

Annual Report 2014



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 and the beginning of a grassroots cooperation in Kathmandu, Nepal. After 16 years of work, FIRE continues to evolve, meeting the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Through sustainable programs, FIRE strives to empower communities and individuals.

FIRE's Mongolian 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. These life changing programs are strategically and responsibly implemented through partnerships with the Mongolian Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH), and the Asian Liver Center at Stanford University.

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,

2014 was another exciting year FIRE. We implemented new projects and expanded existing projects.

We continued to develop our partnership with Oyu Tolgoi, Mongolia's largest mine. Through a series of grants, we have been able to diversify our hepatitis and liver cancer prevention activities to strategic effect change from multiple layers and angles. This year we initiated a Hepatitis and Liver Cancer Screening Project. With the highest rate of liver cancer in the world and 82% of those cases not diagnosed until stage 3 or 4, earlier diagnosis of liver cancer is essential for extended quality of life. Additionally, the high rate of liver cancer is in large part due to the late diagnosis of hepatitis. This project helps to prevent liver cancer and dramatically increases the ability of rural Mongolians to make life saving changes to their lives.

We are very excited to announce the start of our newest project. In July, FIRE began working as the in-country partner with the Canadian Society of International Health (CSIH) on a three-year Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded project to upgrade the health safety of the entire health sector of Mongolia.

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 2014.

Respectfully,



Meredith Potts
Executive Director



(Meredith and the FIRE Team in Mongolia)

2014 Program Highlights

Viral Hepatitis and Liver Cancer Screening Project

In July, FIRE conducted a hepatitis and cancer screening and counseling program. 1,181 residents of 4 rural communities in Omnogov Province were tested for hepatitis B and C, screened for various cancers, and counseled on future care.

As a part of these programs, specialists test people for viral hepatitis B and C and screen them for liver cancer using an ultra-sound and AFP testing. They are also examined by a hepatologist and an oncologist. Specialists counsel patients on their diagnoses, medical options, and future care. Future care counseling involves discussing and sharing pamphlets regarding treatment options, physician referrals, proper nutrition, how to live a healthy style, how to prevent further transmission and how to love the liver.

As a result of the screening program:

- 1,181 people were tested for hepatitis B and C
- 841 ultrasounds were performed
- 404 people saw the hepatologist
- 236 people saw the oncologist
- 124 people (10.5%) tested positive for hepatitis B
- 226 people (19.1%) tested positive for hepatitis C
- 6 suspected cases of liver cancer were referred for further testing
- 8 people were diagnosed with additional forms of cancer

This project gave 359 people newly diagnosed with hepatitis and/or liver cancer the knowledge to effectively manage their condition. 9 people were diagnosed with early stage liver cancer for the first time. By catching their liver cancer early, these 9 people have more treatment options and a much greater chance for long term survival and better quality of life.



(Poster for screening project)



(A patient and oncologist during a consultation)

Capacity Building For Health Care Workers

In support of the Viral Hepatitis and Liver Cancer Screening Project, FIRE also conducted trainings for 54 local health care workers about liver cancer, liver disorder, modern treatment approaches and diagnostics. Health care workers were given pamphlets, posters and tools to help them prevent, diagnosis and treat viral hepatitis and liver cancer. Additionally, FIRE translated Stanford University's Asian Liver Center's Physician's Guide to Hepatitis B into Mongolian for use across Mongolia.



(A classroom training session for health care workers)

Fifth Health Sector Development Program (FiHSDP)

In July 2014, FIRE began working with the Mongolian Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) and the Canadian Society of Health (CSIH) on a three year Asian Development Bank funded Fifth Health Sector Development Project (FiHSDP) to improve the safety of health care facilities across Mongolia.

This project has significant environmental, health, and safety benefits and will improve patient and health care worker safety by:

- Improving the safety of blood transfusions
- Strengthening medical waste management
- Preventing and controlling hospital acquired infections



(A health care worker in safety gear)

These improvements will be made by making capacity building activities available to health care workers, providing upgraded equipment to hospitals, and developing precise technical guidelines for infection prevention and control. The advancements established through this project will ensure that educational resources, medical equipment, and waste management procedures meet internationally accepted standards.

Distribution Community Awareness Campaigns



(FIRE workers during an awareness campaign)

awareness campaigns, the community is now equipped with a better understanding of hepatitis diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

The Dulaan Project

In 2014, FIRE received 1,083 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 of everyone who received them.

