Friends of Mongolia

A National Peace Corps Association Affiliated Organization

From the Co-Director

Hi folks. It’s great to be joining such a talented and dedicated team of people here at Friends of Mongolia and Anne sure is a tough act to follow. I want to thank her again for showing me the ropes and encouraging me to get more involved. This first month has been excellent and I’m amazed at how much this organization accomplishes with an all-volunteer staff!

With our two new officers and six new board members (read about them on our website!), we continue to have a strong presence in Ulaanbaatar and Washington DC and are increasing our governance team representation in other US cities, including New York. Hopefully this will mean new opportunities to engage our membership.

As many of you know, this year marks both the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps and the 20th anniversary of Peace Corps Mongolia. We are excited to celebrate both milestones, so keep your eyes out for 20/50-related announcements!

Finally, thank you all for your membership and continued support of cultural exchange and human development with the Mongolian people, including our grants and scholarship programs.

Until next time,

Sunaree
Second FOM Charity Drive: Well Received by Sun Children’s Center

Friends of Mongolia recently completed our second annual charity drive for orphans, January 2011, and it was a great success! Between October 1 and December 1, 2010 FOM facilitated a collection of used clothes, toys, and books for orphans in Mongolia, and collected 13 large boxes of donations from around the U.S. A big “Thank You!/Bayarlalaa!” to all the generous FOM members and other donors who supported this drive.

This initiative was facilitated by one of our most active FOM Members in California, Sarnai Gantumur, as well as our friend Travis Hellstrom at the Peace Corps Mongolia Office in Ulaanbaatar and current Peace Corps Volunteer, Stephanie Hackbarth who serves at the Sun Children Orphanage in Darkhan, Mongolia. In response to our posts and emails, FOM members responded enthusiastically with donations of books, clothes, and toys from all over the U.S.

Friends of Mongolia would like to thank Anglo Freight Co., Ltd, who gave us a 50% on shipping, and Soko and Zorigoo for their great help with the shipping of all items to Mongolia. We also want to show our appreciation for Denise Mohsenin and all our great supporters in Portolla Valley, CA who did such great work in collecting donations for this drive – and donating that large box of blue hooded “USA” sweatshirts!

Our donations arrived at the Sun Children’s Orphanage just before Lunar New Year (Tsagaan Sar) in late January 2010. These donations were well received and appreciated by the children and staff at the orphanage, including their kindergarten, as you can see from these pictures.

Thanks again to all who participated in this drive to help make the lives of these orphan children brighter!

FOM letters

Hi everyone!

Thank you so much! I wish you all could have been there to see the excitement in my counter-parts as they opened the packages! They were so appreciative! So a huge THANK YOU from them as well! :

There were SO MANY clothing items that some will be saved for later. For example, the newer clothing items (with tags attached) will be saved for the children’s birthdays as well as the upcoming Tsagaan Sar! And the summer clothing will be saved for summertime.

Many of the jackets, gloves, hats, and scarves were distributed among the children the day they arrived! In addition, pants, shirts, and the BIG box of blue hooded USA sweatshirts were also given out.

The smaller clothing items as well as the some of the toys and games will be taken to the kindergarten that is sponsored by Sun Child Orphanage.

Finally, the blankets, books, puzzles, crayons/markers, purses, shoes, shoe holders, etc. will also remain at the orphanage.

We cannot thank you enough! We know an incredible amount of time, money, and hard work on your part was devoted to this donation drive! Thank you again!

Stephanie...and Everyone at Sun Child Orphanage!
Officer and Board updates

Officer Updates

FOM is pleased to announce a new USA based Co-Director, Sunaree Marshall. Anne Riordan will be passing on the torch to Sunaree over the next few months. Sunaree brings a lot of experience and a love for Mongolia to the table. Gregory Miller was also elected as the new Membership Coordinator. He will be taking over from Angie Braun. FOM wants to thank Annie and Angie for their hard work and dedication. They will both be missed.

