongolia. FIRE makes the most of every donated dollar by maximizing support through efficient and responsible fiscal management.



2013 Board of Directors

Andy Kruse
Way Yuhl
Kim Fawcett
David Edwards
Susan Bigley
Troy Levitt
Dawn Hatch

2013 Donors

The following list recognizes the friends of FIRE who made contributions in 2013. Without their generous support, FIRE's work in Mongolia would not be possible. We are immensely grateful for their examples of loyalty and commitment to FIRE.

Benefactor (Buyanii Uilsten) (\$1000+)

Barbara Coyne
Charles & Kathleen Potts
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John Durham
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Walter & Nancy Taylor

“May good deeds spread.”

Сайн үйлс дэлгэрэх болтугай.

FIRE



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