

## **Help put a child in school for 3 years with \$200.**

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IT COSTS only \$60 to put a child living in Riau island in school for a year, which is what some Singapore parents pay a month to neighbourhood kindergartens.

And the United Nations Development Fund for Women (Unifem) Singapore is determined to put as many children, whose education was affected by the economic recession, back in school.

It wants to keep them there for at least three years.

The voluntary organisation, whose members include former NMP Dr Kanwaljit Soin and Dr James Khoo, is appealing to donors to give \$200 to sponsor the education of one child for that period.

The \$200 figure is calculated based on the amount needed for school fees, uniforms, shoes, books and stationery for three years.

The amount is derived at with help from several village headmen from Sebung Pereh, S. Kecil and Ekang Anculai, which are three of the main districts in Bintan.

Dr Khoo, a neurosurgeon, says Unifem will concentrate on children in primary schools during the initial phase of the programme.

They hope to extend it to secondary schools if the programme works and if many sponsors come forward.

Says Dr Soin: "We want to help the children because they are the future generation who will be contributing to the economy."

Besides the education project, Unifem Singapore has also made five trips to Bintan and the surrounding islands since last August to provide free medical and dental care.

At each visit, about 25 volunteer doctors, dentists and assistants, who pay their own return ferry tickets, worked from 9 am to 6 pm to attend to the villagers.

Called the Riau-Singapore People to People Program, it has benefited about 5,000 villagers.

\* Those who are interested in sponsoring the children can call Unifem Singapore on 737-3820 or fax 787-7920. You can also e-mail [unifem.sg@iname.com](mailto:unifem.sg@iname.com). For details, about Unifem, call up their homepage at this address: <http://welcome.to/unifem.sg>.