

NEWSLETTER

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'GOTONG ROYONG UTRECHT' FOUNDATION

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Indonesia, here we come!

Fortunately, the virus seems to be on its way back. Many of us feel relieved. The restaurants are open again, the masks no longer necessary. The fear is gone and hopefully it will all become a bad memory. We can travel again, the children can go to school, the young people can go to the pub or to a festival. We hope it will remain this way and we look forward to travelling to Yogyakarta on Java and Singaraja on Bali again by the end of August!

From the board

Recently we celebrated our 20th anniversary. We are proud of what we have achieved in those years. It is also a moment to reflect on where we are now and what is necessary to be able to celebrate our 25th anniversary in five years' time. It will not be for lack of motivation on our side, because Indonesia and the people we support are close to our hearts!

In the field of development aid changes are taking place. New insights and paradigms are emerging, money flows are changing and some have stopped. Poverty reduction and education seem to be surpassed by other priorities, like climate change and refugees. Being a small organization supporting seniors and promoting educational accessibility, we find ourselves fishing in a pond that is running dry. Although our income from private sponsors has remained stable in 2021, the income from larger funds has decreased considerably. Last year we faced an operating deficit of 18,000 euros. Since we saw this coming, we have made budget cuts as of July 2021. The full effects will become visible this financial year.

News from Indonesia

The children are very happy they can go back to school. In the second week of May, most schools resumed face-to-face education. The students are sending us enthusiastic messages. They are so happy they can finally meet their new classmates in real life.

The children of the children's home in Singaraja are also reviving now the strict regime and the long quarantine have come to an end.



Senior citizens

For many years now our groups of seniors have been meeting monthly in six neighbourhoods of the city of Yogyakarta. The participants are selected on the basis of their financial capacity (or rather the lack of it). In the monthly meetings they undergo a medical check-up and they receive whatever medication they need. They also receive a food package with basic necessities like eggs, rice, coffee, tea, sweet soy sauce, sugar and instant noodles. The meetings are also an opportunity to do some physical exercises and of course, if possible, to sing together. The doctors who participate in the meetings do so free of charge (they only receive some travel money), as do a large group of volunteers.

We hope to be able to organize an outing again soon for the whole group of 150 seniors. For many of them, it was an annual highlight. But because of Covid, the group has not gone out together for two and a half years.



Education

In the December Newsletter, we wrote with enthusiasm about a new and innovative agricultural education project. We even had two institutional sponsors in mind to finance this project. But whether the project will actually get off the ground is far from certain. Ibu Amaliah (our education coordinator) is in doubt. For two reasons: the teaching staff of the school are not showing much initiative and the students are not as ambitious as we would like them to be. They do not show much love for the agricultural profession, nor an eagerness to learn. As a project leader, Amaliah gives 200%, but the teachers and students are not nearly as motivated and enthusiastic as she is.

Unfortunately, this means we are not likely to start a project to contribute to this educational innovation. We will of course continue to support students in agricultural education who meet our usual criteria as part of our regular scholarship project.



We can certainly use new sponsors for our regular scholarship project! We support 120 children in Yogyakarta with the financing of their secondary education. The children's home Widhya Asih in Singaraja on Bali receives monthly support for the education of the 60 children living there. There are also 6 students for whom we pay their bachelor or master study plus living and travel money.



The Rumah Kita nursery, which we set up more than 15 years ago in Yogyakarta, has to make a new start after Covid. The children who attended the classes two years ago, have now become kindergarten children, so a whole new group has to be filled now. Of course, this also applies to all other nurseries in the city, so competition is fierce. Rumah Kita scores very high on quality, but this is no longer a decisive criterion for many parents: price is more important. During the two and a half years of Covid, we supported Rumah Kita's operational costs. Now is the moment of truth: will it be self-supporting again, and if not: what will we do then?

Thank you sponsors!

First of all we like to thank the many loyal sponsors who have faithfully supported us for all these years.

Extra thanks go to Kesuma, who has set up a new sponsorship campaign at her school, the Parcival College in Groningen. She raises money with the sale of flower seeds.

You are our best ambassadors! Please tell your friends and family about our work, forward this newsletter and encourage them to support a student or a senior!

Sponsor possibilities

Your 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) so that we can find a proper method of transaction for your donation.

