

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

We're back.
Rebuilding REI's
Central Asian Legacy



RESOURCE EXCHANGE
INTERNATIONAL

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

2019 ... a year of great opportunity on the field, and significant transition at home.

On the field, particularly encouraging was a request from a whole new area of Indonesia for help with our dried fruit initiative. Government officials in West Sulawesi heard about the success of our fruit dehydration work in Java, and decided they should do the same to their island. Our staff in Java helped them design a factory, which the regional government then built. Soon the new factory will hire employees and supervisors whom REI will train.

In Djibouti, the number of students enrolled at our staff's international school increased to 50 (a 20% growth from last year). Along with their school responsibilities, these staff and their teachers helped the Ministry of Education with curriculum development, distributed education kits, taught adult ESL classes and provided entrepreneurship training.

In Laos, we were asked to provide much help, including training in the areas of interventional cardiology, neonatology and oncology. Two REI neonatologists traveled to the capital city to do assessments of the neonatal needs of several hospitals. Also, Dr. Sanyalack Saysanasongkham, a pediatric emergency medicine physician, came to the U.S. for training on a REI fellowship, and upon his return, was promoted to be the director of the Emergency Department at Lao National Children's Hospital.

Vietnam received thirteen of our short-term professional teams who provided training in medicine (e.g., cochlear implants, head and neck cancer, and electrophysiology) and business. In addition, four Vietnamese came to the U.S. for training on REI fellowships. A highlight of the year was Brian Teel, our outgoing Vietnam Director, receiving the government's highest award for international NGO workers—the "Peace and Friendship Among Peoples Medal."

In Egypt, we increased the number of natural child-birth classes, and explored partnership with an Egyptian NGO that addresses early childhood needs. Because our focus is entirely prenatal, such a partnership would be a great fit.

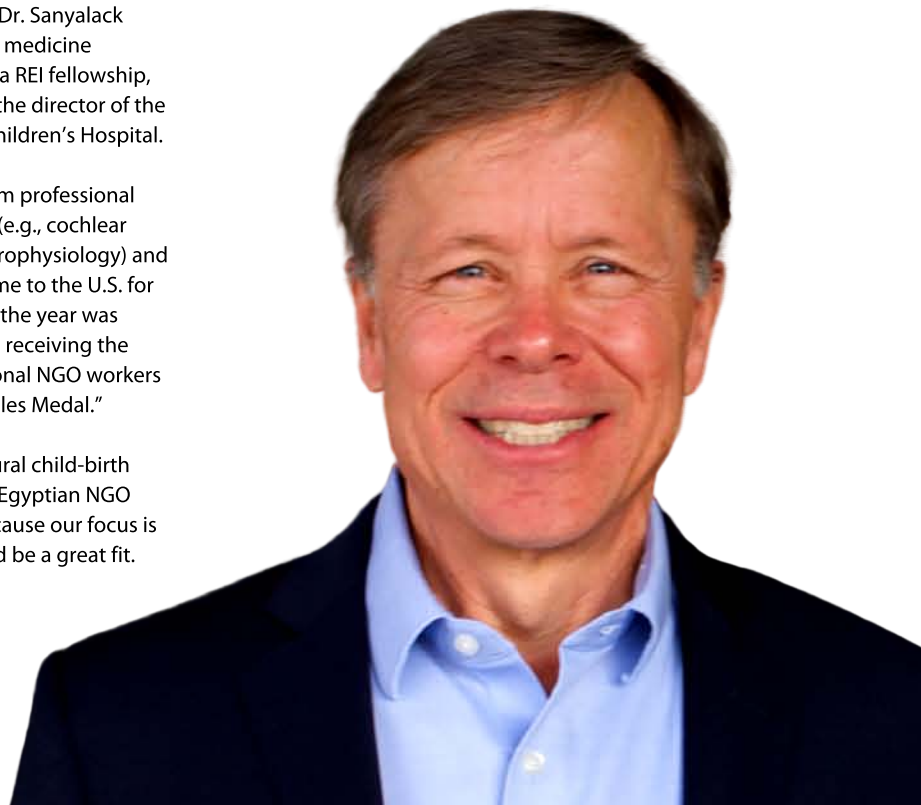
New initiatives bore fruit as well. A fourth medical team was sent to Nepal, and Central Asia, where we had a significant work in the past, was reopened (see p. 3).

