Edu-relief Volunteer Handbook
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.
Dear potential volunteer,

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 volunteers 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 simply 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 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.
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 Development

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.
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 minimized 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.
Accomplishments

The last two years, Edurelief has made some great strides forward. We could not have done that without the help of 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**
Our 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 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 volunteers have helped our programs is in helping spread 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 help?

Volunteers across the world have helped us reach thousands of children in Mongolia. We would love nothing more than to have you on board, being a part of this vision to bring hope and dignity to the lives of these children and their communities. Our volunteers are passionate, highly motivated, and are using their own creativity to see this happen. We are always looking for people with the heart to raise awareness, support, and funds for Edurelief and what we do.

So you’ve heard about what we do and now you want to help. Awesome. We want to work with you and your personal creativity and strengths, releasing the skills you have to make a difference. We don’t have a step-by-step process of what to do, however we would like to share with you some different ways our volunteers have succeeded in making an impact with their time and talents. Our best advice? Take initiative, be creative, make it yours.

Here are some ideas

**Be a pioneer.**

Are you a leader? Do you like to motivate and oversee others? Start a local satellite, or a club at your school. If you’re a visionary, people will follow. You can lead them to do amazing things. Get a team around you, set some goals, and then be creative and use your talents to make a difference. We want you on the team.
Join a satellite group.
Satellites and student groups are popping up around the world. Get plugged in. Find your nearest group and commit your skills to help make a difference. We need you.

Open your mouth.
Do you love to talk? We want your help to introduce us to the world. Call your friends, email your coworkers, pass notes in class, blog about us. Introduce us to businesses and corporations you think might be interested in learning about us. Go to the papers in your town or school. Just start talking.

Throw an event, be a campaign manager.
Love crowds? Thrown an event. They get people involved, connect the community, and are great for raising awareness and funds. Put on a dance party, an informational night, or simply a table in your school’s cafeteria. We’ve got the campaigns you’ve got the voice. Contact us with your ideas and we’ll help you make it happen with our media packs, videos, and merchandise.

Make stuff.
You’re the artist, you have the talent, and it’s time to use it. Get out your skills and start creating, show it off to your friends, at your school, or at work. Express yourself and then put it up for auction to help kids stay in school. If you can make your stuff in bulk, contact us and we’ll talk to you about selling it right from our website.

Have some people over.
Invite the girls over for tea or get the guys together for the big game. Tell them about Edurelief and sip that Earl Grey in honor of some Mongolian kids. Bet on the game and rig it so the kids win.

Compete for good.
Do you run marathons for fun? Are you a master of Wii Bowling? Do your buddies weep when you’re the last one standing in Halo? It’s time to do what you do best, but this time it’s for good. Find sponsors for your next run, organize the ultimate tournament and charge an entrance fee. Take lots of photos and we’ll feature you on our website. It’s competitive social action and the winner is always kids in Mongolia.
Make some noise.
Do you and your friends love to play? Do you know some local musicians who’ll sing their hearts out for Mongolia? Organize a show in your basement, or ask a local venue to donate a night for a benefit show. Get some flyers and make some posters to pack the place out. We’ll get you some merchandise and you can charge a small entrance fee to make your night count.

Be a chef.
Be a Martha Stewart for Mongolia. Get some friends together, put on your aprons and get cooking. Sell your mouth-watering treats at work, church, or to your neighbors. Hit up your local restaurants to make a difference by putting on a benefit where they donate a percentage of their profits go to kids in Mongolia.

Sell sell sell!
Junk sales are big business. Your garbage is my vintage treasure. It’s simple; clean out your room and login to Ebay or setup a yard sale. Your spouse and your house will thank you, and so will kids who are back in school.

La Marchandise.
Want to give a boost to your event or fundraiser? Do you love t-shirts and wristbands as much as we do? Contact us and we can hook your team up with merchandise you can sell to raise money and look rad at the same time. If you’re planning big let us know, we can talk about creating merch specific to your event.

Attend an event.
Don’t have the time to organize your own world changing event? Go to one. Events are nothing without people coming to them. Checkout our website to find one near you.

Corporate fundraising.
Did you know that many companies will match the funds donated by employees? We want to empower your company to make a difference. We can provide detailed information about our programs and mission to your company as well as promotional materials to share with your coworkers. Contact us for a corporate handbook to get started!
Conclusion

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

Sincerely,
+edurelief staff