

# BOOST FOUNDATION



## ANNUAL REPORT 2018

STICHTING BOOST FOUNDATION



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## FOREWORD OF THE CHAIRMAN

2018 has been a year full of changes for Boost Foundation. We completed our 3<sup>rd</sup> year as a foundation and have learnt a lot. It puts a smile on our face to see the people we have helped and the projects that we have completed. To see the children that have benefited from getting another year of education has been worth it all. Our core values and our drive to help others is going strong.

I am proud of all our members, to see how they have grown together as a team and on a personal level. I want to thank the members of Boost Foundation and all the volunteers for their dedication and effort. It's always a joy to work alongside professionals with a similar goal and mind set.

Without our supporters we wouldn't be here and therefore a big thank you to everyone that has helped us with donations, guidance, advice and care. It's truly remarkable to see how strong you can become when you get together and work towards accomplishing a project.

On behalf of Boost Foundation, I would like to thank everyone for their support.

With friendly greetings,

Erudini Smits

Vice-president Boost Foundation



### BOOST FOUNDATION

Boost Foundation is a charity organisation that has dedicated its work to helping those in need. We support humanitarian and environmental projects of small local charity organisations with the idea that together we can make a difference. Together we can make this world a better place.

We use our core values and our purpose as a moral compass through all our actions in running projects. Our promise is what we give to you and we question ourselves every time we make a decision on whether that promise is being kept.

When Boost Foundation started 3 years ago our Big Hairy Audacious Goal (BHAG) was to boost 10000 projects in the next 40 years. Our BHAG is to directly influence a million people worldwide positively.

### WHY BOOST FOUNDATION?

There are many people in the world who need our help and many people who have the resources and the will to help these people. What's in the way? Most donors we speak to have little faith in charities and this is not without reason.

Even amongst the most famous foundations and non-profit organizations in the Netherlands, only 50 to 80% of the donations actually reach a project and often the project results are difficult to test or are not transparent. We believe that this can be done differently.

### WHY ARE WE DIFFERENT?

We distinguish ourselves by:

- Make clear agreements with local parties that have already proven themselves.
- Applying and upholding a strict selection criteria for projects to be tested on the basis of sustainability and added value for the local population.
- Maximum knowledge sharing, by creating educational projects for young talent, volunteers and students.
- Use maximum ICT and technology to achieve a high degree of automation.
- Being fully transparent in all activities, decisions and finances.
- Operating with no buildings, no lease cars, no salaries, no bonuses, no seat fees and operating as a flat organization with short lines.

### WHAT DO WE DO?

We choose and support humanitarian and / or environmental projects with a relatively small budget of up to € 20,000. We try to help 100 people per project.

This can vary from building or renovating a primary school, to refurbishing a piece of land or infrastructure for a remote village or (re) planting a piece of forest.

1. The purpose of the foundation is: protecting nature and the environment worldwide, including promoting sustainability and promoting humanitarian projects; to perform all further actions that are related to the

foregoing in the broadest sense or that may be conducive thereto. This purpose does not include making distributions to the founder or to those who are part of organs of the foundation.

2. The foundation only serves the public interest and does not aim to make a profit.

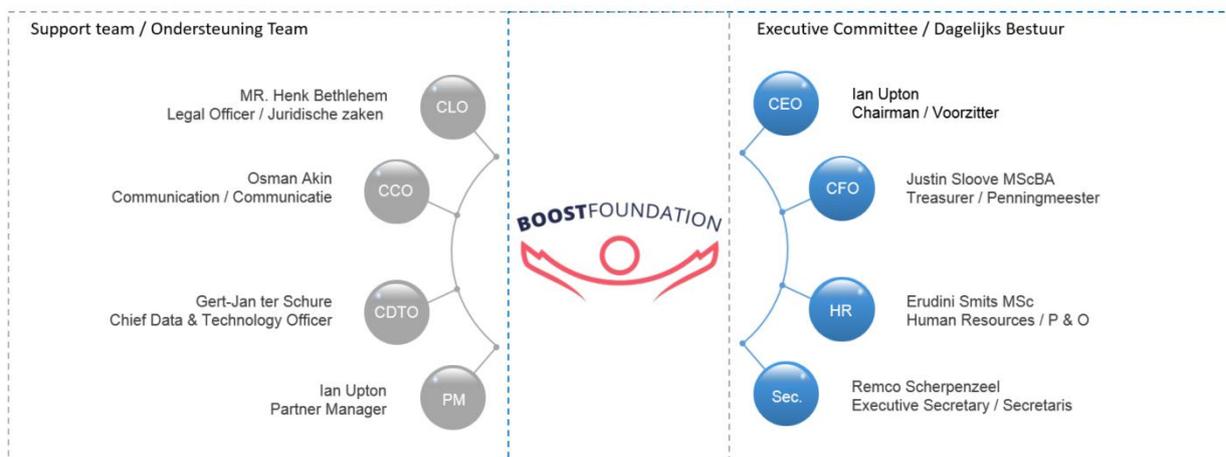
3. The foundation tries to achieve its goal by, among other things, selecting humanitarian and environmental projects worldwide and supporting the non-profit organizations and other public benefit organizations that implement these projects with a high degree of efficiency. The support in the form of, but not limited to, knowledge, effort by volunteers, kind and / or financial nature. In addition, the foundation will select and guide volunteers and offer them the opportunity to contribute to projects or other supporting activities. The foundation will also organize (Network) events to recruit sponsors and create awareness.

