

Merry Christmas from Bala Keselamatan



December 2018

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

December is here, anticipation is growing, moods are lighter and everyone is eager to celebrate Christmas.

Bala Keselamatan (The Salvation Army) are busy preparing another Christmas celebration in 14 children homes, 1 mother and toddlers home, 3 elderly homes, 6 hospitals, clinics, and almost 100 schools.

Since the middle of November, all of our children homes residents have started practicing dance, singing, traditional music, etc in preparation for their Christmas events.

On the first week of December, Christmas decorations are up and ready for the first Advent week. Some of our children are helping to clean and decorate their homes, ready for the guests who will come and celebrate Christmas with them, as you can see from the pictures below.



Dear Donors,

Greetings from a sunny Indonesia. As a British national working in Indonesia, I am not sure I have got my head around singing Christmas Carols in shorts and t-shirts, or seeing the myriad of Christmas Trees and decorations in hot sunny weather!

I just wanted to personally thank you for your ongoing financial commitment to our children who live in our homes in Indonesia. Your money helps us to give them a good start in life, ensuring they get a good education and learn life skills that will serve them into adulthood. From the newsletter you will see we also try to balance the need for study and play, to make their childhood a good experience with fun and appropriate activities. They are getting excited with the planned celebrations for Christmas, just like any child, they are looking forward to opening presents from under the tree.

I pray for you this Christmas that you will know the Peace that Jesus brings and that you enjoy the season with your own loved ones.

May God Bless You

Envoy Jane Sandford

School Exams

Beside Christmas, December also means 1st semester exams for all of the children. This usually happens at the end of November in to early December. The written exams will happen for 1 week and in the following week, they will undertake practical tests. So, before our children are busy with the Christmas events, they have to be focused, study hard and be tested on every school subject they have studied for the past 6 months.

Once exams are over the students will receive their school report by the middle of December and then they start the Christmas holiday until early January.



Lifeskills



As a part of the Children Home Programme, we also teach our children to have a set of skills which could be used into adulthood.

The children are making traditional treats, cookies and craft items to sell to generate income for their leisure programmes.



School Holiday

After the school exam is finished and the children get their report, now is the time for them to have fun and start their Christmas Holiday.

Some of the children will spend the holidays with their family and are able to celebrate Christmas together. For others without relatives they stay at the Children Home, and staff will ensure they celebrate well organizing fun activities with the donors, staff and friends.



Palu Disaster

An earthquake, magnitude 7,4 occurred on 28 September 2018 off the coast of Central Sulawesi island. This triggered tsunami which swept through the city of Palu, and another coastal towns including Donggala.

Two of homes were in that region. None of the children or staff were injured, and the main buildings remained intact. Both had slight damage – the Girls Home to front gates and the Boys Home to a boundary wall. Temporary solutions were quickly identified and carried out. As ongoing recovery happens a more permanent solution will be put in place.



Merry
Christmas