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+edurelief

Registered 501(c)3 Nonprofit

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# Mission Statement

Edurelief is a development organization focused on breaking the cycle of poverty, improving quality of life, and encouraging hope in the future of people's lives around the world through sustainable education, training, and advocacy on their behalf.

# Letter

Dear potential partner,

Thank you so much for your interest in Edurelief and our programs which aim to bring a fresh hope and future to the lives of children through education.

From the day we started in early 2006, our goal has been to make a positive impact on the issues facing Mongolian children and their education. We are eager to share with you, in the following pages, who we are, what we believe, the amazing work our partners have accomplished, and how you can be involved.

When we first began work on behalf of Mongolian children we thought perhaps we could help one community, or one school. But thanks to a few friends, and many others wanting to help, we sponsored more than 525 children in our first year of operation. In 2007 we expanded our projects to rural areas in western Mongolia and over 3,400 children benefited. That brings our total, in only two years, to nearly 4,000 children!

Our initial goal has been to meet the immediate, urgent need for children be able to return to school and thus, regain a hope and dignity in life. We knew from the beginning, however, that it would not end there. We desire to serve these communities in long-term, sustainable ways and help them find solutions to the issues they are facing.

We are very proud of the accomplishment of these past two years but know there is much more to do. In 2008 and beyond we plan to expand across Mongolia, partnering with local communities and governments to preserve the value of education.

People like you are making these things possible. We would not be the organization we are today – nor would so many hundreds of children have the chance to learn again – if it were not for the work of our partners and volunteers all over the world. We hope that by reading the following pages you will feel inspired and know that together we can make a difference.

# About Edurelief

Edurelief is a grassroots organization founded in 2006 in response to an issue that affects thousands of Mongolian children and their families. Due to economic decline in the country, and a lack of funding in the education system, families have to choose between purchasing required textbooks for their children's education or having their children drop out of school. Low wages and high unemployment rates make the cost of these textbooks, often the equivalent of a month's salary per child, out of reach for many families. Through our partnerships with Mongolian-run print shops, we print and distribute textbooks to local school systems across the country. These textbooks are then given to the neediest families, ensuring that every child is guaranteed their right to education and a brighter future.

The promotion of education by edurelief programs has a great effect on Mongolian communities. Education has been proven to reduce poverty, improve quality of life, and promote health. Through these programs, Edurelief not only meets the practical need of ensuring the education of children, but also brings hope and well-being to their communities by empowering them to establish long-term, sustainable solutions to these issues.

Edurelief's goal is to support communities to help them meet the immediate need of ensuring their children's right to education, but also to partner with them, empowering the communities to establish long-term, sustainable solutions to these issues. With your help, we can see lasting change take place in lives of these children and their communities.

# A Foundational Value of Hope

## **Hope for the Child**

Edurelief agrees and adheres to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which promotes a child's right to education, health, safety, and family regardless of race, religion, sex, or disability. We always seek the best interest of the child, taking measures to protect them, encourage healthy, holistic development, and defend their rights. Edurelief recognizes that a child has free will and personal responsibility.

## **Hope for Communities**

Edurelief participates in holistic, sustainable development, and upholds cultural values. We believe in the value of family, of quality work, of individual dignity, and in strengthening the sense of personal responsibility. Edurelief considers it great gain to establish partnerships with existing projects and local professionals with the goal of promoting sustainability and ownership of projects by the community.

## **Hope Within Our Team**

The Edurelief team consists of volunteers upheld by high moral standards. We value, respect, and appreciate the work of each member. Our members are accountable to each other and work with honesty and transparency. Cultural sensitivity and creative ideas are highly valued by Edurelief. As a team Edurelief stands, advocating on behalf of those whose rights are ignored or not upheld.

# Structure

## **Edurelief Began With a Simple Vision - Children in School**

However, the reasons why a child finds him/herself in or out of school go much deeper than simply having schoolbooks or not. Every family and community is different and there is no formula that will work to solve a problem here as well as there. Long-lasting, sustainable change takes time, patience, research, and trust. It takes working alongside people who have professional skills but also alongside people who know their communities. We believe that the local people know best, and in partnership with them, we work to solve the issues they are faced with today. We feel that the following are keys to help communities regain a dignified way of life for themselves and their children.

# Educational Develop- ment

We would like to see child sponsorship keep a foundational place in our programs, ensuring that above all else, children have the right to learn and grow. Edurelief also believes in appropriate child development and that teachers and caretakers of children receive adequate training in this area. Learning centers can also help fill gaps in the education of communities and their children, providing foreign language training, local and foreign language books, and technology training.



