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Impact

SEPTEMBER 2024

IMPACTING CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES



AGM

Annual General Meeting

WFA Sponsors, Supporters & Friends

Under our constitution, we are required to hold an Annual General Meeting. This year we are planning an AGM with a difference.

Date: Sunday October 27th at 1.30pm for 2.00pm and concluding at 4pm

Place & Parking: Tyndale Christian School, 50 Fern Grove Blvd, Salisbury East. Those who RSVP will be sent an email advising of parking arrangements and location of meeting within the school.

To make it more interesting the event is being designed not only to keep our members informed (as an AGM) but also by setting it up as a forum so you can participate if you wish.

The formal component will be very short and to the point but will include the normal: Presidents report, Treasurers Report, Secretary's report and Election of office bearers

The meeting will then conclude allowing the forum to commence. The forum will include:

- ◆ The executive will give an outline of our plans for the future.
- ◆ Two, possibly three, guest speakers who are Project Officers, will speak of the challenges and rewards in delivering life changing aide to those in need.
- ◆ Q & A - Time for members and supporters to ask questions.
- ◆ We will then provide afternoon tea and time for informal discussions.

Further details about the guest speakers will be given in an email Update

We would very much like your feedback and ideas.

Also, we invite you to visit our website through which we keep you informed.

RSVP by Tuesday, 15th October, 2024. Nomination form on following page.

Nomination Form for Committee

Position..... Nominee.....

Nominated by.....

Signature... ..

Seconder.....Signature.....

Self Nomination acceptable

Signature of Nominee.....

All positions will be declared vacant. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and General Committee members will be voted on. Six committee meetings are held each year. Please return completed nomination form via email to office@worldfamilies.org.au or via Australia Post to World Families Australia. 50 Fern Grove Blvd, Salisbury East, 5090 by Tuesday 15th October

Donations via PayPal

Donations to World Families Australia via PayPal incur additional fees resulting in a reduction of the amount of funds going to overseas projects.

Bank Transfer, cash and cheque are all methods of donation that don't attract these additional fees.

Bank Transfer details. BSB Number :> 065-149

Bank Account Number :> 10342470

Bank Account Name :> World Families Australia

Thank you for your continued support of World Families Australia.

Bert Michels Farewell Dinner

A farewell dinner for Bert, on Friday 14th June at the African Village, was well attended. The meal was delicious, as usual and it was great catching up with Bert, 2nd from left. We presented Bert with a thank you award. Many thanks to Bert for the dedication and tireless work for World Families Australia. Bert leaves a wonderful legacy and much improved standard operation procedures. We will all miss him and wish him the best in future endeavors.



Philemon Academy Foundation, Inc

2023 -2024

Graduation is around the bend, wrapping up a very challenging academic calendar for us. When pandemic struck, we had to give up most of our classrooms because classes were held online. The supposed rental funds helped to defray the expenses for new tablets and iPad for students to use at home. Even their internet connection was a steep task for us to troubleshoot as the community is in the slums. With the loosening of restrictions, this school year allowed us to do hybrid- a combination of online and on-site classes. We converted our auditorium into classroom cubicles. Our electrical breakers conked out every time we turned on the aircons. The Department of Education announced several class cancellations in the middle of school year because of extremely severe heat in various areas in Metro Manila. We are looking into reshaping some areas of the school premises into classrooms this coming school year 2024-2025.

Since we have been deprived of a long-term lease contract, the Department of Education could not agree to our registration as an independent school but has allowed us to partner with Learning Links Academy for our students' documentation and certificates. The Child Sponsorship Funds go straight to our students' school fees with Learning Links our major and perennial problem. The unending need for medical aid, benevolence and feeding in the various communities where our students reside, are subsidized under the Extra Funds. Ms. Sierra Sinanggote, who is now in her 2nd year BS Education Major in English in St Francis of Assisi College, Las Pinas is performing well academically while her involvement in other leadership and management honing activities is building her portfolio in college. The College Fund funds her school fees in college.