Sunaree Marshall is the child of a Peace Corps volunteer (Thailand 71-73), Sunaree served in Ulaanbaatar from 2005-2008 in the first class of Community Youth Development volunteers and later as Peace Corps Volunteer Leader. While in the Peace Corps, she worked with at-risk youth and school social workers in the Songino Khairkhan District public schools and with abused, abandoned and homeless youth in Chingeltei district through Save the Children-UK Mongolia. She returned to Mongolia in the summer of 2008 to work with the Urban Development Resource Center, a Mongolian NGO that works with ger district residents across Mongolia to establish community savings groups and upgrade their housing and community infrastructure. After her close of service in Mongolia, Sunaree earned a Masters in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where she concentrated in International Development. She currently works at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington DC, managing sustainable planning grants and analyzing urban planning and environmental justice-related policies and programs.

Gregory Miller, after growing up in the Denver area, attended the University of Colorado and graduated with degrees in history and music. In 2007 he arrived in Mongolia as an M18 TEFL Volunteer, serving in Tuvsruulekh Soum in Arkhangai. He then extended his service as a PCVL and moved into the capital to work with Peace Corps staff and at the Education Advising and Resource Center. Since returning to Colorado last fall, he has been working at the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. Greg is looking forward to the opportunity to continue working with Mongolia through Friends of Mongolia.

Board Updates

Ambassador Al La Porta has been re-elected to the FOM Board of Directors. He is joined on the board by the newly elected Katie Murray.

The board has also chosen to appoint six additional members to the board in accordance with the FOM bylaws. D.Enkhbataar will be returning for another three years with the FOM board. The five newly appointed members include three Mongolia RPCVs: Alexandra Cohn, Amit Sharma, and Jay Liotta, and two Mongolian development workers: V.Oidov (Mercy Corps Mongolia) and S.Enkhtuya (Peace Corps Mongolia).

FOM would like to thank the board members currently serving their 3 year terms (Patrick Sommerville, Lara Ho, Ariel Wyckoff, and Ariuntuya Tsend-Ayush) for their continued service to FOM!

Katie Murray was an early PC Mongolia volunteer, serving in Ulaanbaatar from 1992-1994. Upon returning to the US, she was awarded a graduate fellowship from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and earned a master's degree in Community Planning and Area Development from the University of Rhode Island. Katie worked in public sector planning before moving into the non-profit arena in 1999, taking a position with The Providence Plan, an innova-

(Continued on page 4)
tive “think-and-do-tank” where she specializes in data practices to drive program improvements, organizational accountability, and community empowerment. Currently, she oversees data and evaluation activities for ProvPlan’s early childhood initiative, Ready to Learn Providence. She also serves as Project Manager for InfoWorks LIVE, an initiative of the Rhode Island Department of Education that makes public education data easily accessible to constituents statewide. Katie looks forward to an opportunity to take her son Aidan, now six years old, to visit her friends and favorite places in Mongolia.

S. Enkhtuya is a Program Manager for the Community Youth Development Program, Peace Corps Mongolia. Prior to Peace Corps, Enkhtuya worked as PCV counterpart for 6 years with 3 different PCVs while working as a Russian language teacher at the School Complex, Temuulel, in Sukhbaatar province. In addition, she worked on various community and youth development projects with volunteers. She received a Master in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis, USA. Ms. Enkhtuya completed writing her PhD dissertation at University of Oxford, UK, and she is waiting to defend it in Mongolia.

She has an extensive network with civil society institutions. Oidov Vanchig graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 2001 and has worked in the non-government sector for more than eleven years. Oidov is passionate about social inclusion for people with a disability, and began his non-government career in 1998 as a volunteer and Mongolian representative for the US NGO "Wheels for Humanity" foundation which enhanced community access through the provision of aids and equipment. His current position is a project officer for a disability project that won Interactions 2010 Disability Inclusion Award. His responsibilities include providing consultation to Disability Peoples Organizations (DPOs) on disability rights and management, coordinating reports, implementing advocacy programs on accessible infrastructure and Inclusive Education and supporting and monitoring the small scale disability projects of sub-grantees. Prior to this Oidov was a project officer on the USAID funded Training Advocacy and Networking project which enhanced the capacity and advocacy efforts of rural Civil Society Organizations. Oidov also participated for four years as a board member on the National Federation of Mongolian Disability Peoples Organizations during which he represented Mongolian DPOs at national and international events and gained managerial and analytical skills in governance by developing strategies, business plans and policies and strengthening stakeholder relationships.

