



NEWSLETTER

PIKULAN FOUNDATION

Pikulan aims to help continue and if possible expand the nine adoption and sponsored projects in Indonesia, inspired by and in obedience to the Bible, in close cooperation with the people involved.

October 2024

From the Anniversary Committee

This year, our Pikulan Foundation. I say on purpose our foundation, which always uses the Bible as guideline for its policy, celebrates its 40th anniversary. An anniversary actually consists of two parts: a past and a present, and after the anniversary the future.

When some former-military, among others Mattheus Douwes, Jan Fokkens and Geert Folkerts, went to Indonesia at the start of the '80s, to visit the former war zones, they were impressed by the kindness of the people and overwhelmed by the great poverty that a large part of the population lived in.

These former military are the founders of Pikulan foundation. They started with setting up small scale financial adoption projects for children from underprivileged families, and with sending supplies for the necessities of life. People joining the first following group tours to Indonesia were obliged to take a parcel with goods with them. Correspondence took place via the post, letters were typewritten, and took 6 weeks to arrive. Today, this is hard to imagine. Correspondence can arrive within two or three days, and taking parcels with you is almost impossible.

Pikulan Foundation's activities have increased much in the past years. In the early years, around 20 children were adopted, currently around 1000 children, divided over 12 own projects and special projects like the school for deaf and blind children. In this newsletter, adoption children are presented who are on the waiting list. Could you be their new adoption parent?

Thanks to our own charity shop, -with around 70 volunteers, first initiated by Jacob Bosma-, we can do many extra things, for example, operations, food parcels, medication, help in natural

disasters, individual support, etc. And each of the volunteers is truly a volunteer. They do all of it in the interest of the underprivileged children and their families in Indonesia. In other words, all proceeds go to them. To ensure that this work will continue in the future, we are looking hard for younger people for all activities of the foundation, like board, promoters, volunteers in the charity shop and marketing and communication. We can guarantee to young people that you receive much gratitude for your efforts. At our Anniversary on 23 Nov., we will

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Adoption fees:

NL 43 INGB 0006 2734 00
In the name of Stichting
Pikulan, Surhuisterveen

Donations:

NL 75 INGB 0009 1000 83
In the name of Stichting Pikulan
Surhuisterveen

show you an overview of all the activities of Pikulan Foundation, and we have many surprises in store for this afternoon!

We look forward to seeing you at the party!
The Anniversary Committee.

When
23 november 2024

Where
In De Lantearne
Jan Binneslaan 49
9231 CA Surhuisterveen

Doors open at
14.00

Start
14.30

History of 40 years of Pikulan; Full overview of activities in Indonesia.

Free entrance if you registered

For the catering, please sign up before 1 Nov. verbally, or via email, henhfolkerts@live.nl or: tbd.in.batu@gmail.com.

Anniversary Afternoon

-A promotor reports-

Gerrit and Aagje, Semarang Project

How things can go.

In 2000, we, Aagje and Gerrit Dijkstra, were talking with Geert Folkers (founder of Pikulan Foundation) in the furniture shop, when we were looking for a piece of furniture. When he approached us, he didn't say: 'How can I help you', but he started talking about Indonesia directly. That time, we didn't leave the shop with furniture, but we left the shop with an adoption child.

A period of coming

I retired early, in 2008. Aagje and I had always wanted to see how it is in Indonesia, and we were very curious about our adoption child. With a Pikulan – delegation we visited all the projects.

Aagje en Gerrit Dijkstra



Since 2009, we have been promotors. First of Tanjung Priok, and later of Semarang. When we were travelling with our camper, we would leave Pikulan flyers everywhere, and we handed out flyers at the Struuntocht. We held several presentations, at the Christmas market, school, associations and church services. When we visited these places, an amount of money would be handed to us. Also a nice amount was made by reaping potatoes by the Pikulan club.

It was nice to be involved in helping children go to school and learn a trade. Our first adoption child graduated as an assistant radiologist.

It was good working together with colleague promotors and the board, it is important to have an eye for each other.



Trijntje Jetske Tichelaar-Dijkstra

And a period of going.

