



NEWSLETTER

STICHTING PIKULAN

Inspired by and in obedience to the Bible, and in good consultation with those involved, Stichting Pikulan aims to actively contribute to the continuation – and where possible, expansion – of around ten sponsor- and donation projects in Indonesia.

November 2025

From the Board

It's November, which means it is time for our final newsletter of 2025 already! As we near the end of the year, it is good to take stock once again. We can look back on a very good year.

We are grateful for the income from our thrift shop and the financial support we received over the past year. Thanks in part to your help, we were able to do a great deal for the people in Indonesia. And how wonderful it is to see such positive results within the projects; you can read all about them in this newsletter. There is also good news to share regarding the board. In September, we welcomed three new board members: Pieter Plantinga has been appointed chair, and Piet and Eelkje Kooger have been appointed treasurers. They will

introduce themselves in this newsletter. With gratitude and appreciation, we have said goodbye to our departing board members, Sander and Hielkje. They have dedicated themselves to the foundation with great commitment, and we are thankful for all they have contributed. Help is still needed in Indonesia, and there are still children waiting for a sponsor, children who hope for a better future. In this newsletter, we introduce several of them to you.

Nynke Dijkstra (Secretary)

Meet Our New Chair!

Every day, we make 35,000–40,000 choices. Fewer than 100 of these are conscious decisions. Some choices have a greater impact on our lives than others. My decision to become chair of the Pikulan foundation is very much a deliberate one, and also one that has a personal impact on me.

I feel deeply honored to contribute to the wonderful work this foundation does. What I find especially meaningful is that we create social impact both in Indonesia (through the program there) and in the Netherlands (with the thrift shop).

At the heart of it all is perspective. It is beautiful to see that we, in the Netherlands, can help shape the future prospects of children in Indonesia. These children are given the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills, and this has a lasting effect on their communities.

My Christian faith is central to how I live my life, and my work with the Salvation Army helps support and encourage that. I have a background in economics, and I served for many years as Director of Operations in the northern part of the country. For several years now, I have been the

national Program Director of Healthcare Contracting at the Salvation Army. This means I am responsible for all national contracts with insurers, regional offices, and the Ministry of Justice and Security.

I have worked for this organization for more than 25 years, because I believe in its Christian motivation to make a difference for vulnerable people in society. Although my work has moved to Almere, I still live in the North of the Netherlands. I live with my wife Anneke in Lutjegast — an area that feels very familiar to us both, as we were born and raised in Gerkesklooster/Stroobos.

We have been blessed with three children. Hanne (21) now lives in a student apartment in Groningen, while Joël (19) and Yenthe (16) still live at home. Besides my work- and family life, I also give time to our

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Sponsor contributions:

NL 43 INGB 0006 2734 00
Made out to Stichting Pikulan,
Surhuisterveen

Gifts and donations:

NL 75 INGB 0009 1000 83
Made out to Stichting Pikulan
Surhuisterveen



local church community, the Protestant congregation in Lutjegast. I think it is wonderful to be connected with other people through faith.

This is also why I want to dedicate myself to the Pikulan foundation; a foundation that seeks to express Christian love for one's neighbor in practical ways. It is truly inspiring that so many volunteers are actively and passionately involved at Pikulan. It is equally wonderful that so many individuals and churches follow their hearts and give (monthly) donations to the children.

All of this has made me very excited to become chair of Pikulan. I hope that, together, we can keep making a positive difference in the lives of children in Indonesia for many years ahead.

Pieter Plantinga

Allow Us to Introduce Ourselves...

We are Piet and Eelkje Kooger, and we live in Kollumerzwaag. At the end of last year, Eelkje was asked to take over the role of treasurer. After giving it a lot of thought and discussing it together, we decided to take on the responsibility as a team. We both come from the business world, so bookkeeping is not unfamiliar territory for us. After an induction period with Hielkje—who had everything wonderfully well organized—we took

over the accounting at the beginning of August. We said 'yes' because we want to make a difference, and what could be more meaningful than helping children go to school and giving them the chance at a better future? It is inspiring to see how many people choose to sponsor a child and how many volunteers are actively involved at Pikulan, all working together to support children in Indonesia. We are grateful to be part of this effort.



