

Child Sponsorship December 2019



Bala Keselamatan Indonesia
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Bhineka Tunggal Ika



Indonesia - a vast archipelago comprising more than 17,000 islands - contains a population numbering around 255 million people; a number that makes Indonesia the fourth most populous country in the world. These impressive numbers also imply that significant cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic

diversity can be expected to be found within its boundaries.

Bhineka Tunggal Ika – loosely translated as “Unity in Diversity” came from an ancient text “Sutasoma” written by Mpu Tantular. The phrase Bhinneka Tunggal Ika reappeared in modern Indonesia in 1950, where the phrase is printed in Garuda Pancasila (Indonesia national symbol).



"Bhinneka Tunggal Ika" phrase acknowledges that although the people who live in Indonesia come from different backgrounds, tribes, religions, ideology and economy status, yet they are one, as human who longed for freedom and the right to control their own destiny.

In this home of Pancasila, we live in harmony without discrimination regardless of the diversity of culture. Our children homes provide living space for all children of the nation and the photos illustrate children from our homes participating in different cultural events throughout the year.



In this 'big house', all children of the nation can work, move and realize their shared dreams and aspirations. In unity, we find enormous energy to move all the strength and spirit to progress. In unity, we find solidarity, care and enthusiasm to share.

Dear Sponsors,

Well Christmas is fast approaching, and evidence is appearing in the shops and on the streets of the impending celebrations. Although Indonesia is predominately a Muslim country we celebrate all religions and holy days, Christmas is no exception.

It is not unusual to hear Christmas Carols playing in the shopping centres, but I am still not sure singing carols in 30 degrees of heat dressed in shorts and t-shirt feels right! (I am not really missing the coldness of the English weather!)

Thank you for your continued support through our child sponsorship programmes. This year with additional donations we have covered the majority of school costs in all of our homes. In addition a new law has meant that on one day a week, children have to wear local dress to school, some of these costs have also been covered by your generosity.

Blessings

Jane & Siska

Selamat Natal and Selamat Tahun Baru! (Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to you!)



Christmas in Indonesia

Christmas or "Natal" is celebrated by the majority of Christians in Indonesia.



Like all children around the world, all of our children who live at Salvation Army children homes start to get excited in the lead up to this special season.

They all know that December means Christmas and there will be a lot of fun, events and guests coming to their home.

Christmas also means holiday time, time to break from their



school and normal routine and time where some of them can go home to their beloved families

and spend the special season with them.

The children's homes have a full diary, with momentum starting to build in the middle of November. The Children are fully involved in a series of Christmas events held in every

Salvation Army institution within their locality. They love to sing, dance and play musical instruments. For some they are also invited to hotels and restaurants to perform and to enjoy fellowship with others, usually including food.



For the children who remain in the Childrens Home, they will receive a lot of local guests coming to celebrate Christmas with them. Not only that, but because of the school holidays (2 to 3 weeks), it means they have a break from their usual schedule and more time to themselves or to choose activities such as additional play time and fun.

Christmas Day meetings in The Salvation Army Indonesia commence early (not unusual to be at 5 am!) All the



children will attend this meeting and celebrate Christmas with their

church family.

This year with the amount of sponsorship monies received we plan to send additional money to enable each home manager to purchase an individual gift for each child in their care, appropriate to the child's age and character. If money permits we also encourage the homes to provide more leisure activities and treats across the school holiday period to celebrate the season of Jesus birth, and to create a family festive atmosphere. These special treats are identified through suggestions from the children.

The Christmas photos in this document are from our celebrations last year, although sometimes the celebrations still continue into January if there are too many events to attend.



