**History**

Yayasan Cipta Mandiri (YCM) stands as an Independent Creative Foundation, offering support to disadvantaged children and youth in Bogor, West Java, Indonesia. Rather than adhering to traditional academic structures, YCM operates as a nurturing environment, empowering students to cultivate self-confidence, broaden their knowledge, and hone practical skills.

Catering to children and youth between the ages of 10 to 22 from underprivileged backgrounds, YCM aims to ignite motivation and surpass expectations. What started as a modest facility for a handful of children has blossomed over the years, now accommodating approximately 100 active students, thanks to the invaluable support from sponsors.

Housed within a two-story building, YCM provides classrooms, two computer rooms, two sewing rooms, and a kitchen, facilitating a diverse range of learning experiences. Established in 2002 by Mrs. Gesine Nitzschke and Ms. Putu Ayu Novitry Ariany, YCM was founded on principles of mutual trust, responsibility, teamwork, creativity, and active participation.

With a commitment to upholding its current standards and enhancing internal systems, YCM strives to empower its staff and continue fostering growth opportunities for its students. Operating solely through private sponsorship and donations, YCM remains dedicated to its mission of providing a supportive environment for the holistic development of disadvantaged youth.

**How YCM began**

From the very beginning, Putu and Gesine embarked on a remarkable journey hand in hand, weaving dreams into reality as they laid the foundation for Yayasan Cipta Mandiri (YCM). Together, they crafted a vision of empowerment and growth, nurturing it with unwavering dedication and boundless love.

In their eyes, knowledge is not confined to textbooks or classrooms but is a vibrant tapestry woven from the wisdom of every individual. Gesine's conviction that everyone has something valuable to offer resonates deeply within YCM's nurturing embrace, where every voice is heard and every idea cherished.

Amidst the walls of YCM, they find solace in the radiant positivity that envelops the space, a testament to the transformative power of hope and resilience. Gesine's heart swells with joy as she witnesses the students' thirst for knowledge, their gratitude not for material possessions, but for the intangible treasures of wisdom and understanding.

Through the years, their shared journey has borne fruits beyond measure. Alumni, now flourishing in their own right, stand as living testaments to the profound impact of YCM. Their success stories echo through time, a testament to the transformative power of love, compassion, and shared humanity.

In their unity, Putu and Gesine find strength—a harmony born of shared values, unwavering tolerance, and boundless love for humanity. Their partnership transcends boundaries, their souls intertwined in a beautiful symphony of purpose and passion. Together, they illuminate the path forward, guided by the timeless values of respect, compassion, and the enduring belief in the limitless potential of every individual.

**Get Involve**

**Volunteer**

Join us on our journey of growth and impact! Our dedicated volunteers, both past and present, have played a pivotal role in shaping our organization and helping us achieve our goals. If you're passionate about making a difference, we invite you to reach out to us at office@ciptamandiri.net to explore exciting volunteering opportunities together. Let's create positive change, one step at a time!

**Donate**

Your kindness can brighten the lives of children in Bogor. Every donation, big or small, helps our students thrive. Consider donating:

* Fabrics and ribbons
* Books, newspapers, and magazines
* Paint, paper, and art supplies
* Sports equipment
* Cameras and computers

If you're local, food donations for cooking groups or daily meals are also welcome. Contact us at office@ciptamandiri.net or putu@ciptamandiri.net to discover how you can make a difference. Together, we can create a beautiful future for these children.

**Sponsorship**

At YCM, monetary sponsorships play a crucial role in supporting our project. Without them, we wouldn't be able to empower disadvantaged children to reach their full potential.

What sets us apart is our commitment to transparency. Unlike many charities, we ensure that sponsorship funds are strictly used to directly benefit our project and students. We believe in showing our appreciation to sponsors by offering them the opportunity to visit us in Bogor and witness the impact of their contributions firsthand.

We welcome sponsorships of all kinds, whether they be regular small donations or larger one-time gifts. Here are a few examples of sponsorship opportunities:

* Rp 800,000 (approximately US $83.00) for a one-time donation, helping a student complete their schooling.
* Rp 1,500,000 (approximately US $156.00) for a one-time donation, supporting a student through their school examinations.
* Rp 10,000,000 (approximately US $1036.00) annually, providing ongoing support for a student's university studies.

Please note that these figures may vary annually and serve as a recent cost estimate.

Our esteemed sponsors include Die Brücke, the German Speaking Women’s Association of Jakarta, as well as private philanthropists.

If you're interested in donating funds or exploring ongoing sponsorship opportunities, please don't hesitate to reach out to putu@ciptamandiri.net or gesinenitzschke@gmail.com.

For donors based in Germany seeking to make monetary contributions, please refer to the following details. Your generosity will be tax deductible.

**Event**

Berbagai macam kegiatan yang terjadi hanya di saat tertentu contohnya penyambutan atau pelepasan relawan, perlombaan, atau memperingati hari-hari khusus. Kegiatan ini terbagi menjadi dua yaitu acara regular yang dilaksanakan setiap enam bulan atau satu tahun sekali seperti bazar bintang dan buka puasa bersama. Selain itu juga ada acara yang dilaksanakan untuk menutup tema minggu/bulanan atau acara besar seperti hari kemerdekaan.

Various kinds of activities that occur only at certain times for example welcoming or farewell volunteers, competitions, or commemorating special days. These activities are divided into two, regular events that are held every six months or once a year such as star bazaar and breaking fast together. In addition, there are also events that are held to close the theme week/month or major events such as Independence Day.

