

## **Our Experiences in Mongolia**

As some of you may have heard that my partner and I traveled through Mongolia for the month of June. We heard from a mutual friend that there was a children's orphanage that was in desperate need of our assistance, the Lotus Children's Centre. We contacted the Lotus Children Centre and asked them what we could bring from Canada for the orphanage. They told us they needed shoes, art supplies but were in desperate need of Vitamins. Some of the children come to the orphanage extremely malnourished, showing signs of scurvy.

The CAW donated in cash \$500.00 which was used to buy a large amount of vitamins. And other members of our local community donated shoes, soccer balls and art /crafts supplies. All these items were greatly received by the director of the Lotus Children's Centre. And we were assured that the items would be divided amongst the 260 children that are currently residing at the orphanage.

## **How the Lotus Children Centre was founded**

17 years ago a woman named Dee Dee came to Ulaanbaatar, from Australia to teach yoga. She met a 10 year old boy who was living on the streets, and they bonded together. She ended up staying in Ulaanbaatar and opened up the centre, where many children came off the streets to live. Many Mongolian families would bring their children to the centre because of the bad winters that would kill off half of their herds of Yaks, Sheep or Goats. The parents couldn't take care of the children so they would bring them to Dee Dee or she found many of the kids living underground in the sewer systems, during the cold winter months, trying to keep warm. We stayed with 3 different nomadic families and saw how families dropped off their children to different families because they couldn't take care of them. One 74 old lady, that we stopped and had lunch with, told us how a lady dropped off her 6 month old baby girl to her because she couldn't take care of her anymore. We got to hold that little baby and it brought tears to our eyes.

The children centre solely relies on donations from the community and people like us.

On behalf of the staff and children of the Children's Lotus Centre we would like to thank you for your kind contributions.















