2018 IN REVIEW

Happy New Year, Friends!

Spring and Winter of 2018 brought several new changes at Friends of Mongolia! We would like to thank you for your continuous support and update you on what we have been doing recently. With a new class of Scholars and some exciting new projects, we started off 2018 right. As for 2019, we have some exciting events planned, including our 2019 Gala Reception.

Stay tuned for more updates this 2019 on facebook, instagram, website and email!

LATEST NEWS FROM THIS ISSUE:

- 2018 Scholarships & Fundraising drive
- 2018 Community Grants
- 2018 Community Outreach
- 2019 Upcoming Plans
This past summer had a record number of applicants for our scholarships!

This year, 91 students applied for a scholarship. 50 were selected for interviews and three new students were awarded scholarships. In addition to their outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated need, the scholarship recipients are notable for their volunteer work, civic engagement, and involvement with university clubs, competitions and student councils.

We also continued funding ten previous scholarships. You can read more information about our 2018-2019 scholars in our Fall Newsletter at www.friendsofmongolia.com.

**FUNDRAISING**

In the fall, FOM started a fundraising drive to supplement our generous donations we receive from the Matthew Girvin Scholarship Fund. Due to soaring tuition prices in Mongolia, we asked our members and followers to contribute to the higher education of our scholars. We were fortunate enough to receive $4,700, which helped finance the scholarships. Thank you!

**QUOTES FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

"FoM scholarship made this blurry dream come true." -Alungoo, Studying Design at Shutis School

"... You have opened a door for me and gave me a chance to study.”
-Lkhagvasuren, studying Traditional Medicine at Etugen Medical School

"I want to thank from the bottom of my heart to all people who have initiated this scholarship." -Munkdavaa, studying engineering at National University of Mongolia

"It is because of your generosity that I am able to my studies .... My family and I thank you so much giving me this incredible opportunity.”
- Munkhjargal, studying finance at the National University of Mongolia
2018 COMMUNITY GRANTS

STELLAR PROJECTS

This past spring we had 12 applicants apply for community grants and we were able to fund six amazing projects. We funded two grants for current Peace Corps Volunteers and four for the following organizations: the LGBT Center, Bidnii Uliastai, Mom and Dad Against Smoke, and Sain Tus. In total, the cost of all six grants was $2,679.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

LITTER AWARENESS PROJECT
ULIASTAI SOUM, ZAVKHAN PROVINCE
APRIL - JUNE 2018

On behalf of Bidnii Uliastai NGO, our many volunteers, PCV, we want to thank you very much for awarding us a grant to help pay for our “litter awareness” day during Children’s Day festivities at the Naadam Stadium in Uliastai. Our project was a great success as we had over 40 volunteers come to help—setting up and overseeing our “litter awareness” information booth, monitoring the many trash bins we had placed around the stadium (including encouraging children’s day attendees to place their litter in the bins) and picking up any remaining litter on the ground. Many children (and adults—including the Zavkhan governor and Uliastai mayor) came to our information booth to learn about our project.

We will build upon our successful childrens’ day project by holding another “litter awareness” during the two-day Uliastai Naadam next month. Thanks again for your support—it really helped make our project a success. -Bidnii Uliastai

If you know an individual or an organization who could benefit from a FoM Community Grant, please direct them to www.friendsofmongolia.com, as we are now accepting 2019 applications.
2018 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

WASHINGTON, DC AREA EVENT

February 2018: Tsagaan Sar

FoM partnered with the Mongolian School of the National Capital Area to host Tsagaan Sar. We enjoyed traditional food and drink, listened to Mongolian music, and celebrated with new and old friends. Special thanks goes out to Dolgor Ploetz, Tumendemberel Ragchaa, MSNCA and their teachers for helping us put together another memorable Tsagaan Sar event!

ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA EVENT

January 20, 2018: Scholarship Lunch Reception

FoM hosted a scholarship recipient lunch for the 2017-2018 school year scholarship recipients, including graduate scholars at Nazca restaurant in Ulaanbaatar. We had a special guest, Peter Bittner, a good friend of Matthew Lee Girvin’s family, and he gave a thoughtful presentation of Matthew’s life. Thank you to all our scholars for their continued hard work!

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON EVENT

February 17, 2018: Tsagaan Sar

The Mongolian Students’ Association at University of Washington (MNSA) organized and celebrated Mongolian Lunar New Year for the second year at North Seattle Church. Around 20 folks attended the event, most of whom were university students. Thank you to MNSA for hosting celebrations in Seattle!
2019 UPCOMING PLANS

WASHINGTON, DC AREA EVENTS

Calendar of Expected Events:

Tsagaan Sar
FoM will once again host Tsagaan Sar with the Mongolian School of the National Capital Area
Date: Saturday, February 23rd, 2019
Time: 5pm - 8pm
Location: Quincy Plaza, 3900 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203

20 Years of FOM Gala
FoM will be reflecting on the past 20 years of service and highlighting past scholars, grants, community events, and major contributors to the cause.
Date: Thursday, June 20th, 2019
Location: DACOR Bacon House

Please stay tuned for more events in your area.

HOST TSAGAAN SAR NEAR YOU!
Far away from Washington D.C., but still want to celebrate Tsagaan Sar with the FOM community?

Plan a Tsagaan Sar event in your city and FOM will help sponsor it! Interested parties in the following cities can apply to receive $300 towards their public Tsagaan Sar event.

Chicago
San Francisco
Los Angeles
Denver
New York City
Seattle

Please visit www.friendsofmongolia.org for more information!