

ONF

Ono Niha Foundation

Newsletter – December 2018



The end of another year, and a good one for ONF. Icum joined the Foundation in January as on-site manager. She has done a great job re-invigorating the programs and improving the support we provide. Several Aussie volunteers visited the Centre during the year.

Following is a summary of the year that was, and our dreams for the future.

Local employment

Demand for Ono Niha oil continues to increase thanks to Matt's excellent reputation with Lush (his main customer) and his efforts to increase demand in Indonesia. The Ono Niha Oil factory now has Indonesian Food Authority approval to sell throughout Indonesia, and also Halal certification. Matt modified the factory operations to achieve these approvals. More modifications will be made in 2019 to reduce noise from the machinery and further improve efficiency.

In the longer term, we are planning a new, purpose-built factory that will double daily production capacity. ONF will help with design, planning and funding. Donations to ONF for this purpose will "buy" a pro-rata partnership in Ono Niha Oil, thereby providing a revenue stream that will hopefully make ONF independent of overseas support. This is our big dream and a significant undertaking. However, our desire was always for ONF to be self-sufficient. Ono Niha Oil already funds about 15% of the ONF operating costs.

We continue to find ways to utilise factory by-products. Icum is exploring markets for Nata de Coco made from the coconut water, and we will further explore making activated charcoal from the coconut shell. There is a world shortage of activated charcoal and coconut shell is one of the best sources. As for coconut yoghurt – you



Judy, Chris and family learning about the Ono Niha Oil production process



Icum's Nata de Coco made from the coconut water.

would have seen my attempt from the last newsletter – no more progress on that front yet.

Education

Several students graduated from senior high in June and have now exited the program. About 5 students graduated from junior to senior high school. We were thrilled that another 5 children join the program in August through kind supporters. Most of these have lost either their mum or dad. Here is one of their stories:

Hestina is 7 years old and is the eldest of 3 children. Mama Hestina (her mother) is a widow and struggles to make about \$30 per month tapping latex from rubber trees. Rubber tapping is not possible during rainy weather, so the wet November and December meant no income for Mama Hestina and her family. Hestina tried to help after school by selling to the surfers little cakes her neighbour makes. Hestina was excited to help by earning 30 cents on a good day. A few days ago Icum gave Mama Hestina her monthly scholarship support. She broke down and cried – she said that someone had answered her prayers.

We can not change the world but we can each change the world for one person or family!

The computer classes have gone very well this year thanks to an enthusiastic local teacher. About 15 students graduated in July. We have had several computers break down so the students had to share. Most of the computers have now been repaired and we hope to have 8 operational ones for the start of 2019. We still need more. Classes will be reduced from 3 to 2 per week because the teacher is quite busy, so there will be more students per class.

Icum found it difficult to find an English teacher for most of 2018 (she even ran some of the classes herself). She has now found a teacher, and a volunteer who can help for several months!

Disabilities

The aqua therapy program ran 3-4 times per week for the first half of the year, but has been reduced to about one per week because several of the pools are under repair. Ono Niha Oil provides it's small truck free-of-charge to transport the children to the pool while ONF pays the driver's wage.

The sessions in the Centre have not been as productive as we wished. We have wanted to help the children mentally and educationally (not only physically) but we could not find the right person to help.



Hestina and her family, and Hestina in her new uniform, thanks to her Australian sponsor



The English teacher (sitting) and volunteer (standing) at the Centre with the English students



Kristin from our Disabilities program learning to type. Encouraging support across the programs



In the factory truck to the pool. The driver (left) and Matt (right)

But now – we welcome Rina. She is passionate, enthusiastic and eager to help with the children’s education. She volunteered for the last several months, and we will pay her from the start of 2019. Iwan now has more time to focus on therapy and is reading several books on helping disabled children so he can be more effective.

We have a number of new members:

Jevan is 3 years old. He was born with a cleft palate which thankfully has been successfully repaired. However he still cannot walk, possibly because he had to lie down a lot while being fed before his operation. His grandparents are hopeful that we can help him to walk.

Yermin is 17 years old. She became fully paralysed a year or so ago; we do not know why. She has recovered most of her function, but her right hand is still not good.

Yermin came to aqua-therapy class but did not want to associate with the others because she thought that confirmed that she was “not normal”. She was understandably angry and depressed. Fortunately the parents of the other disabled children understood what Yermin was going through and befriended, encouraged and helped her. She now really enjoys aqua therapy and has new friends who understand and care for her.

Community health

This program has struggled a bit despite some very promising developments:

Pinta finished her dental nursing degree in early 2018. However, she still has not received the original copy of her certificate, which is needed to apply to the local health authorities for approval to practise.

During our August trip we found brand-new dental chairs at several of the local community health centres. We were excited! Unfortunately they cannot be used without additional electricity supply, and Pinta needs formal oversight from a local qualified dentist in order to operate at the health centre.

The community centre managers were very enthusiastic about Pinta running dental clinics during their regular visits to remote villages, however this has only happened twice since August. Also, patients only want fillings and extractions which Pinta cannot yet do. We will do only one clinic per month at the Centre for the time being.

We will discuss with Dr Raf (an Australian who has established regular medical clinics at Sorake Beach) how best to run the dental program from 2019 onwards.



The last aqua therapy lesson for the year



Rina dancing with Etanius at the Centre



Yermin teaching Berkat how to write. So good!



Pinta conducting a dental hygiene clinic at Bonia

Holidays with Purpose

Six Aussie volunteers helped at the Centre in 2018, in education, community health and factory design and improvements.

2019 and beyond

Our 3 year project with World Relief Australia (WRA) finishes at the end of December 2018. After some consideration, and following an invitation from WRA, Jill and I finally concluded that “how can we not continue to help where we can”. So for 2019 to 2021, WRA will continue to provide valuable advice to us, and ensure our new project meets Australian Taxation Office requirements for tax deductibility of donations.

The new project will likely have similar Local Employment (coconut oil), Education and Disabilities programs. We hope that ONF will be fully self-sufficient by the end of 2021 through partnering with Ono Niha Oil in a more efficient factory.

Follow us on Facebook. Search for LSM Ono Niha Foundation. Also check out our website;
<http://ononihalsmfoundation.squarespace.com/>.

Peter Hofman

Project manager



The last celebration for 2018 – a big thank you from the children and parents, and from us, to Matt, Icum, Iwan and Rina. And thank you to all our supporters. May 2019 be even better and brighter.