



ADOPSI

Supporting education in Indonesia ... one student at a time

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Persekutuan Kasih Kristus Arizona (PKKA), Inc. (*Love of Christ Fellowship Arizona*)

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PKKA Celebrates 10th Anniversary

By Ursula Soesilo, PKKA's Chair

2017 is PKKA's 10th anniversary. Yes, 10 years ago in 2007 PKKA came into existence. It started as an effort to help a small group of 12 very needy students in Central Java. Why help students you would ask! Its reason is simple; both the late Dr. Andy Soesilo and Dr. Peter Suwarno are educators. They work as professors at Arizona State University. They both feel that education will enable those children to better their lives after they graduate by getting a job and so help to provide for their families.

Dr. Andy's dream went even further. He wanted to help the most needy regardless of their religion or ethnic background. "Education cannot be taken away, it will last" he said. He contacted Rev. John Bonavitacola from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel who advised him to go to the principal of a school to help find the most needy and motivated students. It was then decided that we would focus on the children from grade school through high school who are enrolled at Christian based schools.

To make a long story short, now in our tenth year PKKA has already given out over 1000 scholarships to students from East Java, Central Java, West Java, Sumatra, Sulawesi, Borneo and Papua. This year alone we have distributed almost \$14K to support 164 students from grade school thru high school and vocational schools in Indonesia.

All this could only be accomplished with the unceasing spirit of volunteerism of the PKKA board and most of all, the donations of generous donors all through these 10 years.

Dr. Andy passed away 2 years ago (May 22, 2015 to be exact.) But his dream will go on and is visualized in PKKA's mission to spread Christ's love for all, regardless of religion or ethnic background.



Dr. Andy congratulated a PKKA Scholarship recipient

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and PKKA



This is a women's nonprofit organization founded in 1890. Its headquarter is in Washington DC. Its mission is among others: patriotism, preserving the American History and securing its future through supporting education of the less fortunate children.

In September 2017, Ursula Soesilo (PKKA's Chair) was presented the award for community service by the national society of DAR in Phoenix. The award was humbly yet gratefully accepted on behalf of PKKA whose mission is also promoting education of the less fortunate children in Indonesia.

Thank you ladies of DAR; especially Carole Jones who nominated Ursula after attending last year's benefit concert.

www.EducateIndonesia.org

SPECIAL MESSAGES FROM PAST & PRESENT PKKA LEADERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

By Susan & Birat Setyoko

In our homeland Indonesia, education is considered one of the most important things in life that one can do for our children. For those living in the cities with schools it is not a problem. But for those living in the rural areas, in the parts of the islands that is forest all over, it is really a challenge, especially when you are so poor that daily meals are considered a luxurious thing. Here children of very young age are expected to help work in the paddy fields or gathering woods just to make the family survive.

Our family was lucky to get a chance to be sent to Phoenix for training and work purposes for 3 years. In Phoenix we met people from Indonesia who have lived in the United States for 35 years and up, among others the Soesilo family. They introduced us to a charity foundation whose mission was to help the most needy through education. We were touched and even though my husband and I were new in this we wanted to join them and volunteered.

For 2 1/2 years we were deeply involved. We learned a lot and got to know new friends. It made our stay in the US meaningful and productive and happy that in a small way we were able to help spread Christ's love among the most needy in Indonesia.

We returned to Indonesia in July 2017 but we will continue supporting PKKA as much as we can from Tembagapura on the island of Papua where we are now. Never be discouraged by whatever challenges you might have to face in walking in the footsteps of the Lord.



A view of the island of Papua and several of the children from the island

By Ling Bundgaard

This is our 10th anniversary!

We are a small grass roots group dedicated to raising money for financially needy Indonesian students. Your money goes a long way at \$50-\$100 per student year and students are picked by local teachers, regardless of religion and strictly based on need. We are proud to show that in a 95% Muslim country, our student profile is 1/3 each Muslim, Christian and non-denomination. We strive to give scholarships for the whole school period which can be 3-6 years. Students are mainly in Christian vocational schools where they get a solid education and are able to work.

We started with 12 students the first year and when Dr. Andy Soesilo challenged us to get to 100 students, I thought he was dreaming! Yet we managed with your generous help to reach and exceed that goal !!

Please give generously, it is most appreciated and just see the pictures of your happy students!!

A few years ago, the Kwee sisters and brother decided to honor their mom and dad's memory by donating money to Salatiga school, which was having trouble staying open. Our parents were extremely devoted to education and personally sacrificed a lot in order for their children to receive the best education possible. They treated us the same: daughters or son and expected us all to strive to our utmost potential, become independent and be willing to give back. As immigrants from Indonesia to the US, we all have received support from American families, when we first came and are very grateful. We hope you will also want to honor a loved one in this way.

SPECIAL MESSAGES FROM PAST & PRESENT PKKA LEADERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

By John Nurman, M.D.

There are many philanthropic organizations that are worthy of our support. For me it's difficult to choose which one(s) to support financially. The activities of these organizations are directed to serve a big variety of categories of people: the homeless children, the educationally deprived children for many reasons, the homeless adults, the jobless, the young women victimized by organized prostitution, the helpless aged, and so forth. Within the same category of organizations that serve the same category of people, each organization has its more or less individual features that make it more likely to get the support of donors with certain characteristics. Faced with difficult choices I end up with supporting more than one philanthropic organization.

