Annual Report 2014

“Placing aid directly in the hands of the people”
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 healthcare 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.
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)
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.

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 then 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.
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

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

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 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.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014 Total</th>
<th>Donations</th>
<th>In-Kind Contribution</th>
<th>Grants &amp; Specified Donations</th>
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<td>CSIH</td>
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<td>Testing &amp; Screening</td>
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<td>Dulaan</td>
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<td><strong>Total Program Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Net Assets, Beginning of 2014</td>
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<td>Change from Year's Activities</td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets, End of 2014</strong></td>
<td>$67,228</td>
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<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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 Foundation
John Durham & Lisa Jobin
Robert & Gladys Miller Foundation
National Penn Investors Trust
Theodore Patlovich
Betty Phelps
Charles & Kathleen Potts
Potts Family Foundation
Rural Action Fund
Chusak & Chwen Siripocanont

**Patron (Iveen Tetgegch)**
($500 - $999)$
Harvey & Naomi Cohen
Barbara Coyne
Dave Lang & Laurie Breihan
Jeff Karl Jewelers
Catalyst Foundation
Fred Phillips Consulting
Lumberyard Brewery

**Donor (Handivlagch)**
($250 - $499)$
Mary Kathleen Collins
Judith Conant
Paul Kokernak
Samuel So
James & Mary Wertsch

**Supporter (Demjigch)**
($100 - $249)$
S. Altan
Bean Family Trust
Sylvia Breakey
James Case
Gay Chanler
Gail Clair
Joan Csapos
Margretta Diemer
Rosemary & Roger Howley Frazil
Ivy Gordon
David & Catherine Heffernan
Connie & Jordan Heiman
Arlene Kuperberg
Douglas & Susan Lee
Heng Guan Lim
Amy Miller
Robert & Penne Miller
Diane Simpson
Skyhorse Saddle Company
Larry Charles Stevens
Mary Stump
Patricia Tamtilla & David Yansura
Alice Trach
Ron Tuckman
Arthur Zack & Nanette Smith

**Friend (Naiz)**
(up to $99)$
Michael & Katherine Baron
Martha Blue
Roger & Julie Brace
Frank and Nancy Branham
Paul Brinkmann
Truman Burns
Tim Cahill
Susan Churnuks
Amy Daggett
Marie Fenske
Grether Living Trust
Gerald Huffman
Norma Kaecker
Camille Kempe
J.M. Loeken
Nancy Lopez
Janet Margrave
Roberta Motter
Daniela Niderost
Betty O’Connor
Sharang Phadke
Terrie Raphael
Katherine Redman
Jared Sibbitt
Gretta & Scott Stables
Walter & Nancy Taylor
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)