Amit Sharma is currently the Chief of Staff and Front Office Global Liaison of Mitsubishi UFJ Securities (USA), Inc. the American investment banking and brokerage unit of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group. He joined the firm in June 2008. Prior to this role, Amit worked at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, where he served as Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary, Robert Kimmitt, with whom he worked to develop U.S. policies with respect to domestic finance, international affairs, and financial enforcement. Before joining the senior team at Treasury, Amit was a senior advisor in the Department’s Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, where he focused his efforts on issues related to illicit finance, and the use of economic/financial tools to combat national security threats. Amit held various consulting roles including for boutique financial services companies, domestic non-profit organizations and international development firms – focusing on sustainable development in emerging market

(Continued from page 3)

(Continued on page 5)
economies. He was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mongolia from 1998-2000, where he also met his wife, Thayer Tomlinson, a fellow volunteer. Amit graduated with a B.A. from the University of Virginia and earned his M.B.A. in International Finance and an M.A. International Policy and Economics from the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Amit is married with one son, Scout, and while he currently works in New York, he and his family are residents of Guilford, Vt.

Jay Liotta has almost eleven years of experience with Mongolia; two as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer and three-and-a-half as the Executive Director of the largest international law firm incorporated in Mongolia, Lehman, Lee & Xu Mongolia. As Executive Director of Lehman, Lee & Xu Mongolia he advises on a diverse range of legal services in the minerals, corporate and banking sector and have litigated up through the Supreme Court of Mongolia. He currently serves as the co-chair of the Business Council of Mongolia’s Legislative Affairs Committee and is a member of the Tax Working Group.

Alexandra Cohn is a RPCV (M-8) and was a practicing lawyer for 13 years in NYC with a general practice with particular experience in child welfare — representing a child welfare agency in federal civil rights litigation and tax exempt issues, training staff and engaging in policy discus-

sions with state and city representatives. In Mongolia she worked with a variety of entities in her assignments with the WWF and the Gobi Initiative. Community development projects included the Hatgal Craft and Clothing Co-op, the UNCHR Law School Advisory Board, the USAID-sponsored Judicial Reform Program, and Peace Corps’ Women in Development, amongst others. She was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, on the Board of the Robert Louis Stevenson School, and has done fundraising and event planning for other groups, including the Martina Arroyo Foundation and the Donna Uchizono Dance Company.

(Continued from page 4)

Farewell to Friends Of Mongolia

On March 1, 2011, I stepped down from the Co-Director position for the newly-elected Sunaree Marshall to take over. Over the past two years, I’ve seen this organization re-organize and grow. I truly believe in the mission of FOM, and I’ve also been able to see how much work goes on behind the scenes. Members often forget that the officers and board members of FOM are all volunteers. It’s incredible to think that we are able to organize events, award and monitor scholarships (13 of them) and small grants (4), field questions, communicate with members, maintain the website, engage in new partnerships, promote fundraisers, and more...all in our free time! Thankfully, we have been doing a better job of putting our name out there, and many of you RPCVs and friends are coming back into the fold with the desire to help out and contribute to promoting our activities in the USA and Mongolia. We have a few new officers and several new board members who bring new energy to the organization. The next few years are going to be exiting for FOM! I would like to thank all the people I served with, especially Lindsay Holmes, UB Co-Director. Congratulations to the FOM officers and board, old and new. Here’s to many more years of growth and success for Friends of Mongolia!

