

## Confidence and control: two sides of the same coin

The Liliane Foundation is an organisation to help children with disabilities in developing countries. In order to do so, the Liliane Foundation relies on the contributions of the many people who wish our work well. The Liliane Foundation has to be able to convince donors that their contributions will be used according to their expectations, namely for the benefit of the child with a disability. This ensures the continuous flow of contributions and even the increase. So the Liliane Foundation's objective is to reduce the costs. This is possible because there are so many people, in the Netherlands and in developing countries, who dedicate themselves to the children, mostly on a voluntary basis. You are one of those people. The Liliane Foundation has to make sure that the contributions end up in the right place. That is what this article is about.

Mediators of the Liliane Foundation are contact persons who, on behalf of a local NGO or congregation, have contact with disabled children. Mediators know the family circumstances and ensure that these children receive individual and adequate help. Mediators refer children to local rehabilitation facilities. You are familiar with this procedure. The mediator visits the children at home, gives moral support, listens to the problems, looks for possibilities for more (self)acceptance and integration, etc. Sister Mary Kurissery JMJ, the national co-ordinator in India, has put into words just how important the work of the mediator is, see box.

Besides this, the mediator pays out money: bills for medical treatment, school fees, travelling charges, etc. have to be settled. The Liliane Foundation asks every mediator to keep a file for each child. This contains objectives and results but also financial expenses for the child or the family. As stated above, the mediator always works on behalf of a congregation or NGO. This means that they don't do this as private individuals but as part of what the congregation or NGO has considered to be its task. This also implies that the NGO or congregation in question will take on the responsibility for all that is done by the mediator. So, an NGO or congregation is also responsible for the financial check of the funds granted by the Liliane Foundation. This is why we ask for a second signature, namely on behalf of the NGO or congregation, to be put on the green B form, which you are familiar with.

You may ask the question "Am I not trusted?". The answer is: Certainly, your work is completely trusted and appreciated. Thanks to your dedication, tens of thousands of children annually are given new chances. But we know from experience that control must be an essential part of our work. This is applicable here in the Netherlands as well as in the developing countries. Lack of control might lead to unwanted expenses, negligence and even abuse.

Has there been no control until now? Of course there has, otherwise we would be working in a reckless way. But as the Liliane Foundation is growing, the control has to keep pace with it. The control may take other forms:

- The National Co-ordinator, if such a person has been appointed in your country, can ask you to show your administration when he visits you.
- The same applies when someone from the Netherlands comes on a working visit.
- It could occur that you are asked to send us invoices and receipts relating to the assistance of a child. So it is and remains important to have a carefully updated file for every child.

At this moment we would like to ask you the following question:

*"How and by whom are you being controlled in your NGO or congregation?"*

In one of the coming letters from your correspondent a question on this issue will be asked of you.

This article has been written to explain to you why we wish to give more attention to the control aspect. It is also meant to ask for your understanding and collaboration. We are fully confident that this will succeed! Should you wish to respond to the aforesaid, then write to the undersigned.

Kees van den Broek  
Project co-ordinator