For World Hepatitis Day 2014, 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. More than 6,000 information pamphlets were distributed to more than 1,000 people. As a result of these



(Children after receiving clothing donations)

Orthopedic Training Program

FIRE is assisting Spine Care International (SCI) with its neurosurgical mission in Mongolia. In the fall of 2014, FIRE hosted SCI on a scouting trip to set up a surgical mission trip for fall of 2015. SCI will send a surgical team to Mongolia for two weeks to conduct 10 lumbar fusion surgeries at the Third Central Hospital in Ulaanbaatar. SCI and Third Central Hospital are in the process of selecting 10 patients based on income level and the severity of their case. Priority is given to those patients with the most limited economical resources. SCI is not only covering the expenses of the necessary implants but is also covering diagnostic expenses such as CT scans and MRIs.

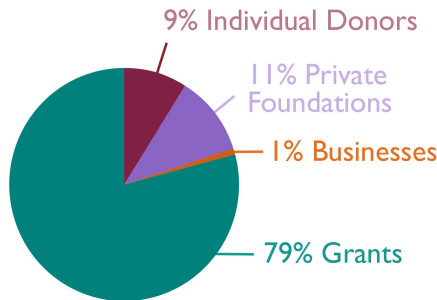
These surgeries will serve as an intensive training platform for the participating Mongolian surgical team, building capacity and skills for long-term sustainability. SCI will also conduct a lecture series for members of Third Central Hospital, Health Sciences University and invited guests.

2014 Financial Statements

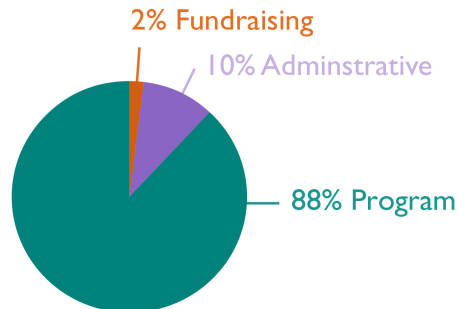
FIRE is committed to keeping administrative expenses as low as possible. We are proud that in 2014, 88% of all income, including grants and specified and unspecified donations, went directly to program expenses. FIRE makes the most of every donated dollar by maximizing support through efficient and responsible fiscal management.

	2014 Total	Donations	In-Kind Contribution	Grants & Specified Donations
Total Income Received	\$ 189,691	\$ 33,216	\$ 16,357	\$ 140,118
Health Care Worker Training	\$ 3,158	\$ 1,133	\$ -	\$ 2,025
Community Awareness	\$ 11,278	\$ 2,893	\$ -	\$ 8,385
NIH Research	\$ 2,241	\$ 2,241	\$ -	\$ -
CSIH	\$ 127,912	\$ 5,669	\$ 7,800	\$ 114,443
Testing & Screening	\$ 12,220	\$ 3,205	\$ -	\$ 9,015
Ortho	\$ 900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 900
Dulaan	\$ 3,497	\$ -	\$ 3,147	\$ 350
Total Program Expenses	\$ 161,206	\$ 15,141	\$ 10,947	\$ 135,118
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 4,673	\$ 4,673	\$ -	\$ -
Administrative Expenses	\$ 18,237	\$ 12,827	\$ 5,410	
Total Expenses	\$ 184,116	\$ 32,641	\$ 16,357	\$ 135,118
Income Less Expenses	\$ 5,575	\$ 575	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Net Assets, Beginning of 2014	\$ 26,451			
Change from Year's Activities	\$ 41,359			
Total Net Assets, End of 2014	\$ 67,228			

2014 Income Sources



2014 Expenses



2014 Board of Directors

Andy Kruse
David Edwards
Susan Bigley
Troy Levitt
Dawn Hatch

2014 Donors

The following list recognizes the friends of FIRE who made contributions in 2014. 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+)**

Anonymous
John W. & Clara C. Higgins
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Robert & Gladys Miller Foundation
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Catalyst Foundation
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Diane Simpson
Skyhorse Saddle Company
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Friend (Naiz) **(up to \$99)**

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Gayle Werth
Regina Whitehouse
Mary Willis
Susan Wright
Razoo Foundation

"I have virus hepatitis C infection. I knew I had it but did not realize it can cause liver disease and cancer and how harmful it is. Even though I have the infection now I want to change my lifestyle to live healthy. Can you please further expand FIRE project activities and immunization works for us?"

~(B. Erdenetuya, Manlai village, Omnogov Province)

"I want to thank FIRE for developing today's health facilities' medical waste management and concentrating more on developing health workers' capacity. FIRE helps make it safer for everyone."

~(Ts. Onorjargal, Director of Public Health Department, Omnogov Province)

"I have joined FIRE's World Hepatitis Day activities for two years. In Mongolia there are many people who don't know about hepatitis's harmfulness. It is important for everyone to get involved in this activity to educate and give our young generation a healthy future."

~(Ts. Bataa, Manlai village, Omnogov Province)



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