(Source: Stichting Boost Foundation, Article 2)

## THE BOARD

The board is a diverse team of multidisciplinary professionals with equal say within the organisation. Decisions are made according to statutory guidelines and the household regulations. The board supports the internal and external projects and activities and is supported maximally by the chairman, legal, HR and finances. The core board consists of:

- Ian Upton – President
- Erudini Smits – Vice president & HR manager
- Remco Scherpenzeel – Secretary
- Justin Sloove – Treasurer
- Osman Akin – Commercial & Marketing manager
- Gert-Jan ter Schure - Data and Technology Officer
- Henk Bethlehem – External legal Adviser



## LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

These are our local heroes and the truly hard-working people. These are the people that conduct the projects and that have direct contact with the beneficiaries of the projects. They are the people that do all the field work and make this successful.

- Ramani Smits – CEO of FutureCare
- Sameera Bandara – Project Manager at FutureCare
- Camila Solaris – Volunteer at Boost Foundation
- Cerasela Somersall - MSMGA volunteer member
- Amber de Vries - MSMGA volunteer member

## GOALS FOR 2018

At the end of the year we already plan for the upcoming year. In 2017 we had a few goals and objectives for 2018. These were our objectives:

### EXTERNAL PROJECTS:

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1. Sponsor 80 children with educations "Equal chances"
2. Finish "Building a Future" for Minuwangamuwa school
3. Initiate "Green Future"
4. Start and finish the second project with MSMGA – The removal of fungus in houses

### INTERNAL PROJECTS:

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1. Find 2-3 new volunteers
2. Find 2 new board members
3. Project Glass Door: The continuation of improving our business intelligence and better transparency.
4. Project AutoCloud: The continuation of improving our IT policy, automation & security of our systems and programs.

At the end of every year the policy plan and the statute are reviewed and based on these documents the strategy is made for the next year. These documents together with the household plans will change according to the plans made for the following year.

## RESULTS FOR 2018

Boost Foundation would be nothing without its projects. This is our core existence and we pride ourselves in helping others through these projects.

Below is a more detailed explanation of each external project with some additional projects that we completed. There is also a small description of the results that we have for Internal projects/changes.

Here are the results we have for this year:

### EQUAL CHANCES

A project that focuses on providing children from the poorest families a chance to go to school and get an education.

A lot of families in rural Sri Lanka live below the poverty line and have difficulty in getting even the basic needs. Parents can't afford to give their children shoes, uniforms and educational material such as books or stationary. Without these things children are not allowed to attend school and as a result the children go and help their parents by working on the fields.

What FutureCare does is that it helps these families by providing the children with the most basic needs to attend school so that the families are not restricted to keeping the children at home or in the fields. We at Boost Foundation help FutureCare by funding 80 children to attend school for 3 years. This is our second year in which we are able to help provide these children with a decent school education. We believe that investing in education is one of the most sustainable solutions to poverty and has an enormous impact of the local population and the entire community.

Our partner FutureCare does most of the heavy lifting. They ensure that all the necessary materials are purchased and hand them out individually to the children. We monitor the costs and results by:

- Monitoring all in- and out expenditures and report on this;
- Be physically present when all resources are distributed;
- Talking with the locals and communicate our findings with our supporters.

Equal Chances is a very nice concept with a lot of potential. The schools attract more children, giving the government more attention for these schools. Children that we reach radiate as much joy as if it were Sinterklaas or Christmas. Children from low income families can go to school with a new uniform next to financially fortunate children without feeling out of place in that regard.

This year we succeeded in completely this project by donating 4000Euros for 80 children by providing the required material for them to attend school. This was a 3-year project plan and 2018 was the final year. Overall this was a positive project and was completed successfully with a total donation of 12000Euros.



