

# NEWSLETTER

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## 'GOTONG ROYONG UTRECHT' FOUNDATION

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### Scholarship Special: The youth is the future

Improving the accessibility of education has been one of the two most important projects from the very beginning of our presence in Indonesia.

It all started in 2001 with very pragmatic support: the construction of a cement schoolyard floor. This immediately characterized our approach: doing it together! We provided the materials and together with the teachers and the children we transformed the schoolyard from a dusty uneven earthen floor (in summer) or a muddy plain (in the monsoon season) into a smooth cement floor. In those days we used our own money to finance the project. But when shortly afterwards we received a request to provide scholarships, we knew we had to establish an organization: Dutch collectivity for the benefit of Indonesian collectivity. And that is exactly what the concept of Gotong Royong means!

That was over 20 years ago. And today we still provide scholarships in Java and on Bali for the simple reason that it proves to be so effective. We can rely on a very experienced and dedicated group of local volunteers. Among them are persons who have been there from the start: Ibu Murdijati Gardjito, Ibu Bambang Suhendro and Ibu Amaliah. Three academically trained and successful women with a heart of gold and an astonishing drive who run the project in Yogyakarta on Java.

Over the years, our support for two children's homes on Bali has also focused on education. For many years now we have been paying a significant part of the costs for primary and secondary education for the children in the children's home in Singaraja. For more than a decade now we also have been providing scholarships to young people who can continue their education at University. These young people are now graduated and successful adults. Three of them have even been given the opportunity to do a Mastership study. All three now work at an academic level. Practically all other alumni also have jobs that match their education. Sometimes motherhood is a reason to (temporarily) refrain from work. This is not a cultural law, in the alumni group there are several married women with one or two children who have continued to work as nurses, (head) teacher, head of administration or reverend. Other young women, who are not yet married, work as dance teacher, nurse, pharmacy assistant and nutritionist.

Mostly young girls have received a scholarship (90%) and only one of them has dropped out in all those years. Of the lads we supported, also only one has stopped his studies prematurely. The men who graduated found jobs in education (teacher), technical service and accountancy. At the moment two boys are still studying. They are both doing very well.

We are currently supporting 145 children divided over five types of education (primary school, junior and senior high school, vocational education and University) on two locations: 80 in Yogyakarta on Java and the rest, 7 of whom are University students, in Singaraja on Bali. We concentrate more and more on upper secondary education and in particular on vocational education. Compulsory schooling applies up to and including lower secondary education (junior high school) up to the age of 16. Since further education is less subsidized by the state, children are excluded here for financial reasons: their parents cannot pay for further education, so children are kept at home with no prospect of work because they did not learn a profession.

**It is these children we want to support and we hope you will help us to continue in the next school year.**

**Sponsor possibilities**

If you want to support our scholarship programme you can either send us a free gift or choose to support a type of schooling: 70 euros for primary school, 140 euros for junior high school or 220 euros for senior high school and vocational education.

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](mailto:info@gotong-royong-utrecht.nl)) so that we can find a proper method of transaction for your donation.



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Wayhuni c.s.(Bachelor Nursing)



Luh Merta (Nursing)