

# Helping the Local Community

**VOLUNTEERING:** Jessie Donhue wasn't satisfied with only studying in Bali - she wanted something more. Luckily, Jessie found her something: helping the local community in Bali by spending time with children in the Seeds of Hope orphanage.



**JESSIE DONAHUE** is one of the one hundred [Asia Exchange students](#) who visited the children's home Seeds of Hope in Bali during their orientation week in the beginning of September. It was a touching experience for the whole group and Jessie was one of the students who were left very impressed by the great work done at Seeds of Hope. Hence, the beginning of September wasn't the last time Jessie spent time with the kids at Seeds of Hope.

- I wanted to do something beneficial for the community while studying here. Helping at Seeds of Hope seemed to be the perfect match: I was especially interested in helping out children here and spending time with kids is my

passion, too, Jessie explains.

**AFTER JESSIE** had gotten the idea of volunteering at Seeds of Hope during her free time, she contacted **Jutta Linna** who was working in the children's home as an intern. Jutta helped Jessie with the practical arrangements so that Jessie could come to the children's home and speak with **Sandra**, the founder of the children's home, about volunteering there. Since meeting Sandra, Jessie has been spending time with the children and helping them with daily activities.

- I believe that time is the most valuable thing you can give to these people. Even if you had all the money in the world to give them, it still wouldn't be same

thing as actually being with them. Based on Jessie's own experiences, children usually greatly appreciate someone hanging out with them, being interested in them and asking them questions, and being able to spend some time with an adult. That's exactly what Jessie has been doing with the kids in Bali.

- **THE CHILDREN** at Seeds of Hope are just normal kids. They want to hang out with you, speak about all kinds of stuff and do typical things like watch movies, Jessie says. Especially speaking English is a big deal for the kids because most of them really want to learn the important international language. Jessie, coming from the United

States, has undoubtedly been a great help with developing their English skills. At the same time, the children's home and all of the kids there have affected Jessie big time. - It really makes you think your life values again when you spend time there. You see how the people in the community dedicate their whole lives to their work in the children's home. That's incredible, Jessie says.

**JESSIE PRAISES** especially Sandra who has helped the kids her whole life, dedicated her life to them. She's really like a mother or a grandmother to every one of the kids, even those who have already moved away from Seeds of Hope. - She cares so much about each and every one of the kids. I remember how one time when she was about to go run some errands in the centre of Bali and she had to

leave the place for a couple of hours, she said to me: 'Enjoy the children.' I then realized it's not only about helping them but also getting so much from this myself.

**NOW THE SEMESTER** in Bali is almost finished and Jessie, too, has to go back home. Before leaving Bali, Jessie wants to do one more thing for the children's home. - I think that almost every one of us has gotten at least some extra clothes that we can't fit into our luggage. That's why I'm bringing a box to the university, for the last school week, so that everyone can donate all of their extra clothing to the children, Jessie says. All of the children at Seeds of Hope are Christian so they're celebrating Christmas soon. Maybe Santa Claus will bring some extra clothes to them.

**JUUSO MÄÄTTÄNEN**

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