***Everyone belongs to many different communities and/or groups defined by (among other things) shared geography, religion, ethnicity, income, cuisine, interest, race, ideology, or intellectual heritage. Choose one of the communities to which you belong, and describe that community and your place within it* → 300 words**

The BAWABALI is a compassionate community in Bali where devoted volunteers rescue defenseless stray animals to offer them a chance at a better life. I’ve worked with them for over a year and have witnessed their dedication to protect stray animals. Their mission to save animals in need regardless of the situation have made me become a proud member of this community. It has fueled my desire to continue to create new tools and programs to help helpless animals.

I was introduced to BAWABALI by my mentor Nicholas, who put me in touch with Cynthia, BAWABALI’s manager. I initially explored the possible configurations of my automatic animal feeder’s design in several Zoom meetings with Cynthia. After several design revisions of my feeder, I took on the responsibility of overseeing the animal feeder project with the aim of reducing the amount of staff needed at their main shelter so they could rescue more animals.

However, the volunteers were reluctant about the project because they’re concerned with the dogs fighting over the food. To assure them, I showed a recording of stray dogs in Oman contentedly chowing down the pellets from my prototype while describing how a larger feeding area would stop the dogs from guarding their food. This not only convinced them but also increased their trust in me, making it easier for us to complete the project and expand our animal rescue efforts in Bali.

The BAWABALI community has given me the motivation to continue working on projects that help animals in need not just in Bali, but also throughout Indonesia and beyond. Additionally, this community has helped me to hone my leadership skills and manage people's expectations and fears, which enabled me to become an inspiring leader who can resolve my team members’ concerns. Now, I want to continue joining BAWABALI and other animal rescue groups wherever I go.