The Medication Fund is dedicated to the maintenance meds of Princess Sinanggote, 14 y/o, who has been diagnosed with Epilepsy/Cerebral Palsy, now in 6th grade at Philemon Academy Foundation, Inc. Although, including her in a regular classroom set up may be far from ideal, considering her mental condition, her class has been very supportive in helping her adapt and feel accepted. She takes up Pre-Ballet Classes that help her with her coordination and balance. A one off donation from a WFA sponsor this year, was used to buy 2 guitars for the students to use in their auxiliary class in music. Christmas gift was used to purchase gear for Jonas Ebron for his Kyokushin (Japanese Martial Arts) class.

A monthly Parent-Teacher Conference is held to allow an avenue where the progress of the students' school performances in their respective classes are discussed with their parents. During this conference, the parents also learn strategic styles in parenting. It is emphasized in these talks the importance for the parents to be exemplary leaders in their homes and the importance of a thriving partnership between the parents and the school in affecting well-rounded and productive citizens in our society. Left over funds are used to preserve and repair musical instruments and refurbish/repair equipment for competition and performances. Our Ballet, Orchestra, and Japanese Martial Art Classes all play a very vital motivational tool in our education system in Philemon Academy Foundation Inc. We showcase all the students' year-long achievement in their performing arts craft thru a major production show before a bigger audience to end our school year. The students' self esteem and confidence is made robust as they grow discipline and excellence in the artistry and academics.



Roy Margarito T. Carandang, Philemon Foundation Academy Inc

Bruce & Elaine Smith, Project Officers, Philemon Foundation Academy

Mission Uplift Report - Indonesia

Background

Mavis Pardede went to Indonesia with her husband Pontas in the 1970s. In 2025, Mavis will turn 80 but remains committed to visit and support for as long as she breathes! Mavis was born in India, went to school in Australia and then spent her life in Indonesia helping others. The first half of the Pardede's time in Indonesia was centered around training programs working with people from Java, Sumatra and West Kalimantan, and reaching as far as Timor and Papua.

After 20 or so years, Mavis experienced a moment where a young woman was homeless as a result of pregnancy. Mavis was moved by the plight of such young women and felt compassion for them and their babies. Mavis determined to respond to a need for single mothers with children, and abandoned children. The end result was a home for single mums and orphanages established in Solo and Bogor - Jakarta. From these beginnings, three pre-schools were added in Solo and other support services for mental health. The foundations receive most of their support from within Indonesia. There are incredible stories of how different people and organisations have helped. The significant expense of education remains the focus of Mission Uplift. The Australian contribution to these amazing works of mercy is to uplift children with education, helping them pursue their passions and creating opportunities to be lifted out of poverty. The work is overseen by two Foundations, one in West Java, and the other in Central Java. These Foundations are fully compliant with local requirements and are held in high regard by the provincial governments.



The entrance of Bukit Karmel (West Java)



Thanksgiving Ceremony in the Government Hall for the opening of a new Pre-School (Central Java)

Amazing Pre-School Opening (Solo)

A recent challenge was a change of local laws requiring that all 'institutions' own their own land and facility. This meant that the foundation needed to find new funds to purchase land and build a facility.

The strategy of the Pre-Schools achieves at a minimum: (1) Some reduction of the risk of families who may otherwise elect to abandon or give up their children because they cannot afford education. (2) A local opportunity for parents who cannot afford education outside of their local villages and communities. (3) A positive and practical example of a local community working together to make a difference for the poorest of children, and be uplifted.

Around the middle of 2023, Mavis encouraged the Foundations and Staff to work together to raise finances, every little bit would help. In the case for a local preschool, Mavis asked Pre-School leadership to raise 50% of the funds. Within 12 months, funds were raised, and the other 50% was found from donors in Australia outside of Mission Uplift.



Mavis with the village leader who sold the land



Sharing in the celebrations

The above man is in tears after receiving appreciation and gratitude in the form of a food cutting ceremony, served to him by Mavis. It was a powerful moment! The backstory to this moment was 15 years earlier, Mavis met with this man to seek his approval for a Pre-School to operate, and rent some space, and that was agreed. The particular area of Solo was very poor, limited water, sewage and power. However the Village Leader was pleased because this meant there was an education pathway for the local people, a significant benefit for everyone. 15 years passed, and the Village Leader loves what the staff and pre-school do. So when the law changed, and there was a risk of losing the pre-school, the Village Leader offered to sell part of his own land at a very very cheap price, satisfying all the expectations of his village, but at his own expense, for the sake of the community. This was an unexpected result of village appreciation and shared hope to keep the preschool within the village.