Why do I choose PKKA as one of the organizations that I support financially? I am not a business investor, but I believe, of the many investments that are worth supporting, investment in the education of children is one of the most cost-efficient investments with many various lifelong effects for the children themselves and for society. PKKA spends the donated funds to give guaranteed scholarships (to pay for tuition only) to financially needy, academically good performing students of elementary, middle schools, high schools and vocational schools until they graduate. The students are selected by the school principal who knows well the situations & conditions of each student; the principal sent PKKA academic progress reports on the scholarship-awarded students. The cost-efficiency feature of financially supporting PKKA is not only in the many various lifelong effects already mentioned but in the "cost" aspect of "cost-efficiency": the average annual "cost" for one student is less than \$100. This is the cheapest annual tuition spent by any philanthropic organization for a student anywhere in the world that I know of. I like the steady gradual growth in the number of students that PKKA is able to grant scholarships: they started the first scholarship program in 2007 with scholarships to 12 students. Gradually the number of scholarships grew. By 2013 the number for the first time passed 100 (it was 109 to be exact). In the last 4 years (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) the number stayed steady around 150+. Another feature of PKKA that I like is the 100% voluntary nature of all the people working for PKKA, so that the donated funds are spent 100% for the scholarships, less administrative costs of stationery and mailing. Some of the PKKA staff visit their family in Indonesia; they visit and have personal contact with the principals and scholarship-awarded students.

I not only support PKKA financially, but I also served as secretary of the Board of Directors of the PKKA from its incorporation as an 501(c)3 organization on October 30, 2008 till 2015 when I resigned because of health reasons. So what I write above about PKKA is from personal first-hand experience.

By Peter Suwarno, Ph. D.

Why Support PKKA Missions ?

There are three reasons why we should continue supporting PKKA's mission. First, PKKA is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Thus, it is fully tax deductible and each individual contributing to the PKKA will receive a letter of statement of contribution from the PKKA by the beginning of each year.

Second, all the money contributed to PKKA goes to paying the tuitions of the supported children in Indonesia. All members participating in the administration of PKKA are active, highly dedicated volunteers who cannot benefit directly or indirectly from their participation in PKKA. All active members must cover their expenses including their travel to visit the students and schools in Indonesia.

Third, PKKA gives without any motive of taking, i.e. the PKKA missions is to help with no expectation of gaining anything other than the welfare and success of the students themselves. Although our mission is founded in Christian faith, PKKA does not expect the students to embrace Christianity, nor does it discriminate the supported students in

If you are interested in investing your money to this good cause, please write a check to "PKKA, Inc." and mail to:

PKKA, Inc

1955 W. Baseline Rd, Suite 113-330

Mesa, AZ 85202

Please include your mailing address, phone and email address

SCHOOL VISIT REPORT: SALATIGA, CENTRAL JAVA

By Tabut Torsina

Editor's note: The entire trip was self-funded and totally voluntary. PKKA Inc. did not reimburse any trip cost.

Last December, my family had a chance to spend Christmas with my parents as well as to visit 2 partner schools in Salatiga, Central Java. We flew to Semarang, capital of Central Java, and chartered a taxi to take us there. The drive took about 1.5 hours, but it didn't feel long due to beautiful scenery of paddy fields and mountains surrounding us. This was the first time for me to go to this town.

Salatiga is one of few towns in Indonesia with a relatively large Christian population. Religious tolerance is truly practiced there as shown with government support to celebrate Christmas in its downtown area and to secure the area. In many parts of Indonesia, Christmas is usually accompanied by terror threats. Churches would have metal detectors and police present. In fact, a major bomb plot in Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, was foiled few days before. My wife and I visited the following schools on December 21, 2016.



SMK Kristen Salatiga

The first school that we visited was SMK Kristen Salatiga, a vocational high-school, with concentration in accounting and media. We had meet-and-greet with the principal, Mr. Thomas Heriyanto. We discussed administrative items and challenges, while not many but serious enough to note. The top reason students drop out was transportation cost to and from school. This was a surprise and put a burden in our hearts. Currently PKKA only covers tuition, which is straight-forward for tracking accountability, there's always a paper trail. Note that receipts and credit cards are not as common in Indonesia since most transactions are cash-based.



Mr. Heriyanto also asked about possibility for PKKA to support students in university. His school apparently had a special relationship with the local university, Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana, a well-known reputable one in the country. Any graduate from his school will be accepted to this university without testing. While it spoke volume about the quality of his school, unfortunately PKKA was not in position to offer such scholarship yet due to high cost, although it has been in consideration for quite some time.

Towards the end of our conversation, some of our students came to meet us, although it was already Christmas break for them, which was the highlight for us, to see these precious students in-person.

SMP Kristen 1 Salatiga

This is a junior high-school from which PKKA sponsored 26 students. Mr. Wiyono, the principal, was our host. We were surprised that they were able to gather these students during their Christmas break. We were also greeted with some teachers. They sang a popular Christian song for us, then introduced themselves.

We gave pep talk to these students to reach high, strive for the gold, without dropping out.

Mr. Wiyono who was relatively a new principal, only 2 years in the post, but he was so motivated to make this school successful. On several occasions, he expressed gratitude for PKKA scholarships that enabled this school to recruit more students.