At the start of next year, we will hand over to our daughter Trijntje Jetske Tichelaar-Dijkstra (Jettie). She is familiar with the project, and we will help her in the transition. We will remain adoption parents. Anything else that we want to say? Become an adoption parent.

Greetings, Aagje and Gerrit Dijkstra

Elzerd and Grietje, Batu Project

In January 2023, we had the chance to go to Indonesia, together with board members and other promotors, to visit all the projects of Pikulan. It was a very busy and moving time. Many impressions, spoken to many people.

Fortunately, we could stay in our Batu Project for four days. It was an inspiring time. We spoke with the board about



their worries and concerns, like unemployment, no fixed jobs for the parents, etc. This causes much income insecurity for families.

For this reason, they appreciate the adoption parents and Pikulan very much, because of the food aid they received in the past years for the wellbeing of the children. It became clear that much help is still needed, such as medication, and daily necessities. The corona crisis hit hard, and there are no social security safety nets. We visited parents and we saw their living conditions.

Many children are still waiting for help. But people in Batu are also active themselves, and are looking for help for the children in the local community. This has

< *Ms Theedens, speaking to the children and us in 2023.*

resulted in support for 30 children by the Indonesian community.

It was nice to speak with the children during the afternoon we said goodbye, and also with the advisors who support our project with their knowledge etc. We can look back at a wonderful time that gives us inspiration again (and still) to help this project to a next level (which is also their goal).

It would be wonderful if our project TBD will become independent. Let's go for that. The people in Indonesia are very grateful for the good things they may experience in donations and prayer. Thanks be to our God.

The promotors of the Batu project, Elzerd and Grietje Zijlstra

Pikulan: A unique initiative

It is 40 years ago that I first learnt about Geert Folkert (we lived in the same village)'s plan to offer help to the very poor in Indonesia. If I remember correctly, it started with collecting old (eye)glasses. Everyone who still owned old glasses, was asked to donate the glasses for shipment to Indonesia.

Glasses were scarce in Indonesia, and very expensive. Thousands of people could be helped with of this initiative. It was the early start of what developed into appealing support projects. Today, exactly 40 years later, Pikulan Foundation is active in many areas in Indonesia. Help and support is offered on the basis of three pillars: health, education and improvement of economic position. In the past decades, dozens of projects received support and have led to visible results.

It is very special that volunteers from The Netherlands come and visit the projects

on a regular basis and see what is happening and what has been established, locally. Such visits are paid by the volunteers themselves, so that it is guaranteed that Pikulan can contribute maximally to the help, Folkerts said years after.

Until today, that principle hasn't changed, and this is another thing that makes Pikulan unique. That great work is being done I could see for myself when I visited, among others, a training project for underprivileged orphans and children born with a handicap. I was there with a delegation of representatives of the Dutch government. It is wonderful to

see how each year, hundreds of young people are offered a new and better perspective.

It is important that the work of Pikulan can be continued on the long term. The financial basis, with the yearly proceeds from the shop, donations and other contributions, is sound. Forty years ago, the foundation was laid by Geert Folkerts.

I am confident that the many volunteers, the board, and everyone who supports Pikulan will continue to build on that foundation. This unique initiative is more than worth it.

Joop Atsma, former secretary of state, and member of the parliament.

Would you like to support one of these adoption children financially?



Kirilos Hartanto Witaksomo is 12 years old and he lives with his father, mother and little sister in a very modest house in Semarang. His father is driver. He has no fixed income and has trouble paying for the school expenses. It would be great if someone could support Kirilos financially. Kirilos is an honest and inquisitive boy. For more information, you can contact promoters Gerrit and Aagje Dijkstra (aagjedijkstra@hetnet.nl).

Hello, my name is **Natalia**, and I am 8 years old. My parents are very poor and that is why I would be very happy if someone would adopt me financially, so that my tuition and schoolbooks can be paid. I would also like to save some money for later so that I could go to school longer. Salam Natalia. For more information, you can contact promoters Fokke and Tietje Zijlstra (zijlstra@hotmail.com).



This is **Rasta**. He is 11 years old. Rasta lives in the leprosy village, with his father, little brother and his grandmother. Rasta goes to school, and after school he makes beautiful bamboo hats that they sell for extra income. His father is a labourer, a jack of all trades. They need help paying Rasta's tuition. For more information, you can contact promoter Bertiine Knol-van Vliet (hoibertine@hotmail.com).



