

To address the critical need for education in villages, Unity in Diversity Foundation established Education Centers in 12 villages. The desire of the people is seen in letters such as these which were sent to the Foundation by Heads of villages who are desperate for assistance in education...

### *Voice of the village*

#### *From Village of Cimpungan...*

"We have been left behind in the world of education, especially pre school education. Preschool education plays an important role in developing the potential of a child before he enters elementary school. Our children till now have never had the opportunity to enter a kindergarten because we have never had a kindergarten in our village. This is one of the challenges we face in our efforts to raise the human resources in the village of Cimpungan which we have not yet been able to overcome till now. ...

Therefore, we would like to request you ..... to please open a kindergarten school in our village, that is Cimpungan Village, Sub District North Siberut, District Mentawai Islands."

Head of Village of Cimpungan

Signed:

(Y. RENCEK)

### *From village of Bosua...*

"We, the people of the Village of Bosua, Sub District Sipora, District of Mentawai Islands would like to appeal to you as Head of UDF to establish a Creative Kindergarten in our village, that is Village of Bosua, Sub District Sipora, District Mentawai Islands. Why do we make this request to you- because we feel that a creative Kindergarten is very necessary in our Village.

One of the reasons we request for a creative Kindergarten is because we want to raise the standard of education and quality of human resources. We therefore appeal to you as Head of UDF to kindly establish a creative Kindergarten in our region.

We, the community of the village of Bosua, will provide land for the location of the school building and places to stay for the teachers. We are also prepared to build the school building with contributions from the community.

Head of Village Bosua

Signed : Mardalus Sagari

Community of Village of Bosua

Represented by Head of Bosua Village,

Sub District Sipora, District Mentawai Is.

Secretaru Bosua Villaae

As parents of Frendi Abrosious we are so happy to see the change in frendi after going to school. He has become courteous and polite and even teaches his older brother and sister manners. When Frendi heard his brother saying rude words to his friend, he told him, *"we shouldn't say those words because its not polite."*



Hando is now responsible and hardworking... we don't have to tell him to do his chores... he never wastes his time... he sweeps the floor and helps us in our shop, even if its late, he helps us clean up when we close the shop. Once I said to him, "Its late, you should go to bed." He answered, *"Father, tomorrow I don't want to be late for school, so its better we clean up now!"*

*"... we wish we could be children again so we could get this kind of education..."*



*"...All parents should send their children to this Center of Education" [comment from a village head]*



The changes we have noticed in our daughter Sertijab after she started going to school... she is now hardworking and helpful. She helps me to wash the dishes and sweep the floor. She is also now so courteous. She always says '*thank you*' when we give her something and when anyone helps her..."



We are so happy to see Yesika after going to school... she is now independent, she can put on her clothes and shoes by herself before going to school. She also keeps herself busy even though its only drawing something... she now loves to study... she is caring and helpful.





I have seen many changes in my son, Eben, he is now so hardworking and I feel so proud of him ... one day it was raining heavily and I told him, "you don't need to go to school because its raining so hard." But he answered me, "*I can use an umbrella, Mother, even though its raining*". When Eben comes home from school he now wants to help me in the field. He also looks after his younger sister. All these changes happened after he started going to kindergarten.



After going to school, Cicio has become so generous. Before she started going to school she would never share her things with anyone but now she has learned to be generous and she shares her food with her friends.



*And when parents were asked what changes they saw in their children.  
This is what they had to say...*



As parents we are very happy to see such a change in our daughter, Kiki... now she is clean and sometimes we are ashamed because she teaches us how to be clean... one day I threw some rubbish in the yard and suddenly Kiki said... "*we shouldn't throw rubbish there, we should throw it in the rubbish bin!*"



We are very happy to see the change in our daughter Supiani... she is now so brave and full of confidence... she knows so many songs and she often tells us what happens in school. She can put on her shoes by herself now.