# Micro- Enterprise and Vocational Training

More often than not, local people are willing and motivated to make a positive impact on their community and families but simply do not have the means to do it. Through micro-loans, training programs, and business partnerships we hope to encourage the establishment of small businesses and job creation, investing in creative ideas that will create ownership, giving communities a firm grasp on their futures and a more dignified life.

# Community Develop- ment

Edurelief hopes to impact communities through energy and water solutions. Often, towns and villages in rural or remote areas are constrained in these areas because of high cost or limited technology. It is our goal to see how these limitations can be solved or removed, giving access to clean water and alternative electricity solutions. Healthcare programs also hold an important part in our efforts to help communities. By partnering and supporting local healthcare systems as well as coordinating visiting medical teams, we desire to bring effective teaching and training to the local population, leading to healthier children, families, and communities.

# Accomplish- ments

The last two years, Edurelief has made some great strides forward. We could not have done that without the help of partners and volunteers all over the world. With their help, we have been able to accomplish the following programs:

## **Child Sponsorship & School Library Programs 2006-2007**

Nearly 5,000 children reached, many from simple \$20 donations that were collected from our volunteers' friends, families, classmates, and coworkers.

## **Media Coverage**

Partners and volunteers have helped us gain great awareness by talking to their local media outlets. To date, Edurelief has appeared in five television reports as well as numerous newspaper and major online news and blog websites.

## **Major Events**

Edurelief partners and volunteers have also helped put on a number of incredible events, raising a large percentage of our annual budget. These events include art shows, concerts, matching corporate fundraisers, dance parties, and information booths on university campuses.

## **Awareness and Marketing**

One of the most influential ways partners and volunteers help our programs is by spreading awareness about Edurelief and what we do. The past two years they have helped get 52,000 coffee sleeves into their local cafes, handed out thousands of flyers, sold hundreds of t-shirts, and mailed out dozens of DVD video packs to potential donors.

# How can you and your company help?

We would love nothing more than to have you and your company on board, helping us make a difference in the lives of children and communities in Mongolia. Partnering companies have helped in so many great ways the past few years, succeeding in creating awareness and raising thousands of dollars for Edurelief programs. It has been amazing to see companies work together to make a difference, it would be a privilege to work with you as well. Here are some ways you can help:

## **Child Sponsorship**

The cost to provide new textbooks and return a child to school is \$20. Our partners like working with the child sponsorship program because no one can argue that it's not money well spent when the result is a child in school for an entire year. Companies can easily see the impact their donations make. Edurelief ensures that 100% of the donations are used for programs, not the costs of our day-to-day operations. If you would like to be involved in this program please contact us and we'll send you promotional flyers. These can be distributed to your employees for their information and to raise funds.

## **Corporate Fundraising**

Some of our partnering companies establish matching fund donations to encourage their employees to give. Last year we had employees of a natural food distributor challenge each other to raise funds for children in Mongolia. Their company matched the funds they gave which resulted in nearly \$4,000 raised in just a few weeks. We can provide detailed information about our programs and mission to you as well as provide promotional materials to help inform your employees and get them involved!

## **Campaigns**

Every so often, Edurelief launches an official campaign. This gives us all a chance to work together towards a specific goal. We work to create a set of flyers, graphics, videos, and often merchandise that help us meet the goal of our campaign. Edurelief has run two official campaigns in the past two years, one encouraging people to give up coffee for a week and sponsor a child with the money they saved and another highlighting Black Friday, the biggest shopping day of the year in the United States. We would love to have your help with these campaigns so together we can meet our goals and make a difference.

## **Awareness Raising**

Even if internal fundraising is not something your company normally takes part in there is still a lot you can do to help spread the word about our programs. We have had partners hand out flyers to their employees, post notices in high traffic areas or send out company wide emails to share about our programs. There is no such thing as too little help when it comes to raising awareness and your voice would be a huge help in making a difference in these children's lives.

## **Merchandise**

We here at Edurelief love being creative and coming up with new ways to present our programs to people. We enjoy making t-shirts and wristbands and selling them to our friends and coworkers for a good cause. Merchandise can make a huge difference in any fundraiser you run. If you want merchandise to help you put on your company fundraiser please contact us so we can get you what you need.

# Conclusion

We hope that this little booklet gives you the information you need about Edurelief and that it inspires you to get your company involved. We are who we are because of our partners and volunteers and the work that they do. Please feel free to contact us anytime with any thoughts, ideas, or if you would like to partner with us. We sincerely feel that the future holds great things for the children of Mongolia and are eager to see that happen.

Sincerely,  
+edurelief staff



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