

## **New mediators, carefulness at the doorway**

Working in a personalised manner is an important aspect in the assistance of the Liliane Foundation. The mediator is familiar with the home situation of the child with a disability. This key role of mediators contributes to the supply of specific tailor-made assistance. So, the personal contribution and commitment of the mediator are important. This has been the case since the Foundation's creation in 1980. In that year the very first mediator, in Indonesia, enabled Agnes, the very first child helped since the Liliane Foundation came into existence, to earn her living independently.

By now there are approximately 1400 mediators active world-wide. In all, over 25.000 children world-wide were supported in their rehabilitation process by all these people. With the beginning of the year, we therefore convey first of all, our thanks to all of you for the fruitful co-operation.

All funds made available to the Liliane Foundation for the assistance of children with disabilities are delegated by you, the mediators. Mediators clearly play a key role in the work of the Liliane Foundation.

You must also realise that the key role of mediators has its vulnerable side, since this is the very essence of the assistance. Hence, we always emphasise, due to the accuracy that is required, that nobody may become mediator while acting as a private individual, only if they are supported by an NGO or a congregation for which he/she already works. This makes the NGO and/or congregation also involved with the (financial) control of the individual, who is namely the mediator also on their behalf.

Being a mediator is therefore not just a case of one person himself, while on the other hand involvement and commitment from the mediator as an individual is of great importance.

The Liliane Foundation is a gradually growing organisation that is valued highly by the Dutch public. That appreciation is largely based on the good quality of the work done by mediators and the way in which this is communicated to the people supporting our work. Due to the gradual growth, more and more children are helped and more room is created for new mediators.

As indicated above, we are very happy with the good co-operation with the vast majority of the mediators. However, you won't be surprised that sometimes things may go wrong...: mediators designating funds in the wrong way, not rendering account on time or sometimes not at all!

In order to avoid problems in the future as much as possible, it has been decided to (continue to!) pay extra attention when screening new mediators. We remain open for co-operation with new mediators so as to give, together, even more children an opportunity for rehabilitation, but it should be clear and certain that the intentions and strategy of all mediators are good. So if there is doubt we won't be able to begin a co-operation. Being clear and transparent « at the gateway » may prevent problems from arising at a later stage. After all, prevention is better than cure.

Should you wish to introduce new mediators to us who fit our criteria, then we will not fail to consider your nomination carefully!

Kees van den Broek