## SHARING KNOWLEDGE

The project Sharing Knowledge was started so that we could send volunteers over to poor schools so that they can teach the children new skills. In 2016 we had a volunteer go to a school to teach English and in 2017 we had 2 artists go there to teach them about creative thinking. In 2018 we wanted to send someone again. This project started in 2018 but the volunteer only went to Sri-Lanka to start teaching in January in 2019. Nevertheless, all the planning and the sourcing of a suitable volunteer was done in 2018.



We worked closely with a team of artists known as AAAFresh123 and when they went to Sri Lanka to do an art project with the children last year, they had an experience they would never forget. They spoke about it with their network, friends and family. Through this connection we found our volunteer – Camila Solari. A smart young lady in America who wanted to help society and give something back. She did her research about us and then finally decided to get in touch. We had spoken to a few potential volunteers before her but we were looking for someone that would be a right match and that can make the commitment for 3 months as our ‘teaching English Sharing Knowledge’ project has duration of 3 months which is one school term in Sri Lanka.

After having a few interviews with her and understanding her motivations and desires, we decided to start planning the trip and the get permission from the schools. Preparing for this meant gathering all the legal documents such as the visa, flights and also all medication (vaccinations etc.). She will go to Sri-Lanka to start teaching next year but all the preparation and sourcing was done in 2018.

## BUILDING A FUTURE

Building a Future was one of our strongest projects in 2017. Unfortunately, due to fund raising difficulty this project was put on hold in 2018. These projects are about restoring or building schools to increase the educational environment for children in very poor rural areas. These projects help improve the conditions for school children by giving them better infrastructure such as water, school buildings, roads or even simple things like a playground.

These projects will be on hold until we find a company or another independent donor that would like to specifically donate to this project. Building a future is about larger amounts of money that can be donated to build or renovate parts of the infrastructure for the school. If we commit to this project then we need to have the financial backing and unfortunately it is a little harder to gather this amount of funding from small fund raisers or individual funding. Therefore, this project will be more feasible for organisations that would like to donate to one big project or for individuals that would like to sponsor a larger donation.

## MSMGA

On Tuesday 5th of September 2017, the island of St.Maarten (SXM), home to over 77,000 people, was catastrophically hit by a category 5 hurricane named Irma. When this happened a group of responsible and kind individuals got together to help the people on St.Maarten. From the early stages they reached out to Boost Foundation and we started working together on an emergency project. This project was completed successfully in 2017.

For 2018, they had plans for a second phase project where they wanted to help remove mold/fungus that grew in the houses due to conditions from the hurricane. For this a project plan and financial agreement was discussed and signed from both parties. The first donation of 4000Euro's was transferred so that they could start the project. The donation was made so that they could purchase the required cleaning and disinfection materials. The houses that were selected for the removal of the mold were already given instructions on how they would be able to do so in a safe manner as the removal of mold could be dangerous for health reasons if not done in a correct way. Inhalation of the dust from the mold could be seen as a health hazard and therefore also protective material are required to be bought and worn during the process of removal. All these instructions were also part of the project plan.

A donation of 4000Euro's was transferred to St.Maarten so that they first phase of the project could begin. Unfortunately, even though the money was transferred and received. The project did not start and therefore is now on hold until the local partner can start the project with the householders.

## OTHER PROJECTS - FUND RAISING

In order to get some money and to bring the team spirit back together with a fun activity, we completed our first pub quiz to gather money for the equal chances project. For this project we worked together with the student hotel in Rotterdam that donated and supported us by allowing us to use their location. Each board member was also given a specific task during the event. Everyone did it well and the preparation and set up was done perfectly. This was a successful fund-raising event which collected 500Euro's. It was also a good marketing event where we spoke about Boost Foundation and our goals. We had 60 people attend the event with 12 teams. This was a successful fund raiser and encouraged the team to keep doing it as long as it gives us the same amount of energy and success.



## INTERNAL CHANGES FOR 2018

In order to stay most efficient and cost effective we have to always been on the lookout for what software's and programs we can use that would help us. This year we decided in order to reduce costs to switch from using Twinfield as our financial software to Ficsbook. This allowed us to do the same work but at a lower cost.

For Project AutoCloud, we have improved and automated our recording system when it comes to the minutes of each meeting. When the secretary finishes the minutes then they are automatically sent to the members and once they have been checked and resubmitted then only will they be ready to be uploaded on the website. This ensures that all members had read and agreed about the content of the minutes. This increases the credibility and transparency of the content at each meeting.

During the year we had to put Project Glass Door on hold as we did not have projects that had large amounts of data which needed business intelligence. Therefore, once we start working with big data and more projects then we will bring this project back up.



