

NEWSLETTER

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'GOTONG ROYONG UTRECHT' FOUNDATION

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1. From the board

We are sending you this edition about six weeks later than usual. There are two reasons for this: everything is going well and there were no important issues that had to be shared earlier. And secondly: we wanted to wait until after our visit to Yogyakarta and Bali at the end of October. As a result, we are now able to give you all the latest project updates.



In July we reported that we had received 11,000 euros from a sponsor and that we were well on our way to the 17,000 euros that we thought we needed for a new (used) school bus for the Widhya Asih Children's Home III in Singaraja on Bali. Several donations from other enthusiastic sponsors followed, requirements were established and at some point we decided to ask the staff to start the search. Thanks to the internet we were able to join the search and to be honest we were shocked by the prices. We feared a larger budget would be needed. Every time they found a beautiful bus, the price exceeded our (unspoken) budget. Bearing in mind the saying 'all becomes fluid under pressure', we decided to take the time. The whole game was exciting! Using an intermediary would have been risky because of unpredictable fees. And if people smell foreign money, the price goes up immediately. So we had to operate carefully. Finally when we were in Yogyakarta, we received a message from Bali about two interesting options that we could see on the spot a few days later. So it happened and the first one was a hit: a good five-year-old bus. With a very well maintained engine (and warranty), new AC, good sound system (was not a specification), new seat and door upholstery and newly painted. The price was within the budget and the bus was purchased directly from a garage company and travel agent. Once again we thank all sponsors and specifically the Louisa Foundation and the Brothers of Hermannus van Tongeren (Freemasons' Lodge in Utrecht), Cecille, Emy (M-B), pak Pok (KL) and Ratna (Bali).

2. Couleur locale Indonesia

In everyday conversations the term global warming is nowadays heard more often in Java. Drought, extreme heat, monsoon failure, harvests that are disappointing, water shortage. This newsletter is written at the beginning of November: the sun is high above central Java, the city is shimmering: 40 degrees Celsius, it is dusty and outside the city all that was green has turned yellow. There is nothing that can be done about it, except waiting for better times, that is: rain. Environment and health have become issues: the use of plastic must be reduced, other, more expensive petrol (less lead) is available and there are more organic products. Regrettably only the happy few - those who can afford it - are able to act accordingly. But the subject has already entered the curriculum of primary schools; in time change will come.

The re-elected President Jokowi has recently formed his government. With two risky choices: a Minister of Religious Affairs who does not belong to one of the two large Muslim organizations (N.U. or Muhammadiyah); causing frustration among these groups. The first topic this new minister addressed was "wearing a burka and its drawbacks". He might as well have dropped a bomb. Until recently this was a no-go area! The second special appointment is that of the Minister of Defence: Prabowo, the big opponent of Jokowi during the elections. A daring move in the game for power and influence.

3. Project information

I Yogyakartaakarta (Java) and Singaraja & Amlapura (Bali) Scholarships

The first semester is in full swing. Amaliah has finished all her school and home visits to the children who receive a scholarship. There is a request to increase the budget of the senior high school and junior high school scholarships. The extra contribution is needed for the rising costs of renting a computer and paying for the use of the internet in an internet cafe in order to be able to complete school assignments. The schools keep up with the times, even though the majority of the children do not have a computer or laptop at home. We will take the request into consideration.

Rediasih (Bali) graduated in Accountancy. She already has a job in the financial administration of a large hotel in the South of Bali. For the time being, because she is looking for a job at a bank. Two other female students, Ari Muliani and Sujana Asri, hope to graduate at the end of this school year; they have just started the graduation process and hope to have permission to start their theses before the end of the year. At the beginning of November we spoke with the staff of the children's homes in Amlapura and Singaraja about potential candidates for the next school year. There were three candidates, with whom we also spoke. Two of them (both from Singaraja) are certainly eligible (Ningsih for Economy, Fredno for IT). So if you want to support one of them, please let us know!



Fredno



Ningsih



Nyanyi & Rediasih

II Yogyakartaarta-Java CAC Rumah Kita nursery

Times are still exciting for 'our' nursery. The plan of organizing after-school care has been implemented but is not successful yet: there are only two entries. More publicity and information might be effective. Because neighbourhood mosques sometimes offer subsidized day care centres, parents who are less fortunate may have to make a difficult choice between low prices and high quality. At the moment, there are 31 children in "normal" day care. The budget - which was tight - has increased a little as parents who profit from the positive economic development have to pay a little more.

The Rumah Kita day care centre was established more than 13 years ago and so was the Joglo (the open auditorium in the traditional Yogyakarta style). The 'rayap' (a kind of woodworms) have invaded the pillars. Something needs to be done about this. Renovation cannot be paid from the operational budget. So, after receiving the prognosis, we will see how we can help.



III Yogyakartaarta-Java / Seniors

They have waited until our visit with organizing an outing with all the seniors from our seven support groups. So at the end of October we drove them all to the Air Force museum. It was a fascinating trip down memory lane because the many dioramas told about the local struggle for freedom against the Dutch occupants, something the seniors themselves have experienced. The large aircraft were also impressive. We had a beautiful open hangar to sit in, eat and sing together. It was a feast for everyone. Thanks to the efforts of the staff, the volunteers are now better focused on their task of supervising and paying attention to the seniors. Previously the volunteers were sometimes enjoying themselves so much during the outing that they lost sight of the seniors.



During our 10-day visit to Yogyakarta, we spent three long mornings on home visits of potential candidates for the seniors' program. In total, we visited 23 'houses' to interview the people and record their living conditions. In the end we decided, in consultation with the two coordinators (Bu Dharyati and Bu Santi), to admit 15 new seniors.



IV Bali: Widhya Asih 3 and 7 Children's homes

At the beginning of November, we visited the children's homes in Singaraja and Amlapura in Bali. In Singaraja about 50 children have found a home, plus a dozen students. There is a relaxed atmosphere and it seems to be a well-oiled machine. It is striking how caringly the students, the older and more experienced inhabitants, play their part in the kitchen, the homework supervision and in the smooth running of daily things. Bapak Franky and the staff, Nyanyi (see picture above under I) and Maria, can therefore concentrate on the organization of finances, the purchase of food and the representation of the house to the outside world (schools, church, various departments and the parent organization).

In Amlapura there are 18 children. Yudi, the head of the house, can manage it well with his wife and a staff member. Here, too, all runs smoothly and the children seem to be aware of the things that need to be done. The atmosphere is pleasant and caring; a peaceful environment for the children to grow up and to develop. An annual outing with the whole group to the KFC has become a tradition; although the announcement is always received with the joy of a first time.

It would have been unique if the two houses did not have a wish list. This time it contained the purchase of small things such as a stove and a blender, the payment of medical bills and support for school-related matters. We are happy that we can provide these. Thanks to you !!

4. Sponsoring possibilities

- the **scholarship programme**: one scholarship is **€ 70** (primary school), **€ 120** (junior high school) or **€ 185** (senior high school) a year and can start any time during the year,
- sponsoring **a child of the children's home** for **€ 12 a month** (€ 36 a quarter or € 144 a year) for complete sustenance,
- the support of **a senior** (60 plus) for **€ 10 a month** (especially for vitamins, minerals and medical care). This is € 30 a quarter or € 120 a year.

Of course you can also send us a free gift and leave the spending to us.

5. Gifts

Gifts are 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 so that we can find a proper method of transaction for your donation.