Sincerely,

Annie Riordan, Ex-Officio, Friends of Mongolia
RPCV Mongolia 2003-2005
Fulbright Fellow, Mongolia, 2007-2008
Interview with Morgan Keay of the Itgel Foundation

Ariel Wyckoff, M-11, FOM board member

Morgan Keay is the Founder and Executive Director of The Itgel Foundation, an NGO dedicated to protecting Mongolia’s cultural and environmental legacy. She first began living and working in Mongolia in 2002 and in 2010 was awarded a medal by Mongolia’s Ministry of Nature, Environment, and Tourism for outstanding contribution to the tourism and environment sectors. In addition to her work at the Itgel Foundation, Morgan works as a freelance consultant in the international development and non-profit sectors.

Morgan, thanks so much for agreeing to provide some info about yourself and your interesting work in Mongolia. Tell us about where you grew up and your education.

I grew up in Westchester County, north of New York City. Then I went to the university of Colorado in Boulder for my bachelor’s degree, and later to George Washington University in DC for my master’s in International Policy and Practice in Development.

A significant portion of our supporters are Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who’ve served in Mongolia – or their friends and family. That’s not the case with you. How did you become interested in Mongolia?

I first went to Mongolia in 2002 with the School for International Training (SIT) which is an undergraduate study abroad program. As part of the program I conducted an independent research project with the Tsaatan, and as a result the community asked me to come back and expand my work, which was primarily focused on the health of their reindeer herds at the time.

What has been the most surprising facet of your time in Khovsgol?

It’s hard to remember what surprised me initially because I am so used to living in the taiga with the Tsaatan now. But I would say it surprises me how comfortably one can live in a teepee in the deep wilderness, even in -60 degree temperatures. The Tsaatan know how to not just survive, but thrive in these conditions, and are deeply committed to maintaining their way of life despite the very challenging conditions and the differences between their way of life and a settled or urban existence.

Can you tell us more about the Itgel Foundation?

Itgel’s mission is to protect Mongolia’s cultural and environmental legacy through grassroots projects of sustainable development.

Our primary activities focus on the Tsaatan reindeer herding community in northern Khovsgol. We initially worked to improve the health of the Tsaatan’s reindeer herds, which were in decline following the transition, but Itgel’s work evolved far beyond reindeer health quite quickly.

We launched livelihoods projects that allow the Tsaatan to earn income without disrupting their nomadic lifestyle, which requires them to live in an extremely remote and isolated part of the country, which is designated as taiga ecosystem. We helped the Tsaatan establish a community-based tourism project, microfinance initiatives, land and natural resource management programs.

Because the Tsaatan have remained politically marginalized and prone to exploitation, Itgel also worked on human rights and social justice issues affecting the Tsaatan, such as advocating for policy reform on land use issues, access to education, and cultural property rights. Our work has yielded significant results such as increases in Tsaatan household

(Continued on page 8)
Help Send an Ambulance to Mongolia!

Friends of Mongolia is pleased to announce a new partnership with Go Help, a UK-based charity doing excellent work in Mongolia. Go Help is most well known for its annual Mongolia Charity Rally: a unique campaign to bring much needed ambulances to Mongolia. Participating teams raise money to purchase ambulances and other utility vehicles to be delivered to the Mongolian public health service and other public health charities. To raise awareness of the dramatic shortage of ambulances in Mongolia and facilitate additional fundraising, teams drive the ambulances from London to Mongolia as part of a road rally. Once in Mongolia, the ambulances are delivered to vetted public health charities or the Mongolia public health service. Any money raised beyond the cost of the ambulance is donated to various health and education charities.

This approach has been incredibly successful over the last few years, with nearly 100 vehicles being donated and nearly half a million dollars raised. As a result of this success, the ambulances donated this year will be used to create a new centralized Emergency Medical Service in Mongolia – the first of its kind – to be managed by “Go Help.”