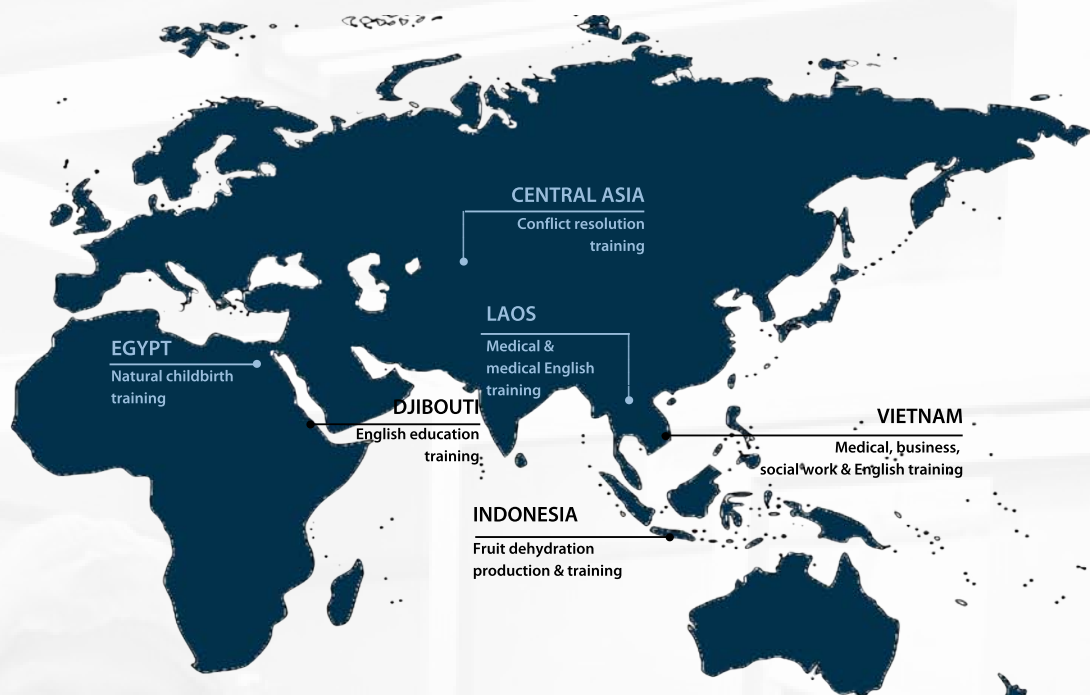
On the home front, Brian and Ginny Teel stepped out of their leadership role in Vietnam and were replaced by recent additions Craig and Kris Slater. Randy and Jill Vernon left for Vietnam to become our resident team leaders, and new hire Tim Moore took over Randy's responsibilities for short-term professional teams as well as exchange fellowships. Ron and Jeanine Wiley left for Central Asia, and Rod Beidler picked up the staff recruiting part of their role on an interim basis. Finally, Bob Motsay left his training role to move to Pennsylvania. This means that we are actively seeking someone(s) to help with recruiting and training.

Opportunity and transition. A great and exciting year!

Warmly,

K. Douglas Erdmann
PRESIDENT & CEO





ABOUT REI

Since 1992, REI has sent resident staff and short-term professionals to emerging countries around the world. They train leaders in the strategic sectors of these countries, who then train others. Their goal is to build these leaders in all aspects of life (professional, social and spiritual). REI is presently focused on:



CENTRAL ASIA

REI staff recently reopened this region. They are providing training in interpersonal and organizational communication and conflict resolution at universities and other institutions across the region. They are also networking region-wide to identify future opportunities for REI resident and short-term staff.



DJIBOUTI

The International School of Djibouti (ISD) was founded and is led by REI staff. Djibouti, which is French-speaking, seeks to transform its population into English speakers. ISD is helping prepare the first generation of Djiboutian teachers and school administrators in an English-based curriculum so that they can bring this education to the whole country.



