



FRIENDS OF MONGOLIA

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January 2003

Friends of Mongolia (FOM) is an incorporated nonprofit organization conducting operations in both Mongolia and the United States. It is an affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association and its membership includes both Americans and Mongolians. It is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational and developmental purposes. FOM exists to develop partnerships with the people of Mongolia in furtherance of cultural exchange and human development.

2nd ANNUAL FOM ZANY FUNDRAISER BRINGS IN \$200 TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Rick Smith wraps for FOM. Photo by Susan Buchanan.

Shoppers at the Zany Brainy in Rockville, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, DC, opened their wallets to support FOM during this holiday season.

"There are many returned volunteers from Mongolia living in the Washington, DC area now," said organizer Susan Buchanan (M3). "I thought this fundraiser would be a great way for us all to come together and start new traditions and continue old ones as we work to support development in Mongolia."

On November 28th, Rick Smith (RPCV 95-96) and John Tsai (RPCV 97-99) joined Buchanan at Zany Brainy, a toy store franchise that provides community service by allowing charities to work the free gift wrap booth. In return for the service, toy store clientele generously leave tips, ranging from \$1 to \$40. The total raised was \$200. The Zany fundraiser gave FOM members the opportunity to focus on the Peace Corps' third goal by answering questions about the experience of living and working in Mongolia.

Buchanan hopes the success of this project will inspire others to

participate next year and in many years to come." There are Zany Brainy stores all over the country. All it takes is for someone to ask the question or to figure out what other fundraising opportunities exist in their communities."

FOM would like to thank supporters of the scholarship fund, especially Stephen and Arlene Cohen of Guam who contributed \$500. FOM invested the fund in the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) Microenterprise Program (see pg. 2) because it offers a more competitive short-term rate than our financial institution.

When we reach our goal of \$10,000, this will generate enough interest each year to fund one university student in Ulaanbaatar, five college students in regional centers or pay school fees for 10 or more elementary and secondary school students.

NEWS CLIPS FROM MONGOLIA

- According to the *BBC*, hundreds of Buddhists greeted the **Dalai Lama** in November on his first visit to Mongolia in seven years. "If you do good for others, goodness will return to you," he said before the crowd from a massive stage in front of the main temples of the Gandantegchillen Monastery.
- According to the *Mongol Messenger*, Herders and farmers stormed Sukhbaatar Square without a permit last fall to oppose Parliament's plan for **rural land privatization**. Several were arrested and later released. They continued the protest in the permitted location. The four minority members of Parliament supported the protest.
- Also in the *Messenger*, the Japanese journal *Hoti Shimbun* named Mongolian sumo wrestler D. Davgadorj, also known as Ozaki Asashyuru, the **best sumo wrestler** of the year.

- New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art (www.metmuseum.org) is hosting "The Legacy of Genghis Khan: Courtly Art and Culture in Western Asia, 1256–1353." November 5, 2002–February 16, 2003.

MR. RUDY FUTER SUPPORTS FOM

This month, our #1 patron, Rudy Futer of California pledged FOM \$5,000 for the holidays. He is interested in supporting a locally controlled development project active this year. FOM has contacted Peace Corps Mongolia and other stakeholders for ideas on what projects to support. **There will be some background work on this happening in the coming months, so please let us know if you know of any projects worth supporting in Mongolia** (email: friendsofmongolia@att.net).

FOM OFFICER AND BOARD ELECTIONS

FOM would like to thank all of those who have served as board members for the first three years of incorporation. Major accomplishments include winning the best NPCA Affiliate Website award and raising \$4000 towards our scholarship fund. We invite all members to consider running for elections:

- **Two Co-Coordinators:** Ensures effective action of the board and officers in governing and act as representatives of the organization.
- **Membership Coordinator:** Maintains membership database and renewals.
- **Communications Coordinator:** Answers correspondence and prepares public relations material.
- **Treasurer:** Maintains balance sheet and financial reports.
- **12 Members of the Board of Directors**, including a **Mongolia Country Representative**.

Officers and the Board of Directors also carry the following responsibilities: Become knowledgeable about FOM's mission and activities and represent FOM as needed; attend annual meeting or vote on issues by proxy; make a personal financial contribution to FOM and initiate fundraising projects; encourage others to join FOM and build partnerships with related organizations; maintain professional ethics and avoid the appearance of conflict of interest; and further the strategic vision of FOM individually or in committee.

Because FOM is a membership organization, new board members can have substantial impact on the operation and future of the organization. If you want to volunteer or nominate a member, send an email to our election committee at fomelection@yahoo.com or to FOM Election Committee at 122 Roberts Lane #400; Alexandria, VA 22314. **Please give FOM your email so that your vote can be counted.**

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Geoffrey Gese (Peace Corps Mongolia 98-00) is currently serving for a second time as a volunteer in the Philippines. He enjoys his work there and appreciates the great number of English speakers, the variety of food and rum. Geoff reports that his former director and counterpart in Mongolia is now the director of the Darkhan Chamber of Commerce and is doing well. Geoff is hoping to hear from all you M9s out there. He can be reached at hosher_bahn@yahoo.com.



A FUTURE VOLUNTEER?

Madeline Garrett - daughter of M4 David and M6 Carly - dressed in her Mongolian finery. Photo by Carly Garrett.