As part of our new partnership with Go Help, we are helping the “Silk Road Warriors,” first U.S. based team with its fundraising. Their goal is to raise approximately $30,000 for the purchase of the ambulance, the Rally entry fee, and to cover other delivery-related expenses. The entry fee and all funds that do not go to purchasing the ambulance or getting it to Mongolia go to the Friends of Mongolia scholarship fund.

Please visit www.silkroadwarriors.com to learn more about this unique endeavor and how you can donate. You can also register to follow the Silk Road Warriors on their adventure as the go from London to Mongolia via Turkey, the Caucasus, the Caspian Sea, and Central Asia, including stops in Munich, Istanbul, Ankara, Baku, Ashgabat, Bukhara, Samarkand, Almaty, and Ulaanbaatar.

Additional information about “Go Help” can and the Mongolia Charity Rally in general is available at: http://mongolia.charityrallies.org.
income, the first ever access to health care and education for many Tsaatan families, the first ever access to legal representation, and a 150% increase in the reindeer population.

People want to know about the reindeer. What might people not realize about these animals? What separates them from other breeds of reindeer?

Reindeer are the only deer species in the world that can be fully domesticated, and the Tsaatan’s reindeer are perhaps the most tame of any on earth. This is because the Tsaatan raise reindeer not for meat, but for milking and riding, so they handle their reindeer individually, every day, which makes them very docile and used to people.

The Tsaatan have much smaller herds than reindeer herders in Russia, Europe, and North America, because they do not need vast herds for meat slaughters. Instead they rely on wild game as their primary meat source. The Tsaatan’s reindeer have been bred for thousands of years to produce high milk volumes, have strong backs for riding, and to be very agreeable with humans. Even small children can ride a bull reindeer with a huge rack of antlers and the reindeer will make sure it does not knock the child off its back with its large antlers.

That’s interesting because there are people who assert that the Mongolian reindeer are of a weak and inbred stock, and that now major plans are underway for an interbreeding project that would employ reindeer from Finland to “strengthen” Mongolian herds. However, I have heard that there is no need for such a project. Can you comment on this?

This is a very technical topic, but the short answer is as follows: Itgel is the only organization to conduct a comprehensive genetic study of the herd compared against every major reindeer population on earth, which is the way to determine genetic diversity (in relation to other populations). We found that the Tsaatan’s reindeer are less genetically diverse from other reindeer populations, but there is very limited evidence to suggest that the lack of genetic diversity is so low as to be harmful.

“The Tsaatan know how to not just survive, but thrive...[they] are deeply committed to maintaining their way of life.”

In other words, breeding programs that would bring in foreign deer are probably not necessary, and are in fact quite risky. Foreign deer can introduce disease and can dilute the traits that have been bred into the Tsaatan’s deer for centuries. Itgel has worked with the Tsaatan to design strategies for swapping bulls within the Mongolian population, castrate and selectively breed healthy deer, and to keep track of pedigrees in their herd. We think as the herd grows and if these strategies are employed, the threat of inbreeding will disappear on its own.

Can you tell us about the Tsaatan Community Visitor’s Center (TCVC) and how do these and other projects relate more generally to the Itgel Foundation’s concept of “sustainability”?

Itgel is deeply committed to promoting self sufficiency and sustainability. By this we mean that everything we do is aimed at helping the Tsaatan community thrive on their own, without continued outside support. We do this by training community members to take the lead in the projects we implement, and then Itgel eventually hands over full responsibility to the community.

The best example of this is our TCVC project. We helped the Tsaatan establish a community based tourism project, we hosted hundreds (literally) of workshops to design systems and strategies for the project, we built them a two-story facility to serve as its hub, we trained community members to be managers, guides, cooks, accountants, etc. and then they assumed 100% independent control of the TCVC in 2008.

The TCVC is fully self-sustaining in that it earns revenue by providing trip services to tourists visit-
ing the taiga. Tsaatan people earn income working as guides, cooks, horsemen, and managers. Remaining revenue goes into a fully Tsaatan controlled community fund, which is an account used for grants, loans, scholarships, and environmental projects.