**Community**

Setiap hari sabtu, YCM memiliki beberapa kegiatan yang sedikit berbeda dari hari-hari biasanya. Jika biasanya hanya belajar Bahasa Inggris, menjahit dan dasar komputer, tapi di hari Sabtu YCM memiliki beberapa kegiatan yang bisa di ikuti oleh semua murid YCM mulai dari olahraga seperti futsal, basket dan catur, menari, musik, seni, jurnal, multimedia dan fun English.

Tujuan dari diadakan komunitas ini untuk memberi kesempatan kepada para tutor yang memiliki bakat untuk ikut berbagi diluar pelajaran biasa. Selain itu juga untuk mendukung ketertarikan para murid dalam mengembangkan bakatnya.

Every Saturday, YCM has some activities that are a bit different from the usual days. If you usually only learn English, sewing and computer basics, but on Saturdays YCM has several activities that can be followed by all YCM students ranging from sports such as futsal, basketball and chess, dancing, music, art, journal, multimedia and fun English.

The purpose of this community is to provide opportunities for tutors who have talents to share outside of regular lessons. It is also to support students' interest in developing their talents.

**Class**

YCM memiliki tiga kelas regular yaitu Bahasa inggris, menjahit dan computer. Murid akan terbagi menjadi beberapa level mulai dari SD, pemula dan menengah. Di kelas mereka akan didampingi oleh seorang atau lebih tutor untuk berbagi materi khususnya tiga mata pelajaran dasar, namun tutor-tutor juga akan berbagi mengenai pengalaman, berita, sejarah dan moral dan masih banyak lagi.

Murid-murid tidak diberi pekerjaan rumah karena YCM tidak ingin memaksa mereka karena mereka telah mendapatkan pekerjaan rumah di sekolah.

YCM has three regular classes, such as English, sewing and computer. Students will be divided into levels ranging from elementary, beginner and intermediate. In class they will be accompanied by one or more tutors to share material especially the three basic subjects, but tutors will also share experiences, news, history and morals and much more.

The students are not given homework as YCM does not want to force them as they already have homework at school.

**Training**

YCM memiliki jadwal latihan satu minggu sekali untuk para tutor dan peer sharing dengan Mba Putu atau tamu yang datang. Latihan ini bertujuan untuk memperbaharui pengetahuan, berbagi tantangan di kelas dan menambah ide-ide baru yang dapat dibagikan kembali kepada murid-murid.

YCM has a one-week training schedule for tutors and peer sharing with Mba Putu or guests. This training aims to renew knowledge, share challenges in the classroom and find new ideas that can be shared back to students.

**Cooking**

Setiap hari semua tutor dan murid yang sudah besar akan bergantian untuk memasak makan siang yang akan disajikan untuk seluruh pekerja atau anak-anak yang tidak sempat makan sebelum ke YCM.

Mereka harus mempersiapkan menu, belanja, memasak hingga membantu merapikan dapur setelah memasak. Hal ini dilakukan untuk melatih kemandirian dan kepedulian, dan tentunya belajar memasak juga.

Selain masak untuk makan siang, terkadang mereka juga memasak untuk hari besar seperti buka puasa bersama atau sekedar kelas memasak bersama murid-murid.

Every day, all tutors and older students take turns to prepare lunch that will be served to all staff or students who did not have time to eat before coming to YCM after school. They have to prepare the menu, shop, cook and help tidy up the kitchen after cooking. This aims to learn to be independence, responsible and care to each other, and of course learn to cook as well.

In addition to cooking for lunch, sometimes they also cook for big days such as breaking the fast together or just cooking classes with students.

**Warung**

YCM memiliki warung yang dinaungi oleh koperasi SOLA yang bertujuan untuk belajar kewirausahaan dan juga mengurangi sampah dengan mengurangi jajanan kemasan. Selain untuk menjaga lingkungan, hal ini juga sangat bermanfaat karena jajanan yang di jual merupakan jajanan sehat dan mengenyangkan.

YCM has a stall under the SOLA cooperative that aims to learn entrepreneurship and also reduce waste by reducing packaged snacks. In addition to protecting the environment, this is also very beneficial because the snacks sold are healthy and filling snacks.

**Proyek**

Proyek di YCM adalah kegiatan yang ajukan kepada sponsor dengan jangka waktu tertentu seperti 6-12 bulan. Biasanya proyek ini berisi kegiatan yang bertujuan untuk pengembangan diri, kemampuan di berbagai bidang seperti kewirausahaan, keperdulian lingkungan, pengembangan pengajaran dan masih banyak lagi. Kegiatan ini dibuat dengan perencanaan yang matang dan kesiapan para penanggung jawab.

YCM telah memiliki beberapa proyek di tahun-tahun sebelum pandemi, biasanya proyek ini dibuat dan direncakan oleh karyawan dan petinggi YCM dan diajukan kepada organisasi-organisasi pemberi dana seperti sebelumnya YCM telah bekerja sama dengan AVI, Global Giving, dan beberapa organisasi lain. Tujuan proyek selalu diadakan untuk membuat inovasi pembelajaran baru baik untuk penanggung jawab, pengajar dan murid.

At YCM, projects are initiatives that are submitted to sponsors for a specific duration, often between 6 to 12 months. Each project is carefully and thoughtfully designed, aiming to enhance personal development and expertise in areas ranging from entrepreneurship to environmental awareness and the development of innovative teaching methods.

Prior to the pandemic, YCM had undertaken various projects that were carefully planned by a team of YCM employees and leaders. These project proposals were then submitted to various funding organizations, including partnerships with AVI, Global Giving, and several other organizations. Each project aims to inspire innovation in learning, benefiting YCM staff, teachers, and students.