EGYPT

REI's staff member is a certified doula and natural childbirth educator who trains doctors, residents, doulas and pregnant mothers in natural childbirth. Her work is centered in Cairo, where the C-section rate is 82% -- double the recommendation of the World Health Organization.



INDONESIA

REI staff introduced fruit dehydration to East Java. Mangoes and other fruit are now being processed, packaged, and sent around the world. Construction on a training factory has begun, which will allow local entrepreneurs to be equipped to run their own factories. REI staff are also introducing fruit dehydration to the island of Sulawesi.



LAOS

Our resident REI doctor is training local doctors in medical procedures. Because critical medical textbooks are written in English, our staff are also taking doctors, nurses and medical students through a multi-year medical English curriculum being developed by REI.



VIETNAM

Resident staff are providing English education and testing services to professors and students. Numerous volunteer medical and business teams travel to Vietnam to provide training at hospitals and universities. In addition, Vietnamese are regularly brought to the U.S. on REI fellowships for training in their fields of interest.

INTERVIEW WITH RON & JEANINE WILEY

Long-Term Staff

After nine years as Director of Field Personnel at REI headquarters, Ron Wiley and his wife Jeanine recently returned to Central Asia, where they raised their four children while serving with REI.

Ron and Jeanine, you lived in Kazakhstan from 1994 to 2010. What were you doing? Why did you move back to the U.S.?

"While in Kazakhstan, we helped launch an English school, a local language acquisition program, a K-12 international school, and a community development program centered around micro-loans. We led the Kazakhstan team for REI from 2003 until our departure. We returned to Colorado in 2010 because of family needs."

You're in your 60's. Why move back to Central Asia now?

"With our return to the U.S., we never sensed that our service in Central Asia was complete. Besides serving on the REI leadership team, Ron earned his PhD in conflict analysis & resolution, and we both did restorative justice work in the Pueblo and Colorado Springs communities. Our Central Asia experience, REI HQ work, and conflict resolution skills have equipped us to re-establish REI works across the region. And culturally, our gray hair is an asset—we are warmly received everywhere!"

What have you been doing since you moved?

"We speak Kazakh well, but now must improve our Russian. Also, we've been to many universities in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, (re-)introducing REI and making our professional contribution in conflict resolution through lectures, seminars, and in one case, an adjunct faculty position for Ron. And Ron has been presenting at academic conferences on his research."

What opportunities are you excited about?

"As we've traveled, we have met several "friends of REI", who were served and developed by our staff in the '90s and '00s, prior to REI's withdrawal from the region. These are key leaders who are ready to partner with REI to build the next generation to build their nations. Ron's adjunct faculty position at the Kazakh-American Free University comes with an open invitation to other REI staff, both short-term and resident professionals. And together, we hope to introduce restorative practices in schools, similar to our recent work in southern Colorado."

When you leave Central Asia, what would you like to look back on and say you accomplished?

"We envision Central Asian professionals built up by REI counterparts, who are building their nations. We see all REI work as peace building work, whatever the professional contribution, and we hope as 'conflict resolutionaries' to see reconciled relationships at every level of society."

What is a need of Central Asia that you think REI can help with?

"English education opened doors for REI into this region earlier and the need for trainers in that field now are tremendous. Civil society development and business development go hand in hand. The next generation of leaders in these emerging nations are eager to learn, and REI is uniquely positioned to exchange ideas, knowledge and skills. We invite you all -- join us to make that happen!"



"Ron & Jeanine Wiley, reopening Central Asia for REI"

INTERVIEW WITH ALYSSA MEYER

Vietnam Apprentice

Alyssa was born and raised in Iowa with a passion for agriculture from an early age. Experience on her grandparent's farm and 4-H ultimately led her to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University where she double-majored in Dairy Science and Global Resource Systems. She has a passion for loving people through improving food security.

How did you get involved with REI?

"My first exposure to REI was through a weekend conference with my sorority sisters in college. Brian and Ginny Teel were hosting a dinner, and they were the first connection towards developing my capstone internship project in Vietnam. It was a dream opportunity where I researched dairy farm management models across northern Vietnam, while engaging relationally in a university environment. It was my first exposure REI's personal, values-driven, family-style work environment, and I was hooked! After university I gained experience working for Cargill, but was always eager to return to Vietnam with REI as soon as possible."