The Tsaatan vote as a community on how they spend this money. This project exemplifies Itgel’s commitment to sustainability because it puts the Tsaatan in control of their own future, provides them with a self-sustaining revenue source, and helps them to pursue everything from higher education to policy reform on their own. It proves that the community does not need permanent aid from outsiders, but can ensure their own survival and the prosperity of their future independently, and indefinitely.

You received a medal from the Mongolian Ministry of Environment, Transportation, and Tourism. What an honor! Mongolia is one of few places on this planet that still has a great deal of well-preserved, unpolluted, and pristine nature. Can I ask you about your current thoughts about the state of environment in Mongolia, or at least out on the taiga where you’ve been living?

Yes, thank you. The medal was an enormous honor. Environmental issues are central to everything Itgel does. My background is in environmental biology, and my interest in sustainable development at the community level is in making it possible for communities like the Tsaatan, who live a low-impact lifestyle, to maintain their traditions while still accessing the amenities and services of the modern world.

This is always tricky, though, because in the world of development, most people think the only way to improve quality of life is to pursue industrial development and do things that harm the environment, like mining. Itgel believes otherwise.

We have shown that through things like community based tourism and community based land management, communities can earn income, protect the environment, and do it in a way that is self-sustaining and viable in a modern economy and context. A major challenge though is that these things will not make communities or countries rich, whereas things like mining can.

It is about tradeoffs. If a community decides to mine on its land, maybe a few people will get rich, and the economic opportunities will last a few years or decades at most. If they decide to pursue sustainable, low-impact livelihoods, like tourism, herding, sustainable forestry, etc. probably no one will get rich, but everyone can live a comfortable life, with adequate food, health care, access to education, and modern amenities. And the best part is, these economic opportunities can last indefinitely, if managed correctly, that’s why they are called sustainable livelihoods. So what is better? A few rich people now, who stay rich for a generation or two, but live in a degraded environment, or everyone at a reasonable level of economic well-being for many generations, with the environment protected and intact? To me the answer is clear, and that is the basis for how Itgel conducts its activities.

“Even small children can ride a bull reindeer... and the reindeer will make sure it does not knock the child off its back with its large antlers.”

It looks like, beyond the environmental and community development work of Itgel, that you guys have done some work with the Tsaatan on cultural preservation. Why is this needed? And can you let us know what the project is about?

Because rapid changes in lifestyle are occurring in Mongolia, cultural knowledge and traditions change and adapt to fit new lifestyles. For example, the Tsaatan used to make coverings for their teepees (ortz) with birch bark, but they have used store bought canvas for the past several decades, which is more water proof and easier to transport than bark. Today, few Tsaatan children would know how to harvest birch bark and make ortz coverings the old way. However, because birch bark ortzes are part of the cultural her-

(Continued from page 8)

“Even small children can ride a bull reindeer... and the reindeer will make sure it does not knock the child off its back with its large antlers.”

It looks like, beyond the environmental and community development work of Itgel, that you guys have done some work with the Tsaatan on cultural preservation. Why is this needed? And can you let us know what the project is about?

Because rapid changes in lifestyle are occurring in Mongolia, cultural knowledge and traditions change and adapt to fit new lifestyles. For example, the Tsaatan used to make coverings for their teepees (ortz) with birch bark, but they have used store bought canvas for the past several decades, which is more water proof and easier to transport than bark. Today, few Tsaatan children would know how to harvest birch bark and make ortz coverings the old way. However, because birch bark ortzes are part of the cultural her-

(Continued on page 10)
Selected weekly newswire bits

**GDP likely to increase by 12%**

The National Development and Innovation Committee estimates Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the market value of all final goods and services produced within the country, will increase by 12% in 2011 over the 2010 figure of MNT4,154 billion. The main contributions to the increase will come from the mining and extracting industry, the processing industry, the construction sector, and from wholesale and retail trade. Agriculture and farm sector products will decrease in value because of the lingering effects of the dzud.