Learning to speak...and Communicate



Little Joshua, abandoned as an infant, and pulled from the Railway Lines, after 12 months of medical and rehab, lives safely at Bukit Karmel. However he cannot talk, and has delayed learning, but is loved, belongs and he has a family.

The opportunity to assist Joshua was made into a small project, which included sourcing an iPad and a speech aid app. A small youth group in Adelaide decided to raise some funds to buy an iPad and the app.

After 12 months of fund raising, enough was raised and Joshua received an iPad with a communication app that will enable Joshua to point to icons, and the app will speak for him. It also allows Joshua to practice speaking by copying what he hears. This will help Joshua engage with education and learning. When asked how he was feeling, Joshua pointed to an icon and the iPad chirped – “I feel loved” – along with the big smile...it was a beautiful moment!

Thank you for your interest and your sponsorship is making a difference through education. Mission Uplift is thankful to the team at World Families for their amazing administrative support and guidance in helping children in Indonesia.

Individual Spotlight - Christina



Bukit Karmel celebrated with Christina, who is the first baby to grow up through Bukit Karmel. Christina graduated from Special School which offers specific educational support and programs and a modified and practical vocational pathway. Through the gift of education, Christina has now commenced working as a Baker, and is in transition to independence. Her job is making cakes and baking. She maintains pastoral and family contact with Bukit Karmel, and often brings cake and baked items to share. Her favourite treat to bake are her signature brownies – and these often cause a rush at meal time as others try to take 2 and 3.

Individual Spotlight - Harrison



Harrison is in his final year of High School, and is about to sit a series of exams to receive a scholarship from a local IT company. This scholarship will contribute to his University education costs, enabling Harrison to take a step into a career in IT, an area of passion for Harrison. We are hoping to hear good news over the coming months. Harrison appreciates the opportunity for education he has received, and remains highly motivated to make the most of his opportunity. We wish him all the best for his coming exams.

Many thanks to Ben Bonython, who recently became Project Officer for Mission Uplift, Indonesia, for a wonderful report. Mavis continues to visit and support the Project with unwavering love and dedication. If you are interested in supporting this worthwhile Project, please contact the office and we will put you in touch with Ben.



Speakers are available to tell groups about the work of W.F.A.

Please contact us through the office: (08) 8258 7909

LAST DAY FOR YOUR GIFT THIS QUARTER

1st September 2024

Please Note
Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by 29th October 2024

PROJECT OFFICERS for WORLD FAMILIES AUSTRALIA

ETHIOPIA

DEKIA	Dee Lumsden
ADDIS-BGW	Morgan Smith
BULBULA	Kate Drogemuller
JIMMA DOL,DOC-B DOL-S	Michelle Nethery
LIWAN, BONGA, SUPPORT FOR SIGHT IMPAIRED & MEDICAL OUTREACH	Sandi Petersen
BONGA Rural	Emma Lewis
JIMMA-DOC BONGA Feeding	Trevor Anderson Christine Hoffman
SAMERRO	Gemma Pilcher
MESKELE KRISTOS	Dee Hudson

INDIA

Minjur	Jenny Minck
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INDONESIA

Ruth/Naomi Community Centre	Chrissy Sulisty
Mission Uplift	Ben Bonython

KENYA

Neema Testimony Homes	Liz Rankin Dani Potter
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PHILIPPINES

Elaine Smith Bruce Smith

SRI LANKA

Colombo	Anna Szava
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THAILAND

Morgan Smith (interim)

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Bank Account Number :> 10342470

Bank Account Name :> World Families
Australia

'All we have to decide
is what to do with
the time given to us.'

- J.R.R. Tolkien

The Health Sessions

*I want to see what
happens if I don't
give up.*

Opinions expressed by contributors to Sponsorship
News are not necessarily those of World Families
Australia

Editor: Diane Amato