What type of work are you doing as an apprentice?

"I'm helping improve the scientific English of students and faculty at the National University for Education. I am also learning the Vietnamese language and culture, both of which are crucial to developing authentic relationships and understanding the perspectives and life priorities of the local people. As I learn and grow, I have many wise and gracious Vietnamese counselors who share their life with me, and are curious about my way of life. Because we both seek to learn from each other, we can freely exchange our perspectives on life and its purpose, and our hopes for the future."

What are your future plans?

"I hope to continue to engage in agriculture and Vietnamese culture with REI. I'm looking at pursuing an advanced degree in Agriculture Education, and completing the related research projects in Vietnam."



INTERVIEW WITH DR. BRENT SENIOR

Short-Term Professional



Brent was born and raised in the city of Detroit. He met his wife, Dana there while doing medical school rotations. They now have four grown children and recently welcomed their first grandchild, Matilda Rose. Brent graduated from Wheaton College and received his MD from the University of Michigan.

Following his training in Boston and Philadelphia, Brent and Dana landed in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he joined the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery (ENT) at the University of North Carolina where he is now Professor and Vice Chair.

How did you get involved with REI?

"I got involved with REI shortly after completing my training in Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery. I was very interested in being able to apply my newfound skills in a meaningful way around the world, but I didn't know how I could do that. About that time, I came across a journal editorial written by an otolaryngologist colleague from Texas, Dr. Byron Bailey. Dr. Bailey described in that article how he had just returned from visiting Vietnam with REI and put out an open invitation for others to join him. I reached out to him and he convinced me to come join him. That was 22 years ago and since then I have gone to Vietnam 23 times with REI."

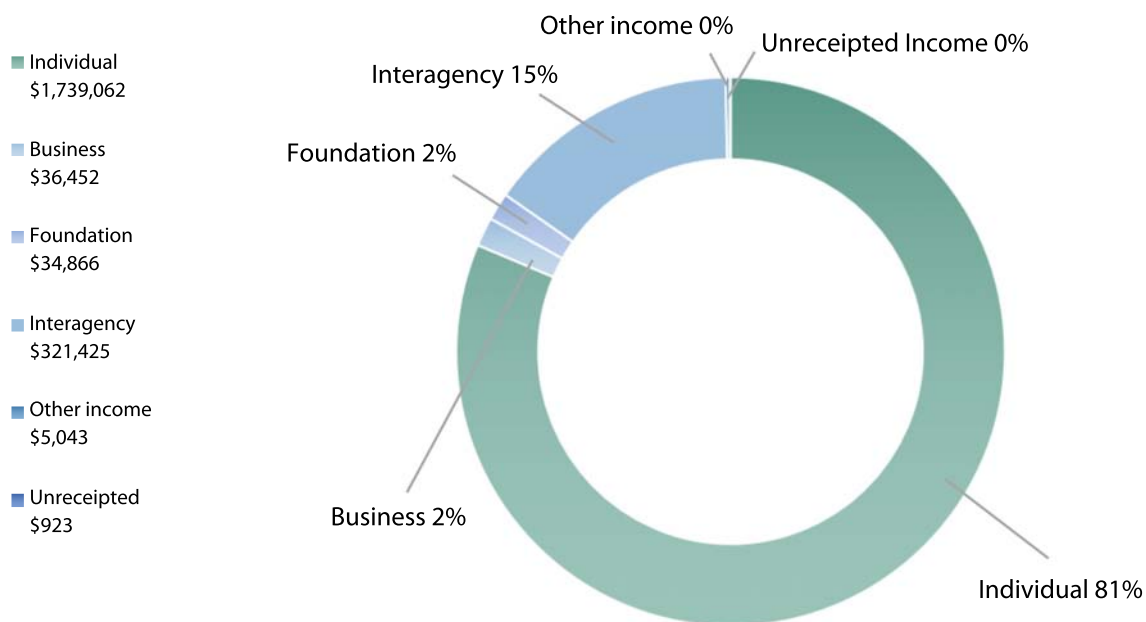
What type of work are you doing in Vietnam?