NPCA MICROENTERPRISE PROGRAM (MEP)

The NPCA MEP is part of the next wave of philanthropy: socially responsible investing. Investors make a competitive return while supporting small business development in low-income countries. The Calvert Foundation of Bethesda, Maryland administers the fund (www.calvertfoundation.org). Investors make a minimum deposit of \$1000 for a one-year term and receive up to 3% interest. Most of the fund is lent to the Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA), which in turn provides access to capital in developing nations. NPCA encourages all members to consider this program as a socially responsible investment option. Investment applications can be downloaded from their website (www.rpcv.org).

MONGOLIAN WEBSITE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUDICIARY

With the help of friends, Ganzorig Gombosuren, a Ph.D candidate at American University's Washington College of Law, recently started a simple, accessible website for judges, lawyers, law school faculty and students from Mongolia. The website contains

- The latest news on judiciary and human rights from Mongolia and worldwide;
- Reports issued by the International Commission of Jurists, Human Rights Committee, and the U.S. State Department;
- International laws;
- U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O' Connor's speech in Mongolia and number of interesting articles on the constitutional court and judiciary of Mongolia.

Mongolians, including the legal community, are well aware of this website. They receive writings from Mongolia as well as Mongolians who are studying or living in Hungary, Australia and United States. Check it out at: <http://www.mongolianjudiciary.org/>

JOBS- Consultants, Social Sector Projects, Mongolia

Expressions of interest are invited from qualified consultants for a multilateral funded project in Mongolia in the social service /social protection sector. These positions are of short-term nature, ranging from 2 person months to 18 person months over a period of 3-5 years.

Positions:

Social Welfare Service Specialist, Community Social Services Specialist, Social Welfare Management Specialist, Labour Market Policy Specialist, Skills Training Specialist, Entrepreneurship Specialist, Employment Services Specialist, Working Conditions Specialist, Unemployment Insurance Specialist, Social Insurance (self-employed sector) Specialist, Employment Injury & Occupational Diseases Insurance Specialist, Project Management Specialist.

Expression of interest and CV should be sent to:

Dr Mak Khan

Regional Manager, MUP

E-mail: m.khan@muprivate.edu.au

Tel: 61-3-9810 3216

Fax: 61-3-9810 3100

PEACE CORPS DAY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2003

To commemorate the 42nd anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps, returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) will celebrate Peace Corps Day on February 28, 2003. RPCVs will be visiting classrooms, community organizations, and workplaces throughout the United States to share the knowledge and insights gained from their overseas experiences. As every RPCV knows, part of the Peace Corps' mission is to educate Americans back home about the people with whom they lived and worked.

Online registration is available on the Peace Corps Day website (www.peacecorps.gov/rpcv/peacecorpsday). All respondents will receive a free presentation kit. If you have any questions, contact the Peace Corps Day Coordinator at pccday@peacecorps.gov or call 800.424.8580 (press 2, then ext. 1961).

COOPERATIVE HOUSING FOUNDATION LAUNCHES NEW PROJECT IN MONGOLIA

The Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), a nonprofit international development organization based in Silver Spring, MD, has recently launched a project in Mongolia called Support to Enterprises and Economic Development (SEED). The goal of the SEED program is to improve the quality of life for low- and medium-income families in the urban areas of Darkhan, Erdenet, and Ulaanbaatar and the surrounding

ger districts by supporting and promoting local entrepreneurship.

The program services will be based out of three Technical Service Centers (TSCs) located in Darkhan, Erdenet and Ulaanbaatar. Working closely with local service providers, the SEED program staff will encourage the local business consulting industry that is currently in its formative stage. This approach will expand the capacity of existing consulting organizations and provide for sustainability.

SEED got off the ground with the assistance of two former Peace Corps-Mongolia volunteers and Friends of Mongolia members, John Napoleoni and Patrick Sommerville. The two travelled to Mongolia in October 2002 to conduct a needs assessment. Sommerville commented, "This is exactly what residents of the poorest areas of Mongolia's three major cities need--a one-stop shop where individuals with ideas can obtain information, advice and other resources. It gives



The ger district in Darkhan. Photo by Patrick Sommerville.

people hope."

This program is funded by the **U.S. Agency for International Development**.



The Mongolia Society, Inc.

The Mongolia Society, Inc., is America's first and most prestigious organization promoting the study of the Mongol peoples, their history, language, and cultures. It is also one of the largest resellers of books, recordings and souvenirs from Mongolia, Inner Mongolia, Buryatia and Kalmykia. For more information, visit us at:

www.indiana.edu/~mongosci

**The Mongolia Society, Inc., Indiana University,
Goodbody Hall 356, Bloomington, IN 47405, USA**

JOIN FOM (FOM)

As a member you can:

- Subscribe to our e-mail list serve
- Receive our newsletter
- Vote in FOM elections and meetings
- Serve on ad hoc committees for scholarships, fundraising and development projects
- Join the National Peace Corps Association for an additional \$25

____ \$25 individual FOM

____ \$40 family FOM (2 people at the same address)

____ \$50 individual joint FOM/NPCA

____ \$62.50 family joint FOM/NPCA

____ I would like to receive future newsletters by e-mail

\$ ____ Additional donation for FOM's general fund

\$ ____ Additional donation for the Scholarship Fund

(<http://scholarship.friendsofmongolia.org>)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

FOR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: NEW AND CURRENT MEMBERS (OPTIONAL)

Current Occupation: _____

Connection/interest in Mongolia: _____

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS. ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. DONATIONS OVER \$100.00 WILL BE MAILED A RECEIPT.

Make check payable to: FOM

Send to:

FOM

PO Box 1269

New York, NY 10276

friendsofmongolia@worldnet.att.net

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