

THREADS OF LIFE

December 2009 newsletter



*Agustina, Ratna, Juwita, Lilis, Mariati, Lino, and Hartati
from Batuisi and Saluleke, Sulawesi*

Dear Friends,

This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to the launching of the YPBB Foundation's website (www.ypbb.org) and an appeal for donations in support of the foundation's work.

The YPBB Foundation is Threads of Life's nonprofit sister organization and this new web presence shares the half of our work that is not visible on Threads of Life's website.

Where Threads of Life offers access to a stable, high value marketplace for the arts and crafts made by our partner communities, with a focus on natural materials and cultural integrity, YPBB facilitates participatory development and implementation of long-term strategies for environmental sustainability, cultural integrity and business development.

Without the secure income stream from Threads of Life, communities would not be free to address these deep issues. Without YPBB's work, the traditions and natural resources from which livelihood and the cultural arts spring will fail.

Everyone we work with shares two dreams in common: a prosperous future for their families and

Incubating Community Businesses for the Rural Poor

Promoting investment, innovation, and entrepreneurship in a real market environment can empower women, get and keep children in school, and improve health by raising incomes and creating skilled work. Because this work often depends on aspects of culture that are unique and inseparable from their rural location, much of this growth stays in small villages. And because these businesses serve real markets, they sustain themselves without further aid or patronage.

Initiating Community Forest Stewardship and Forest Product Management

Sustainable businesses require sustainable resources. With botanical research and field workshops, YPBB helps communities develop management plans that preserve their forests and raise their incomes. YPBB also facilitates dialogue with local governments in order to formalize community use of non-timber forest products.

Nurturing Aspects of Traditional Culture that Strengthen Contemporary Society

YPBB works to help traditional people strengthen the aspects of their culture that they feel are in accord with a prosperous, just, and free society.

their communities, and the preservation of the cultural heritage expressed in their artwork. The mission of YPBB is to align those two interests, and help our partners realize the livelihood potential of their unique cultural traditions.

An Appeal For Donations

With support from your contributions, YPBB can address new problems in our partner communities, adapt successful programs to new areas and changing circumstances, and expand our reach to more villages. Visit www.ypbb.org today to join our worldwide community, and make an impact of your own.

For those of you who have contributed to YPBB in the past (via the Threads of Life Foundation under the fiscal sponsorship of the National Heritage Foundation), we now have a new vehicle for US tax deductible donations at the Give2Asia program of the Asia Foundation, and also offer opportunities for direct donation via PayPal or bank transfer.

Our community partners have provided YPBB with a “mandate” of issues that they want addressed, in three general areas: incubating community businesses, managing forests and natural resources, and nurturing traditional culture.

The Peer-To-Peer Relationship

YPBB staff approach our partners as peers: we speak with dyers as fellow dyers, with weavers as fellow textile merchants. The peer-to-peer relationship means that YPBB does not enter a community and give orders. We listen, we learn, we share our knowledge, and respond to our partners’ needs. Our partners respond to the respect that we show them with energy and innovation, and a more dynamic level of engagement.

Visit www.ypbb.org now to get involved. (PLEASE NOTE: the launch version of the website does not view well on a Macintosh computer. We are working on this!)

With thanks for your ongoing support and our best wishes for 2010,

from William, Jean, Pung, Lolet
and everyone at Threads of Life and the YPBB Foundation.

On Threadsoflife.com

Threads of Life is a fair trade business that utilizes culture and conservation to alleviate poverty in rural Indonesia. The heirloom-quality textiles, baskets and crafts we commission are made with local materials and natural dyes. With the proceeds from sales, we help weavers to form independent cooperatives and to manage their resources sustainably.

WHAT WE DO

This section explains the breadth and depth of our work. Behind the beautiful textiles seen in the gallery are months of [field work](#) each year [supporting women’s weaving cooperatives](#) through [fair trade](#), [revitalizing traditional textile techniques](#), and [conservation efforts](#).

FIELD NOTES

Keeping people informed of our ongoing work in the communities is important to us. Every time our staff return from a field visit their experiences and observations are turned into a [field notes](#) slide show. Over time a rich archive of these will build up for visitors to browse through.

INDONESIAN TEXTILE ARTS

Fourteen slide shows explore the traditional [textile arts](#) from across the Indonesian archipelago while introducing the [weavers](#) and their [cooperatives](#), and the [materials](#), [natural dyes](#), and production [techniques](#) they employ.

OUR TEXTILE

Detailed descriptions, cultural references and photographs with high-resolution images [catalog](#) a varied and exciting sample of the best textiles produced by the weavers' cooperatives associated with Threads of Life.

OTHER PRODUCTS

CLASSES, TOURS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Traditional links between livelihood, culture and nature are expressed through some of the world's finest [basketry](#). Diverse [culture arts](#), including pottery, woodcarving and bead work, also retain a remarkable vitality.

The [classes](#) offered at the gallery on the history and diversity of Indonesia's textile arts are an excellent way to gain a new level of appreciation. News of any tours, events or exhibitions we are offering is also to be found here.

HOW TO PURCHASE

Threads of Life sells its textiles, baskets, or other cultural artefacts through its [gallery in Ubud](#), Bali, and occasional overseas exhibitions and sales. Books, music and videos are available [online](#).

YPBB FOUNDATION

YPBB stands for Yayasan Pecinta Budaya Beali and is the name of the Indonesian nonprofit that the Threads of Life business is partnered with in its community work. [Read more](#) about YPBB's projects and funding.

THREADS OF LIFE TEXTILE ARTS CENTER

Jalan Kajeng 24, Ubud, Bali 80571, Indonesia
Open 10 am to 7 pm daily. [Click for directions](#).
Gallery Tel +62-361-972187.
Office Tel +62-361-976581.
Fax +62-361-976582.
Email info@threadsoflife.com.

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