This is **Putri** (Putri Ayu Prameswari). She is in the second year of primary school, in Batu. She was born on 13 June 2016, so she is 8 years now. She has two brothers and a younger sister. Her father and mother sell mie goreng at their children's school, from Mondays to Fridays, to earn money for their household, around 6 euro a day. They live in a small rented house, but they have to leave the house end of January because the contract ends. Hopefully, they will find

a new place to stay so they won't end up on the street. Who would like to help this little girl to get a good education? You would also help her parents, if a bit of money is left, they would be able to rent another place. For more information, you can contact promoters Elzerd and Grietje Zijlstra (tel. 06-20785895).



Radytya Gillang Alfiano was born on 2 Nov. 2013 and lives with his father, mother Leni Fitriana and elder brother Aurel in a small, modest house made of cement and wood. His father is a labourer and doesn't have a fixed income. His mother is housewife. They are struggling with paying Radytya's tuition. Radytya is healthy and likes to help his parents. Who would like to support this family? For more information, you can contact the promotor, Harry Folkerts (henhfolkerts@live.nl).

Interview with Anne van Houten

Ofcourse, Pikulan's charity shop cannot be left out of the story of the 40-year Anniversary of the foundation! Even though the shop has not existed for forty years, in its slightly shorter existence it has proven to be an important sponsor for realizing the objectives of Pikulan.a

It started with stands at fairs, and after many years of moving from smaller to larger buildings, the shop is now located at De Dellen in Surhuisterveen. Throughout these years, many enthusiastic volunteers have worked for the shop. I had the privilege to interview one of them, Anne van Houten, so we had a nice conversation about Anne's life, in the presence of co-board member Akke Oosterga, at a table in the books aisle in the shop.

Anne, who will turn 86 coming January, and his wife Trijntje adopted two daughters, both from Indonesia. Which explains the connection with Pikulan.

Requests

Financial adoptive parents

Could you ask people in your network to consider becoming a financial adoption parent? The more adoption parents, the more children we can help! Bank account no. for financial adoption: NL43 INGB 0006 2734 00 - Stichting Pikulan, Surhuisterveen

Gifts

Would you like to support our work in Indonesia? Donations are welcome! You can either scan the QR-code, or make a donation via internet banking: NL75 INGB 0009 1000 83. If your donation is for a specific project or child, please state the project or the name and number of the child clearly.

Terima Kasih! Many thanks!



Trijntje became volunteer in 1984 and helped pack clothes for Indonesia.

In 1991, it was no longer allowed to send goods to Indonesia. The question was, what to do with these goods. Jaap Bosma took the initiative to start a shop in Harkema, the first second hand goods shop / charity shop. After that, the shop moved to Surhuisterveen, first to the building that is now Bakker Bart, and after that in a warehouse at De Dikke Draai. In 2002, the shop moved to Vierhuisterweg. Business went well, and soon the building became too small. Fortunately, the neighboring building could be rented as well. In the meantime, Anne retired, and, like his wife, he became volunteer at the shop. Shortly after, Anne became chairman of the shop, supported by Freke Bouma. Together, they led the shop, supported by around 35 volunteers.

Yes, indeed, two board members were running the shop. But Anne was doing most of the work because not only was he chairman, he was also secretary and treasurer, and in between he was in



charge of organizing transports. The shop was doing well, but at a certain moment, it all became too much for Anne. He had sleepless nights about it and got overworked. It was time to change. He laid down some of his duties, among others being the chairman.

We ask Anne about many things, and he tells us his story. We also talk about the future of the shop. He expects that the fattest years will have ended due to the raised VAT, energy bills and rent. But Anne keeps the faith. We will go on.

Anne, thank you for this interview.

Arie Botter

Toraja – style Entrance Charity shop

We are celebrating our 40-year Anniversary this year. To give our customers a taste of Indonesia, at the entrance of the shop, we have mimicked the Toraja style entrance of the Pikulan secretariat in the former leprosy village Batulelleng, close to Rantepa.

The building of the secretariat is used for various activities. Because of the help from Pikulan foundation, leprosy almost no longer exists in Batulellung.