Piet en Eelkje

Updates Yayasan Taman Kasih Sejahtera (Semarang)

At the Semarang project, a new foundation has been established under the name Yayasan Taman Kasih Sejahtera. The project board has also been partially renewed. A photo of the new board is included here. We look forward to a positive and productive collaboration with the leadership of this new foundation.



We are still looking for sponsors for children aged 8 and older. If you would like to support a student, that is also very welcome! Students are 18 or older, but have not yet completed their education. Pikulan supports them so they can finish their studies. Several students have already graduated; for example as nurses or in the field of law.

We would be delighted to hear from you.

Kind regards,

Jettie Tichelaar-Dijkstra, Promoter – Semarang Project

Three Very Proud Sponsor Children!

Thanks to the support of their sponsors, Keiza, Joice, and Bernard are able to attend school. And they are certainly making the most of this opportunity! Their achievements speak for themselves: Bernard won first place in the indoor football championship, and Joice and Keiza both took first prize at the district scouting competition.

A well-deserved congratulations! During my visits, it became clear time and again that sponsorship for children from disadvantaged families in Indonesia remains essential. It allows them to receive a good education and motivates them to work toward a brighter future.



For €16 per month, a child can attend primary school, and for €20 per month, a child can attend secondary education. During my most recent visit, I spoke with several former sponsor children. They are

now working or have started their own small businesses, and are able to support their families as a result.

Kees de Wit (Promotor)

Graduated!

Normally, sponsorship ends when a child reaches the age of 18 or 19. However, in some cases it can be continued. If a student shows strong academic ability and passes the required tests, they may go on to university. And with the sponsor's approval, the support can be extended for a few more years. This was also the case for Silva.

She lives in the leprosy village and has been sponsored through Pikulan since she was a young girl, building a warm

and meaningful connection with her sponsor in the Netherlands. Silva first completed primary and secondary school, then high school, and from 2020 to 2025 studied at the Christian Toraja University (Management, specializing in financial management/economics). After an accident in which her leg was severely injured, she was forced to take a short break from her studies. But now she has proudly sent her sponsor in the Netherlands a photo of her graduation! Silva hopes to work at a bank and is currently applying for positions.



Graduates of STT Diakonos

Two graduates, Mercy Tocy and Mutiara, have completed their studies with a full scholarship. These full scholarships were made possible by the Protestant congregation of Haarlem. Most of the other graduates received a partial

scholarship from Pikulan. In total, around 70 students are supported with a partial scholarship.

These scholarships are provided to theology students and students training

to become religious education teachers. The majority come from poor and remote areas of Indonesia. After graduating, most of them return to their home regions, where they can help raise the standard of education.

Would You Like to Support One of These Sponsor Children?



This is **Agustina**, born on 5 August 2012. She comes from a family with two younger brothers. Her father works in construction, when work is available. Agustina has been supported for four years thanks to a one-time donation we received for her. That support ends this year, and we are now looking for someone who would be willing to sponsor her for the coming years, until she turns 18.

This is **Eveline**, age 11. She lives with her family in the leprosy village. Her father works as a day laborer, which means his income is often unpredictable or irregular. Her mother stays at home to care for the family. Would you consider becoming her sponsor?

More information is available from promoter Bertine Knol-van Vliet (hoibertine@hotmail.com)



My name is **Arka**, and I am 11 years old. I live with my parents, brother, and sister in a small rented house. I enjoy going to school, and I am active and eager to learn. I hope to receive sponsorship so I can later continue my education at vocational school. More information is available from promoter Kees de Wit (06-41315750, triwindu.in.solo@gmail.com)

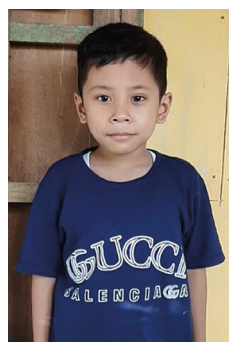


My name is **Joice**, and I am 10 years old. I live with my younger sister and my parents in a small home owned by relatives. I am an outgoing girl and dream of a better future — something that would be possible with the help of sponsorship.

For more information, please contact Kees de Wit (06-41315750, triwindu.in.solo@gmail.com)

My name is **Vincent**, and I am 7 years old. I live with my parents and sister. I make friends easily and love playing football. I am healthy and enjoy going to school. It would mean so much if you would consider sponsoring me.

