

# NEWSLETTER

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## 'GOTONG ROYONG UTRECHT' FOUNDATION

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### Scholarship Special

### Scholarships: Youth are the future

Providing scholarships to children from economically less privileged families is our longest-running programme: for twenty years we have been helping children and their parents to finance educational costs: school fees, tutoring, school supplies, uniforms, and footwear.

We currently support 190 children with a scholarship, divided over five types of education (primary school, junior high school, senior high school, vocational school, and university) at three locations: Yogyakarta on Java (120 scholarships) and Singaraja and Amlapura on Bali (the remaining 70). The highest demand is for scholarships financing further education after junior high school, mainly because this type of education is relatively expensive, and parents often cannot afford it. Therefore, most of the budget is spent on these scholarships. The scholarships usually do not cover all education-related costs: the parents always pay a certain amount themselves. We provide the rest, through your support.

**That's exactly why the children need your support and generosity!**



Resmika, Nursing



Kadek Linda, Finance



Krisnawati, Pharmacy

For our 10 university students on Bali we do pay all educational costs and also costs for living (if they continue to live in the children's home), transport and pocket money. This is possible because university on Bali is not yet as extremely expensive as in the cities on Java. Our students have been promised at the start of their studies that we will help them all the way up to and including their graduation; a commitment we must meet. If necessary we can adjust the budget though, by limiting the amount per student and reducing the influx of new students.

We have once again communicated to the staff of our sister foundation Sejahtera Mulia and the staff of the children's homes in Bali that support for vocational education takes precedence over general education (primary school and junior or senior high school). All this with a smaller budget, because our income is less than in other years, hence this Scholarship Special.

### **Vocational school pilots 2020-2021 and 2021-2022**

As part of our focus on vocational education, in September 2020 we started a pilot in Yogyakarta with 7 graduate students and 3 second graders at an agricultural school. Bu Amalia, the scholarship coordinator, is in contact with this school in Bantul (south of Yogyakarta) because of her professional background in agriculture and food processing. She advised the school this past year on implementing a new approach to attract more young people for this type of education. This is in line with a national government programme that was started because there is a threat of a shortage of farmers in the near future. In that case valuable fertile land would not be used, and more grain, vegetables and meat would have to be imported.

This month, 10 more young people were selected to participate in our pilot. The budget is now part of the standard scholarship programme, but if the December evaluation is positive, we will look for a Dutch fund to finance this project. We are positively motivated and can hardly wait!



10 young farmers in the making (and staff)



The best two of their class

## Graduates senior high school and vocational education 2021

In both Yogyakarta and on Bali all children who took their final exams at senior high school (SMA) and vocational school (SMK) have passed. In Yogyakarta there were 19 graduates, including the 7 students at the agricultural school. The other 12 received their diplomas for Car mechanic (3), Chemical analyst (1), Graphic design (1), Electrical engineering (1), Accounting (1), (Metal) lathe operator (2) and senior high school (3).

In Bali, 12 young people received their diplomas: 5 in Health care (Assistant pharmacist and Nursing), 4 in Finance and 3 in Tourism.

## After graduation

After graduation most young people look for a job. Further education is practically impossible for children from the economic background we support. The scholarships made available by the government or universities usually go to children from schools with a high ranking based on graduation averages. These are the schools that are expensive and that provide extracurricular training for exams so that the school remains high in the ranking. Furthermore, scholarships granted by universities can often only be applied for after acceptance and registration, that is: after the tuition fees for the first semester have been paid. Even if you manage to raise money to pre-finance one semester, who dares to take the risk of having to finance the rest themselves if they do not get the scholarship?

- **WORK:** An advantage in a city like Yogyakarta is that large companies (from all over Java) actively recruit young people who graduate from vocational school. They offer them a job and training opportunities in the field. The chance of being hired is small, but academic performance and personality play a decisive role and this offers opportunities. There are already quite a few examples of "our" young people who have successfully entered on their careers this way. At this moment, as many as 5 of the 12 freshly graduated vocational students in Yogyakarta have acquired such a job. Another one is already working as a car mechanic. Three agricultural students will work on their parents' land, and one has started a fish farm. The job opportunities for the healthcare graduates on Bali are very real. For the others it will be much more difficult because they must cope with the Covid situation on Bali.



Tika Rahaya: Finance



David Nova & Kadek Cesia: Farmacy



- **STUDY:** In Yogyakarta, 4 boys who have completed their final exams will go to a polytechnic school. They will be able to start their studies in the field of agriculture because the State supports its agricultural programme with scholarships. One whizz kid (Mika) has been nominated for the top university UGM to start her Biology studies. If she is selected, she will receive a scholarship from the university from the start. One other young girl hopes to be able to study Accountancy at another university.

5 of the 12 children who graduated on Bali would like to go to university. In December we already awarded a scholarship to two girls. A third girl receives a scholarship from an Australian church and a fourth has had a personal sponsor for a few years who will also support her through university.

We hope to have made it clear that scholarships are decisive in the lives of the children who wish to seize their opportunities!

**CALL: You are our best ambassadors; please tell your friends and family, forward this newsletter, and encourage people to support a student's education!**

**Sponsor possibilities**

Your scholarship support is more than welcome at our bank account in Holland: NL74ABNA084.21.36.932 (for the attention of Stichting Gotong Royong - Utrecht). For people who want to donate and who are living outside Holland, please contact us by email ([info@gotong-royong-utrecht.nl](mailto:info@gotong-royong-utrecht.nl)) so that we can find a proper method of transaction for your donation.

You can donate any amount or choose from one of the specific amounts linked to the school type: 70 euros, 140 euros or 220 euros per year per child (for primary school, the junior high school and senior high school/MBO vocational school)



Ridwan at work



Practical at an agricultural school



Polytechnic student