

Newsletter Bayasgalant 2/2010

october 2010

News from Mongolia

Playground at daycare centre

At last! For a long time it was an unfulfilled wish of the kids at the daycare centre to play outside on a playground. Thanks to Emanuel Gut, singer of the band Myron (www.myron.ch) who financed the playground, this wish was fulfilled this summer.



Summer camp

Summers in Ulan Bator are hot, and the air is sticky and polluted, so city residents try to spend time in the countryside with relatives and friends. They enjoy the fresh air, and eat plenty of milk products. In Mongolia, it is commonly advised that one should eat as many milk products as possible during summertime. But the parents of our kids are too poor to travel to the countryside, which means that the children have to stay in town. This summer was different for them, however. Every week 10 kids spent one week with a teacher in the Terelj National Park, where they played and stayed with nomads. They liked it very much, so we hope this can be repeated every year.

Volunteers

Each of the first two volunteers, Marianne Stoessel and Giovanna Wegmueller, stayed for two months at the daycare centre and taught English to the children and learned Mongolian from them. Marianne is a trained social worker and Giovanna a trained teacher, so their support was highly appreciated. The farewell was sad on both sides. Their experiences will soon be published on our homepage.

Renovation

Big renovations for our small house – a heater, a shower and new wallpaper make it look like new. Most of the children live in gers (the traditional Mongolian tent) and in areas where there are no sanitarian facilities at home, so our employees went to the public bathhouse every Saturday to bathe or shower the 50 kids. This was like a small excursion every week, so the new shower is highly appreciated.



Former Asral-And Children

Our Co-Project leader Alexander Locher is in charge of the former Asral-And children and he visits them regularly. A little summary of his work:

- A 7 year-old boy isn't making any progress at school. He hates attending class, even destroyed his books, he isn't able to count over 5, and he can't read after one year at school. Alex is looking now for a school for children with special needs.
- A mum of two children is diagnosed with cancer. Alex organized the hospital appointments and also helped with the formalities of registrations so with the hope that she can claim social benefits.
- A mum and her three girls suffer from various health problems. The mum had a stroke two years ago and hasn't recovered yet. Moreover, her kidney and heart are weak, so she is unable to work. One of the girls has contracted a chronic cough, and her sister suffers from skin diseases and hearing problems. Alex is organizing appointments at the doctors and with authorities.
- Good news from one of the boys: he was seriously underweight and complained of heartache. Medicine against tapeworms solved the problem, the boy gained weight, and the heart isn't causing any pain anymore.
- The alcohol problem of a father of two boys got worse. The mum is very desperate and fearful of him. He used to drink occasionally, now he often comes home from work completely drunk. Alex accompanied her to the counselling centre: "men, families and children".

News from Switzerland

100km run in Biel – running through the night in favour of Bayasgalant

During the night of the 11/12th in June 2010, thousands of runners attended the "Bieler Lauftage" (www.100km.ch), which means running 100km through the night. There were three teams that ran the relay and three individuals who ran it by themselves. All of them made it to the finish, so a big thank you to the runners and their sponsors. Special thanks go to the travel agency Globetrotter in Bern, Physiotherapy Bruegg, and the company Haeglofs.



Mongolian felt slippers sold at multicultural festival in Lyss

The multicultural festival was on 21th August 2010. In Lyss, Bayasgalant sold felt slippers that are sewn by the parents of the former Asral-And children. As it was a hot summer day, we didn't sell too many, but winter is soon here, so if you are interested in keeping your feet warm, or in other products, please have a look at our shop on the homepage.

Charity concert in Biel

Saturday 27th November 2010 there will be a benefit concert in Etage Club in Biel „Music for children“ with the Bands „Death by Chocolate“ and „Jim's Future“. Start: 11pm, doors opening at 10pm, ticket Fr. 15.--. The benefit will go entirely to the children in Mongolia. For more information, go to www.etageclub.ch. We hope to see you there.