More information is available from promoter Kees de Wit (06-41315750, triwindu.in.solo@gmail.com)



This is Pratama Wahyu Saputra, born 9 August 2017, called **Tama**. He is an only child. His father, Wardoyo, works as a day laborer and earns very little, while his mother, Yustina, stays at home. Tama lives with his parents in a simple house. He is a healthy and cheerful boy and loves helping his parents. Who would like to support Tama and his family? More information is available from Harry Folkerts at henhfolkerts@live.nl

Vacancies

Many hands make light work, and Pikulan is no exception. We can always use extra help. Would you enjoy doing volunteer work for Pikulan and contributing to our projects in Indonesia? Feel free to contact the secretariat at secretariaat@pikulan.nl. We would be happy to tell you more!

Receive the Newsletter in Your Inbox?

If you prefer to receive the newsletter digitally (by email) instead of by post, you can let us know by emailing the secretariat at secretariaat@pikulan.nl including your name and address.

Sponsors

Would you be willing to encourage people in your network to become sponsors? With more sponsors, we can help even more children!

Donations

Would you like to support our work in Indonesia? Your [donation](#) is greatly appreciated! You can scan the QR code below or make a transfer via online banking to account number NL 75 INGB 0009 1000 83.

If your gift is intended for a specific project or child, please include the project name and/or the child's name and number.



Terima kasih (Thank you very much)

And Once Again, the Shop Was Flooded

On Friday, 1 August, the weather was unpredictable. Rain passed across the country, some with hail and thunder, with brief moments of sunshine in between. Not ideal for people on holiday, but perfect for the shop. It was fairly busy, and by the end of the afternoon we felt satisfied, because sales had been quite good.

The following Saturday I wasn't scheduled to work, and I had already made some plans for the day. But my day turned out very differently. Early that morning, I woke up to the sound of heavy rain pounding on the roof; a huge downpour had hit Surhuisterveen. Looking outside, I saw cars driving along the Jan Binnelslaan throwing up great sheets of water.

I couldn't help thinking back to 2021, when Mr Hoekstra, our landlord, called early in the morning to tell me the shop was flooded. I hoped this would not happen again... But the phone didn't ring and there were no alarming messages, so I wasn't worried. I thought, I could simply go ahead with my Saturday plans. I was looking forward to it.

Until... yes, until Katinka arrived at the shop for her shift. When she opened the front door, she was in shock. Everything was wet, soaking wet. The entire floor was flooded, from the front to the back.

Katinka immediately called some people to gather a team to help get the shop dry again. That Saturday afternoon and evening, were very busy indeed: we had to rent water vacuums and dryers, we ordered a container for damaged and unsellable items, and we informed all our volunteers about what had happened.

Our own volunteers came armed with squeegees, mops, and—most importantly—with the mindset of “we're going to fix this.” Work continued on Monday, and again on Tuesday morning. Thanks to their tireless effort, the shop was able to reopen by Tuesday afternoon. Yes, here and there a dryer was still humming, but our customers sympathized with us and offered warm words of encouragement.

I've said it before in another context, but it's worth repeating: I am proud of our volunteers. They are worth cherishing!

Arie Botter

Marmie Keramiek: Clay Shaped With a Heart for Indonesia

For me, creating ceramics is about more than shaping clay. Every piece I make tells a story: my story. The name Marmie was given to me at birth in Indonesia, the country I come from. As an adopted child, I grew up in the Netherlands, but through my work I feel reconnected to where I am from.

This summer, I traveled back to Indonesia for the first time. It was a special and deeply moving experience. We met the three children we sponsor through the Batu project and received a warm welcome from Mrs Theedens, Anneke, and their colleagues, who proudly showed us around the school. It was inspiring to see the difference the project makes in the lives of so many children. With Marmie Keramiek, I want not only to create something beautiful but

also to give something back. A part of the proceeds from my work goes to projects in Indonesia that support local communities. Each handmade piece is, for me, a symbol of connection: between here and there, between my past and my present.

If you are interested, or would like to know more, you are warmly invited to get in touch via www.marmie-keramiek.com. You can also follow *Marmie Keramiek* on Instagram and Facebook.

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