

# SALAM Children's Home Newsletter

April 2008

[www.salambali.com](http://www.salambali.com)

SALAM Children's Home has had a quieter period of time compared to our last newsletter period but it has not been without a few interesting events. The kids are back in school after their Christmas break, so we are back to running our normal schedule.

Various extra curricular activities continue. We are so pleased the children are getting opportunities they would not have dreamed of in their original home situations. Ria, Tyas, Herman, Toni, and Wardana entered a singing competition in Denpasar for the first time. We are grateful to Ibu Anita who has been coaching them in voice, and who arranged their involvement. Although none of them were placed it was great experience for all.

Yere, Fitri and Guna are learning Silat under the watchful eye of Pak Binawan their Silat coach.

Yaret's (below: far left, wearing red) hard training in boxing paid off when he came third in Indonesia for his weight class in Jakarta last month. Awesome effort!



Our thanks goes out to Bali International Womens Association who arranged a visit from a mobile dental clinic last month. Everybody received free dental care in the form of an examination and whatever treatment was required. Some had fillings and extractions.

Not as much fun as the Christmas visit to the Safari Park but none the less appreciated and very much required!



Special thanks also to Richard and Vicky Baird of “Bali Care” and their volunteer team of young people from Adelaide, Australia for their fund raising and hard work. They ran a much needed drainage ditch behind the boys dormitories and leveled and paved the area behind the kitchen. We now have a great new metal clothes line in place. They even painted the kitchen

and part of the girls' dormitory that needed a touch up. They are pictured here with BIWA's mobile dental van.

Over the Easter period Tabanan's local GBI Church held a service at SALAM. All the kids had fun, games and even gifts from the church members. GBI has had a long standing relationship with SALAM and amongst their members who visited was Ibu Komang, one of SALAM's previous staff members.



A small group of Christian men from Blue Bird Taxis also raised money and brought a large package of food and toiletry items this Easter. They spent some quality time with the kids too.

Rus Alit, one of SALAM's original founders who has remained a key figure over the years, visited Bali recently and held a small informal reunion of some of the first intake of Children's Home kids and their families.



**What are they doing now?**

Pictured from back: Manager of luxury villas. Standing - 2<sup>nd</sup> from left: Revenue Manager for a 5 star hotel; 5<sup>th</sup> from left: Veterinarian and entrepreneur; 6<sup>th</sup> from left: Music Teacher; 8<sup>th</sup> from left: Registered Nurse. Squatting - centre, holding child: Senior Radiologist in a Jakarta hospital. These were all under privileged kids who would not likely have achieved higher than a primary school

education. There are many other success stories out there. It is always rewarding to see how the care and generosity of one more fortunate individual can have far reaching effects on so many lives and carry into future generations. All of the people pictured above are living examples of what can happen when the poverty cycle is successfully broken.

Great news: Charles Orchard, owner of iBal Designs, has very kindly given us assistance from his accounting team. Pak Gede from iBal has been training Ibu Atik and Ibu Yunik, improving the way SALAM's book keeping is set out. We are very happy to have an independent accounts team overseeing the books.

We now have 23 of 45 kids fully sponsored! We realize that there is an unspoken question of "How has SALAM managed to survive when only half the children are sponsored?" Well we must say it has been difficult! We have to rely on unpredictable donations for the short fall.

There are times where we have to cut back in other non essential purchases or ask students families to assist where they can. This has its own issues as you can imagine with their family's being in varying degrees of poverty. We do regularly send out emergency requests for funds and most often local churches and organizations come to the party.

Our immediate plans as more children are sponsored are to raise our underpaid staffs wages to a reasonable local wage. There is also a need for caring for ex SALAM students who have no family support. The first few years after graduating can be difficult. We feel that our "parental" responsibility doesn't cease when these children graduate. We would like to be able to assist more than we currently do. Facing food bills, medical expenses or trying to find consistent work are some of the challenges they face. Currently all we have been able to provide is a cooked meal when they visit and a few packets of noodles if they are required.

When we achieve 100% sponsorship we would like to instigate a few community projects. We would like to have a scholarship fund for our students that have proven their abilities and would like to have further education. Not forgetting our students who would like to start work, we would also like to have a job placement program.

We still need to pool the funds at this stage to distribute as fairly as possible amongst all the children. Some family members have come forward to help where they can with fees but many have no way of contributing, and this is obvious in the case of those kids who originally came from remote islands far from Bali. Many have no contact with their families of origin.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in sponsoring a child we would love to hear from you. You can contact us at [salambali@gmail.com](mailto:salambali@gmail.com)

On behalf of all the children and staff,

Our warmest regards,

Matthew and Alicia Trevatt for SCH.

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