"As a subspecialist endoscopic sinus and skull base surgeon, my area of expertise is very narrow. As a result, while I am in Vietnam, I focus on teaching the latest medical and surgical techniques to our Vietnamese colleagues. While I also perform lots of surgery and see many patients, the emphasis is always on education, 'teaching the teachers.'"

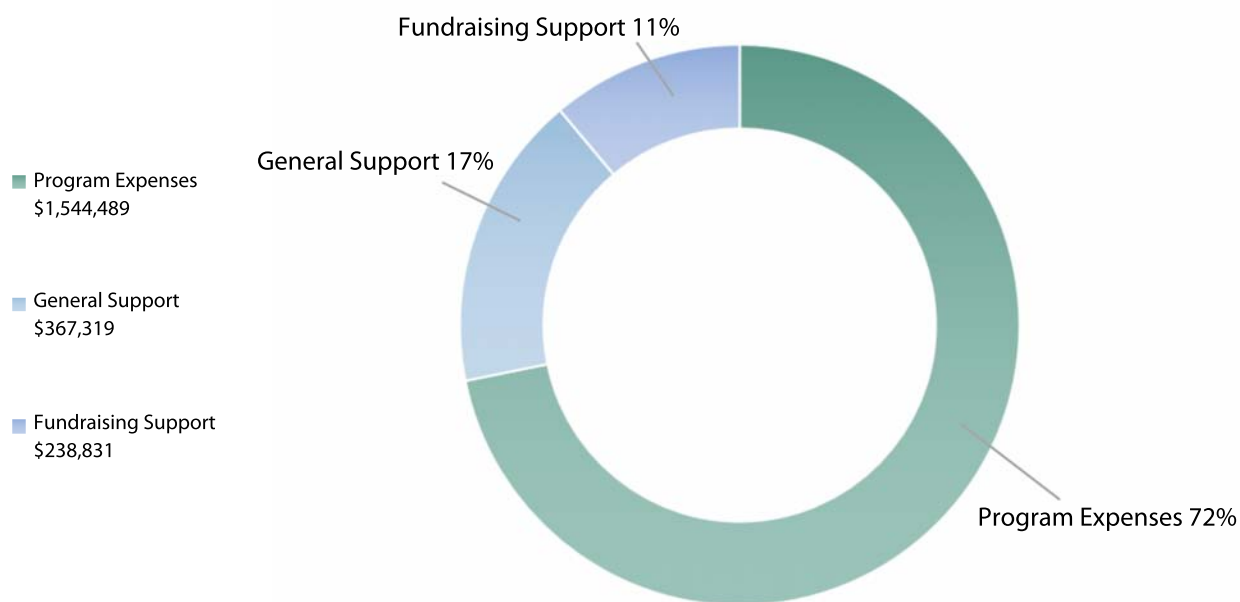
Why should other professionals consider serving short-term with REI?

"Going to Vietnam with REI has been one of the most fulfilling aspects of my career, where I truly feel like I have made a difference, both practically and spiritually. And, frankly, it is a lot of fun! While I love teaching medicine and surgery to the physicians there, it is the chance to reconnect with old friends and to really be a part of each others' lives that keeps me coming back year after year."

2019 Income - \$2,137,770



2019 Expenses \$2,150,639



"Inspired by the life and teaching of Jesus, we send resident staff and short-term professionals to train leaders in emerging nations so that they can train others - building their nations and bringing hope to future generations."



CORPORATE OFFICERS

K. Douglas Erdmann
President and CEO

Brian Teel
Senior Vice President

Jay Smidt
Vice President for
Administration & CFO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ken Gray, Chairman
Member since 2012

David Lyons
Member since 2014

Scott Ainslie
Member since 2018

Leon Neumann
Member since 2018

K. Douglas Erdmann
Member since 2018

Dr. Brent Senior
Member since 2014

Bryan Gibbs
Member since 2020

Zachary Sparks
Member since 2017

Gail Jones
Member since 2014

Brian Teel
Member since 2009

Paul Yankey
Member since 2016



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