



26.10.2012

Dear Friends & Supporters,

Quite some time has passed since our last newsletter. It has been a busy time for us and here are some of the events that have taken place...



After many, many months of dedicated planning, Casa Vida Bali was officially launched on the 1st September. The director and staff have come together from different islands of Indonesia, and preparing and training them has been the main priority until now. There are over 20 children already waiting for the first shelter to open. In Bali, boys are very vulnerable to abuse as well and Casa Vida Bali will provide a safe place for both girls and boys - thus the need for a modified logo. In fact during training and before a shelter was ready, CV Bali assisted a newborn baby, Moses (and his mum). Their love and care touched the baby's family and they decided to accept Moses after all, even though he had been unwanted up to this time (Moses has some deformities on his hands and feet due to two attempts to abort him).



FoCV has been able to facilitate or assist with a number of visits to Timor Leste and also Bali. We have been taking part in the training of the Bali staff, develop further the capacity of the workers in Timor and some visits have been to focus on building relationships with the girls in the shelters. Apart from the "training teams" from FoCV, a group of students and staff (wearing their 'crocodile team shirts') from Strathalbyn Christian College, Geraldton visited Casa Vida in July. I made a solo trip and spend a good two weeks at CV, making a brochure and the Bali log, attending meetings, doing activities with the girls and simply spending time with them, joining their lives. The year will end with a leavers' trip with a difference for some Ellenbrook school students...

Casa Vida Timor runs a number of training courses for the girls in their care. Some of these courses have been opened up to people with disabilities and to the youth of an orphanage in Dili. This year's graduation ceremony was well attended and the graduating students were very encouraged to receive their certificates from the hands of some very influential and high-profile people, including the former prime minister and great statesman Dr Mari Alkatiri. It was a wonderful afternoon as many people came together to thank God and celebrate the achievements of these usually marginalised people.



FRIENDS OF CASA VIDA MEMBERSHIP

If you not already a member of FoCV, we want to invite you to join us.

FoCV was established just over one year ago

- to directly assist the work of Casa Vida as it assists victims of sexual and domestic abuse in Timor Leste and beyond,
- to educate and inform about the work of Casa Vida and
- to facilitate/co-ordinate visits to Casa Vida in Timor and beyond.

FoCV exists to be a vehicle for you to channel your involvement. As a member you will also have the support of the group to be able to participate in the work of Casa Vida. Together we can carry the load much more easily and generate ideas and the enthusiasm necessary to accomplish our aims. How much you can/want to take part is up to you, of course. At the very least you will receive more immediate information about any prayer needs to help you pray and to have “your finger on the pulse” of what is happening.

Joining does not cost any money. All we need (by law) is your name, address and age. That’s it!

If you would like to become a member simply reply to this newsletter with your name, address (street or PO Box ...) and your age.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Blessings,

Elke

Elke Graham
Casa Vida/Friends of Casa Vida Inc. Publicity & Communication

thegrahamz@bigpond.com

08 99215689/042 532 8485

Friends of Casa Vida Inc. - WA Charitable Collection Licence 21235

