



FRIENDSHIFTS

Let kids support kids



October 2020

Cooperation with Myanmar

In 2013 I went to Myanmar with my family. In Mandalay (big city in the north) my daughter Yasmijn (then 8) got in touch with Annemarie, a volunteer for the PDO Highschool and the orphans of The Golden House. She told us she was developing an English curriculum for the school and showed us around The Golden House. The children of The Golden House were very pleased that kids came to visit. They all spoke ten words of English and that was enough to have a good time with Remy (then 11) and Yasmijn. They sang Justin Bieber's songs , danced and had a mime joke.... It was a real Friend-shift experience. Unconsciously, we choose to be friends with people who are close to us, who are like us. But now I saw, right in front of me, that children can easily become friends with young people who live far away, eat different food, and speak another language. So nice to watch. 😊

I stayed in touch with Annemarie and followed her beautiful work for the orphans.



2013

PDO high school

PDO high school



Buddhist monastery school in Mandalay

This is the Burmese monk U Nayaka . He used to teach poor children under a tree. Today the PDO High School is located on his monastery grounds, where 8,500 underprivileged young people enjoy free tuition every day; from kindergarten to final exams.

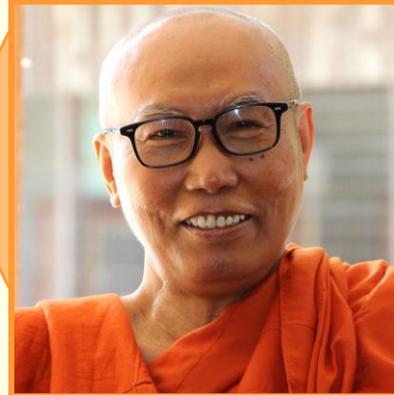
In 2008 a hurricane hit Myanmar. Thousands of people drowned. U Nayaka made a plot of land available on the monastery school grounds to build an orphanage for 120 children who had lost their parents.

When considering cooperation, we were concerned about the ethnic cleansing. More than 700,000 Rohingyas , a Muslim minority in Myanmar, fled to Bangladesh after the Myanmar army used increasing violence against them.

We wondered if the school or monastery were involved in any way. U Nayaka is a Buddhist monk, head of a Buddhist monastery and a school. However, Christian and Muslim teachers also teach at his school and Christian and Muslim children also live on the grounds. The school is completely (also financially) independent of the government. Mandalay is also far from the conflict area . All this reassured us. As a small foundation we would like to contribute to the fight against structural poverty in Myanmar by supporting education.

Our partner is now the World Child Care foundation. They financed the building of the orphanages on the monastery grounds. And they do a lot more

U Nayaka





Goals of World Child Care (WCC)

In addition to renewing, improving and maintaining housing, the foundation aims to improve the living conditions of the orphans, to invest in staff and teachers and to finance further study and English as a second language.

Meanwhile, 4 houses have been built; for 400 children. In addition to orphans, also children from very poor families or from conflict areas live on site.

WCC has set up a bridging class. After their final exams, 200 youngsters can take English lessons to obtain a Cambridge II or III diploma. They also take life skill classes, such as self-awareness, debate, critical thinking, etc. This helps them enormously in applying for scholarships and gaining access to further studies . A work visit is planned for February 2021. Wanna come?



The Golden House, 1 of 4 houses



Emergency kits



Bilal receives Chromebook

News from Togo

Emergency aid for families of the school for deaf. At the end of March, a complete lockdown was announced in Togo . Many people were unable to go to work, so they had no income and were starving. Although our focus is on education, we found it necessary to pay for emergency kits for 100 families as an exception. The packs contained pasta, rice, canned fish, oil, vegetables, soap and face masks. During distribution, the program director first gave information about corona rules and the importance of hygiene. On the photos you can see the children had put on their nicest outfits for the occasion.

Chromebooks: The universities in Togo are (still) closed and lectures are given online. We sponsored 3 Chromebooks These are lent to students so they can attend classes from home.

Students: We fund Yvette Agbole's studies to become a hair braider and Abraham Atitso's and Bilal Boukari's law studies.

Short news from the Netherlands (and France)

- The Soroptimists (Zeist) helped sponsor the emergency kits with a donation of € 1000 ❤️
- The pupils of De Wereldwijzer in Utrecht interviewed the children of CAST and discovered similarities and differences. They were very enthusiastic and interested.
- Trilium International School in Paris donated € 300 for school uniforms. ❤️
- We have also started with 3 high schools; students write to young people in Togo.
- We are the charity at the deposit column of the AH in Driebergen. Other branches will follow.
- Nuffic will allocate € 2,200 in subsidy for lessons and materials on internationalization.

We' re growing

- The tax authorities have designated Friendships as an official charity and granted ANBI status. This means that people who donate three years in a row can deduct the gift from income tax.
- In addition to the board of Marjan van Ham, Herodote Adjegan, Hendrik Kiestra and Thérèse Pham there are volunteers who work for us: Lotte van Seventer (business administrator), Esther Bras (kindergarten teacher) and Hetteke Jimenez (educational scientist).

Thanks for reading!

Do you have any questions or comments? Do call me at : + 31 629263421.

Warmest regards *Marieke*

