

## A-LINK NEWS

Volume 4; November 19, 2005

## Reconstruction of Ruko for Café and Dormitory



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1. The building of Café and dormitory visible from the main street of Kampung Mulia
2. The two buildings of Café and Dormitory is ongoing process of reconstruction

Aceh link is involved with the construction of a café and dormitory, come guest house. The café and dormitory building is located in Kampung Mulia beside our community center.

The main purpose in constructing the café and dormitory is to open up opportunities for trade and to give people tasks which may help them find jobs.

The business will take the shape of a restaurant and internet café. The dormitory will be used to accommodate the volunteers and short term teams who will assist us in Banda Aceh.

The process of reconstructing the café and dormitory has been ongoing for over a month now, from 12 November 2005, and the business will be operational within two (2) months. It is our hope, through this café and dormitory, to help restore the lives of the people of Kampung Mulia who suffered terribly from the tsunami.

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### Joyful Kids; Kids Program in Aceh Link

The earthquake and tsunami disaster that happened brought much damage and has had a tremendous impact in many areas. The disaster also affected social life, and children are the most affected victims. Most of them have lost their parents, friends, home, and their childhood. A year after the tsunami many children are still living in tents, barracks and temporary shelters; some of them became orphaned and some have been adopted by their relatives. This situation has been traumatic and caused many children to lose hope, even in life itself.



(Nurul (3), she always attended Joyful Kids program in her village, Peunayong, that held every Tuesday)

In the aftermath of the tsunami, it is our hope that children will be able to overcome their deep-seated trauma and retain their childhood. Realizing that children are on edge and need to be cared for, we have created a children's program named Anak-anak ceria (Joyful Kids)

The Joyful Kids program is designed to help the innocent children of Aceh whose lives have been affected by the tsunami disaster; it will help them cope with the trauma they have suffered. The children enjoy an active and encouraging program of games, coloring and drawing, study, singing, general play. Food and toys are also distributed to make the experience memorable and exciting for them. Caring leaders spend time alongside the children and help them make the most of the program, so that all the children feel included. The program has been specifically designed to focus on kindergarten to elementary aged children. This program was created by Dean Rompis, the coordinator of Helping Hands Foundation. The children's program is operational in seven (7) villages: Jeune, Leupung, Peunayong, Kampung Mulia, Rima Keunerum, Lampulo, Bukit Suharto. Recently, Joyful Kids assessed two (2) new villages for the program and these are both now operating successfully. With the addition of the the villages of Ruyung and Ujong Batee , Joyful Kids now operate in nine (9) villages.

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**Mother's Heart; The New Women Program in Aceh Link**

(Mother/women are important role for the children, they sacrifice their life for their children)

Few Months ago, Aceh Link was started to operation the woman programs. Mother's heart is the name of the women training program. The main purpose designed this program is to helping people especially the Ladies in several villages to empowering them through education and training, so they can rebuild their economic life and also educate them to develop their entire life.

The programs in Mother's heart are Family & Health Skill with the objective is giving women educations on the importance of healthy living area, and also about the quality nutrients needed by children in their food and drinks. Another one is education; it is use to giving educations outside of classrooms for women who were not able to finish their formal school. The last is training to improve the skill so they can make their own business. The skills that will be giving include sewing, salon, embroidery, floral arrangement, cooking, and aerobic exercise.

For October – December, the program will be starting with the cooking activity and education. The cooking skill can be raise their spirit and grow the fellowship each other in these village so they can cooperate to build the economical in their village.

Recently, the women in ulhee lee had started their activity to makes fish abon and now, they also participate the exhibition in Syiah Kuala University to introduction their fish abon. The exhibition was called summit tsunami, which will be held from November 19-21, 2005.

We hope that the woman program that we are going to do in these two villages, Ulhee lee and Lampulo, can be a role models for others villages in Banda Aceh.



(The women in Lampulo have discuss about the program that will be operation, the discussion was led by Suryawati, coordinator of the program)

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### Tsunami Testimonial



(Yuni Kusma (2,5), the youngest children of Enon Mardiah. She is the member of Joyful Kids in Kampung Mulia)

“If I remember about the happen (tsunami), I didn’t know how to say it, it’s really bad for me, and it’s mortified”, Enon said, when asked about her experience when the tsunami hit the northern-most Indonesian province of Aceh.

Enon is the mother of Yuni, a member of the Joyful Kid’s Program. She was crying while she told her story: The tsunami struck hard everywhere, including the place where she had been living, Kampung Mulia. The entire village area was flattened and most of her people were killed.

On the Sunday morning, before the tsunami, Enon was at home with her youngest daughter when a great earthquake shook the ground, damaging furniture in the house. After a few minutes, people outside her home were shouting, “Water is high, water is high”.

Enon, with her daughter, ran out and found her two other children who were playing in a field. The water was getting close, so to rescue their lives they ran to a multi-storey shop building, along with another child and a man they had met in the street, who was also trying to escape the waves.

Once they were safely on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the store, they became really scared when they saw how directly the sea water hit surrounding buildings. At 2 pm, the water began to withdraw, having risen twice.

The earthquake continued to shake every five minutes after the tsunami, so they decided to come down from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the store because the store had been damaged; only the frame of building remained stable.

Enon didn’t know whether her husband was still alive, however around six o’clock that night, she met her husband again and he was well.

A few days after the tsunami, they returned to their home town in south Aceh. They received some money from their extended family and decided go back to Banda Aceh. They also collected some money to start rebuilding a temporary shelter for themselves where they stayed until their new home was built. The house that they are living in now was provided through aid from an NGO. Enon is really thankful for the assistance provided from foreigners and the NGO, especially for the Joyful Kids program which was usually held every Tuesday in her devastated village of Kampung Mulia. Her children always attended the Joyful Kids program. Upon thinking of the many children of tsunami victims, she added that the Joyful Kids program was very good, and a very needed consolation to cope with the trauma they have suffered. “My children who at school have many times for studying because Joyful Kids makes them realize, so they are more excited and became diligent to have study”, Enon said.