

Mongolia has the highest rate of liver cancer in the world, 6 times the international average, and among the highest rates of hepatitis B and C in the world. One in six people have hepatitis C and one in 10 have hepatitis B. 75.6% of liver cancer patients are not diagnosed until stage III or IV, with 85% dying within one year of being diagnosed. 93% of people with liver cancer have hepatitis.

This Global Grant initiated by the **Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia)**, District 3450 and the **Flagstaff Rotary Club (Arizona, USA)**, District 5495. Hepatitis Free Mongolia will help uninsured individuals learn their health status, connect them to care, educate the community, train health care workers and initiate prevention activities. After a successful implementation of Phase I in 2017, we have added additional activities to prevent the spread of hepatitis and reach even more remote, hard-to-find community members for testing.

## Program Activities

**Screening and Physician Visit** - We work with primary health care providers to screen impoverished, uninsured and previously untested individuals. Specialists are brought from Mongolia's capital, including ultrasound specialists, hepatologists (liver specialist), FibroScan specialist and an oncologist to perform the following procedures:

- Tested for viral hepatitis B and C
- Vaccinated for hepatitis as needed
- Ultrasound examination
- Tested for liver cancer
- FibroScan examination
- Physically examined and counseled by an oncologist or hepatologist
- Connection to treatment

**Counseling** – Each participant receives an explanation of their medical condition, future care and follow-up treatment needed and physician referrals. They will receive pamphlets regarding treatment options, proper nutrition, transmission prevention, and necessary lifestyle changes.

**Community Awareness Events** – A community awareness fair will open the project. It will include booths and activities for all ages. Various information pamphlets will also be shared during the screening program.

**Training of Local Doctors** – Representatives from every clinic in the province will be trained on how to

prevent, detect and treat viral hepatitis and liver disease. Additional representatives will also be trained on proper health safety and medical waste management techniques to ensure safe health care environments and prevent the spread of disease. Training will be done in the classroom as well as hands-on, "shadow" and technical on-site training.

**Training Hepatitis Coordinators** - Local social workers will be trained to be Hepatitis Coordinators. After the completion of this project, they will continue to reach out to their community with information, directing any remaining, untested people to local clinics to be tested for hepatitis.

**Hospital Safety Supply Development** - All necessary supplies to upgrade every clinic in the province to meet international standards for medical waste management and health safety practices will be distributed in conjunction with on-site technical training.

**Advocacy Meetings with Community Leaders** - We will educate the local community and business leaders with ways they can bring both their logistics and financial influences together to implement further solution-based, inter-sector programming for the long-term health of their community.



(Photos of program activities from "Hepatitis Free Mongolia, Phase 1" in 2017. From left to right, blood draw, ultrasound exam, FibroScan exam, physical exam.)

## Results and Sustainability

### Expected Results

- 5,000 people tested for hepatitis B and C
- 1,500 people tested for liver cancer
- 1,500 ultrasound examinations
- 1,000 FibroScan examinations
- 3,500 people vaccinated against hepatitis B
- 10,000 people will be educated through community awareness activities
- 50,000 information pamphlets and posters will be distributed across the province
- 50 local doctors will be trained in liver health
- 50 local doctors will be trained on proper infection control and hepatitis prevention methods
- 18 clinics and hospitals will receive technical training and supply distribution to improve their health safety practices, creating safe health care environments for patients and health care workers
- 100 social workers will be trained as hepatitis coordinators to support the community
- 30 local leaders will attend advocacy meetings
- 1,500 people (an estimated 30% of the population screened) will be diagnosed with at least one of a variety of illnesses, giving them the ability to change and save their lives.

### Sustainability

- Encouraging local ownership by partnering with national organizations, government organizations and local community and business leaders
- Training local doctors to continue the work
- Educating patients to save their lives
- Providing a lifetime of prevention against hepatitis B through vaccination
- Educating thousands of community members about the steps necessary to protect and help themselves
- Developing safe health care environments to prevent the transmission of disease for years to come

### Award Winning Project

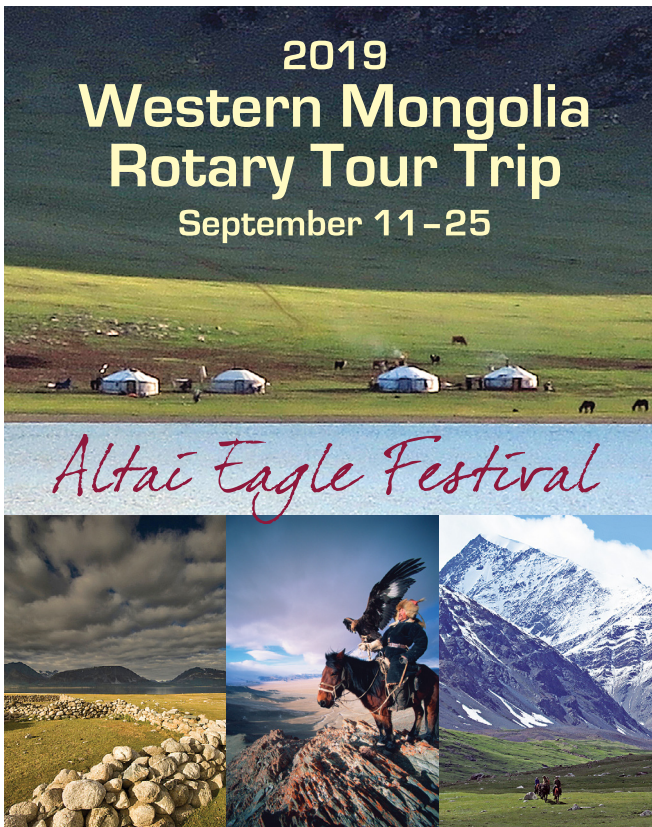
In April, 2016, this project was recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Association for Study of the Liver (EASL) as one of five international programs demonstrating innovative hepatitis screening programs. This project was also featured in The Economist Magazine three times in 2017.



World Health Organization

For more information on “Hepatitis Free Mongolia” (GG1864800) visit [www.fireprojects.org/Rotary](http://www.fireprojects.org/Rotary) or contact Meredith Potts from the Flagstaff Rotary Club at (928)600-6361 or [meredithpotts@gmail.com](mailto:meredithpotts@gmail.com).

## Join us in Mongolia!!



September 11 – September 25  
\$2,950

(plus airfare to Mongolia)

[fireprojects.org/rotary-tour-mongolia](http://fireprojects.org/rotary-tour-mongolia)

Join us for a special two-week trip in Ulaanbaatar, Bayan-Olgii and Khovd, Mongolia built around this project. Enjoy 10 days of sightseeing and travel in Mongolia and 5 days of volunteer Rotary work. The sightseeing includes a once in a lifetime opportunity to stay with an eagle hunter's family in Western Mongolia, explore the Kazakh culture, and attend the world-famous Altai Eagle Festival. As a Rotary volunteer, you will take part in the Community Awareness Fair and opening celebration for “Hepatitis Free Mongolia, Phase 2”. Health care workers can help with health care worker training. There will also be opportunities to teach English and work with local community organizations.