Source: Business Council of Mongolia

**From follower to pioneer, Korea teaches Mongolian bobsleigh team**

At the opening ceremony of the push track, a training facility for the bobsleigh start, at PyeongChang, Tuesday, four men, looking similar to Koreans, approached with purpose.

They were Mongolian bobsleighers here with their coaches, to learn the skills and training methods necessary to compete in the bobsleigh and skeleton.

(Read more)

Source: The Korea Times

---

**Back then...**

COS, M-14 group

COS, M-18 group
Community Development Grants Awarded

On March 1, 2011, FOM awarded four Community Development Grants. FOM membership dues and donations go directly to support these Grants. We would like to thank our members for their generosity and allowing us to fund these projects. This year we had 12 applicants from Peace Corps, VSO, and independent NGOs. We were able to fund 4 projects. Congratulations to them!

Altantovch Jamiyan, VSO, Darkhan, Psychiatric Ward (Funded $330.00)

This project will provide occupational therapy to those who live in the Darkhan hospital psychiatric ward through arts and crafts. The ultimate goal is to be able to sell the crafts and create a sustainable project. The funding will be used for human resources and the purchase of materials.

Sandrina Da Cruz, VSO, Khutul, Selenge, Lotus Center, Crafts Production (Funded $490.00)

This project focuses on vocational training for low income women. The women will receive expert training and will be able to purchase materials to help them produce felt craft products. They will also receive business management training. The participants will also be contributing financially to receive the training. The funding will be used for human resources and the purchase of materials.

Sergelen Vanjargal, Mongolian 4H, UB, Countrywide program (Funded: $500.00)

This project strives to promote development by promoting reading as well as creative and critical thinking skills for Mongolian children aged 5-17. Participants will complete a weekly reading program for two months; at the end of the program they will have read at least one book and completed a related creative work. The funding will be used to promote the competition, train librarians, and support the awards ceremony for the best projects.

Kate Borkowski and Nate Lingo, Peace Corps, Sukhbaatar Aimag, Baruun Urt, AIDS Prevention, (Funded: $485.00)

This project aims to educate 300 students during a summer camp in Sukhbaatar Aimag on HIV/AIDS prevention through a series of lessons and activities. The camp promotes human development through education and increased awareness of social issues that effect teenagers. The funding will be used for supplies related to HIV/AIDS education for participants.

Membership updates

Greg Miller, M-18, Membership Coordinator

Our member list here with Friends of Mongolia continues to grow. Currently we have a total of 134 members from all over the United States and Mongolia and even some in Australia and Europe.

As always, we are continually looking for ways to grow and reach new friends. One of our current goals is to reach out directly to RPCVs who served in the early and mid 90’s. Some of the new board members who served back then—including Patrick Sommerville, Katie Murray (M-2), Alexandra Cohn (M-8), Amit Sharma, and Lara Ho—will help us out with in this area, but we need your help too. Let all of those former volunteers and potential friends about what is new with Friends of Mongolia.

Like us on Facebook. Visit our Facebook page to stay up to date, see pictures, and join the conversation. Just follow the link—www.facebook.com/friendsofmongolia.

Any suggestions for ways to reach new members are always welcome. Give me an email at gmillerr@friendsofmongolia.org with your ideas.

Thanks again for all of your continued support!!
Friends of Mongolia Membership and Donation Form

Your contact information
Name: ________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________
______________________________________________
Phone: ________________________________________
Email: ________________________________________

Membership options
☐ FOM Individual ($25)
☐ FOM Family (2 individuals; $45)
☐ FOM/NPCA Joint Individual ($50)
☐ FOM/Mongolia Society Joint Individual ($50)

Donation options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General donation</th>
<th>Community grant donation</th>
<th>Scholarship fund donation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total amount enclosed $_________

Please make checks out to Friends of Mongolia and mail to:
Friends of Mongolia
PO Box 53314
Washington, DC 20009

Thank you for your contribution!

Friends of Mongolia is a US registered 501(c)3 not-for-profit, education organization. Donations and membership dues may be tax deductible.