

### Happy in spite of everything



He is one of the earliest to arrive at the day care centre in the mornings and leaves last in the evenings, when one of our team members will bring him home. The 4 year old Tsengel seems like a happy chap at first sight. When he hears music, he starts dancing wildly. He is watching with interest when the housekeeper is repairing a wheel chair. But sometimes while eating his breakfast, his eyes are looking sad and loneliness is showing. The Bayasgalant staff became his family, they are there for him and are giving him the love and affection he desperately needs. They are also teaching him basic manners like washing his hands before eating and showing him how to use the toilet. Before Tsengel could attend the day care centre, he was locked into the ger while his mum went for work. Sometimes she only got home after midnight. Some days he had to accompany her. The Bayasgalant staff decided to make an exception and accept him although he wasn't 6 years old yet, the official age to attend.

### Self responsibility



In September 2013 the kids moved into the new big house which is used as the day care centre. At last there is enough space for 3 class rooms, a library, a play room, a dining room and an office where the social worker is now able to talk to the parents in a private atmosphere. Since we've got more space the children are having regular life skills lessons. Together with the kids we made the rules "be respectful, be peaceful, be honest, do appreciate and value". We are noticing a more respectful behaviour of the kids now. Each day a different child is responsible for the books and has to write down the names and titles when a child is borrowing a book. They are doing these tasks with pride and it boosts their feeling of being responsible.

Some of the teenagers have been asked to give feed-back to their teachers after a life skills lesson. For Mongolian children this is a very unusual question because at school they are used to be quiet and the teachers are very authoritative. So it was a big pleasure to hear that the older boys like to be involved in the preparation of the life skills lessons. These teenagers are at the day care centre since many years and it's with pride that we see them turning into responsible young adults.

Another topic to teach the kids responsibility is to plant vegetables and flowers in our garden which they will water and taking care of.

## Standing on his own two feet.



Enksaichan is a smart little boy, without hesitation he says the phone numbers of the family members and knows their addresses too. But he for himself he is confined to the ger, the only way to walk is with his “machin” his dad made for him. Since birth the muscles and ligaments didn’t develop and he had had operations to straighten his feet and legs. During winter and spring the roads are icy or muddy so he can’t use his “machin” and is forced to stay inside the dark ger for months like many other handicapped people in Mongolia. Often these people are hidden inside and family members are ashamed to be seen with them. Ensaichan is a lucky boy and has parents who really care for him. His mother is carrying him once or twice a week to the day care centre. He enjoys learning and playing with other children. In May he was operated again in the hope that with therapy, he will be able to walk one day. Bayasgalant paid the operation and will also pay transportation to the therapist. By law this treatment is free.

The **medical fund** is really necessary and we would appreciate donations to support people with medical needs.

## What will be one day?



It’s the third year that Bayasgalant is paying fees for education of teenagers who have finished school. Dorjipalam is one of the 9 teenagers who benefits from the education fund: he is the only one who passed the tests to attend University. Whenever his schedule allows he is as often at the day care centre as possible and is helping with life skills lessons or plays with the smaller kids basketball and he loves eating the food of our cook Dogi!

From next September 14 teenagers will profit from the Bayasgalant education fund.

## Bayasgalant is changing the life of the kids



Life for the Bayasgalant kids became easier and happier since they are attending the day care centre. Our staff is like a family to them. The kids in the ger districts are often left alone home most of the time, either because their parents are working, or searching for work, often it’s a single mum who has to raise their kids alone, sometimes the parents are sick and home are alcoholics. These circumstances mean for the kids: no food, no attention, no affection and no support with homework. It’s a blessing to see how they develop and become more confident.

## How your donation helps:



- Fr. 30.- pays for heating material for a family for two weeks
- Fr. 60.- pays food for a child for a month
- Fr. 150.- pays for soap and shampoo for a month for all kids
- Fr. 300.- pays for an operation for one child
- Fr. 350.- pays education fees for one teenager for a year
- Fr. 500.- pays for school material for 50 children
- Fr. 1530.- pays food for all kids for one week

## We are looking for toys



In Mongolia it's very difficult to find toys in good quality. Therefore we are looking for Duplo, Lego, Playmobils, small wooden blocks, board games, memory cards, chess, puzzles but also colour pencils and craft materials. We would be very grateful if you could email us at [info@bayasgalant.ch](mailto:info@bayasgalant.ch) when you have games to donate.

## Volunteer journey 2015



Bayasgalant is organizing two trips to Mongolia in summer 2015. During these 3 weeks trip, you will explore the beautiful country side and also stay 5 days at the day care centre where you will help with daily tasks and meeting the children and some of their families. More information and dates will follow soon.