FutureCare has been our first and most important partner in Sri Lanka. The most admirable and consistent attribute that they possess is that they donate all of their funds to the projects that they do. All the costs are paid as a donation from the CEO of FutureCare. She minimizes her expenses by only having unpaid volunteers that help with the physical work and most of the work is done by her and the project manager, and neither one of them get a salary for their work. She donates all traveling costs and fixed costs, so that any money that she gets into the organization from external volunteers goes 100% to the children and schools in her projects. This is why we believe her core values are in line with that of Boost Foundation.

FutureCare was founded in 2006 by Ramani Smits (CEO), a lady from Kandy in the Central Province. After she completed her agricultural education, she met a Dutchman, Henk Smits. Henk worked at the United Nations and immigrated to Sri Lanka at the age of 45. Henk is an inspiring person who has worked for mentally handicapped orphan boys in Sri Lanka over the last 30 years. A few years after FutureCare started, Sameera joined the company as his passion is to help as many people as he can. He was immediately drawn to project management and helps with all the heavy lifting and networking with the locals. The amount of schools and children that come to them for help keep increasing on a yearly basis so they can use all the support they can get.

## PARTNERS IN THE NETHERLANDS



Thank you, Vunzige Deuntjes, for being a major contributor of the project Make Sint-Maarten Great Again.



Thank you, Avighna, for the regular donations, which we use to pay our IT and administration costs, and for believing in Boost Foundation and our mission from day one!



Thank you, AAAfresh123 and AAA Gallery, for inspiration, ideas and supporting us with allowing us to use your gallery as location and the use of your facilities for our meetings.



Thank you, OGD ict-diensten, for the provision of office space and facilities.



Thank you, Immature, helping us with our website.

## BOOST FOUNDATION IS POWERED BY...



## PLANS FOR 2019

### EQUAL CHANCES

Equal chances was a great success for the last 3 years and most importantly we saw great results from it. This project is officially finished. The members of the board together with FuturCare may decide if we would like to set up a new timeline for the project. FutureCare will continue to do the project and we will decide later in the year if we can donate to this cause. In the past we agreed to helping a certain number of children and then started to collect money for it.

For 2019 we would like to change this approach and first see how much money we can collect and then donate what we have to the number of children. This is done because last year we promised to sponsor 80 children but did not collect enough money from which we had to transfer money from our emergency funds and divert it from other projects in order to cover the difference. In order to not have this problem we would like to first collect the money and then based on that commit to the number of children we can help.

### SHARING KNOWLEDGE

We would like to continue this project for the coming years. This means the sourcing of candidates, interviewing them and eventually the selection of a suitable teacher for the children. We have found new logging for the volunteers when they are in Sri Lanka. This allows us to also send multiple volunteers at the same time. Previously we could only send 1 at a time for the school term, but now we can even send 2 or 3 volunteers.

### BUILDING A FUTURE

This project was successful in previous years and there is a high demand for these projects. Therefore in 2019 we will pick at least one more building a future project, but it will be a project that is either smaller in value for which we can do the fund raising and collect the required amount or if it is for a larger amount (above a 1000Euro's) then we will have to have connections with the donators before we agree to accepting the project.

### MSMGA

We do this project in partnership with the MSMGA group. Their plan for 2019 is not yet decided upon because their project to help remove fungus from houses was put on hold due to a difficulty of the transferring of the funds to the right local 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Until a sufficient solution is found and the money can be moved freely again, we will also be putting this project on hold. If this problem is not solved by the end of the year then new measures and terms will be placed to decide how best to utilize the remaining funds.

### NEW PROJECTS

A new project and partner will be selected that might be closer to home. We would like to grow by having a partner in the Netherlands and help them with a project that is closer to home. This could be doing something to help refugees or cleaning the oceans or water in Rotterdam even – this could be an environmental project or humanitarian project. We as a team have decided that we would like to also have a local partner that is in the Netherlands. Because some of the other projects are on hold, we have the ability to start a new project here and also have the room to pursue a relationship with another local partner. Which charity organization or which project will be decided later on. They will have to follow the original rules which means there will have to be a 100% match with our core values.

## FUND RAISING PROJECTS

Gathering money is not easy and most of the time using the same techniques and asking the same group of people is not going to get us far. We need new creative methods gather funds and also to expand our reach and network. A few of our upcoming plans consist of the following:

- Pub quiz
- Karaoke
- Boost Run
- Selling of merchandise – such as artwork or other creative

We are always open to new ideas and volunteers as well so if you want to help us or have some cool ideas that you would like to share with us please let us know.

