

HELLABEEM FOUNDATION

School for 60 disabled young people aged 12 – 18 in Sri Lanka

NEWSLETTER 10 – NOVEMBER 2006

THE PROJECT SO FAR

Friday 1st December is the day, then Jan and I are leaving for Sri Lanka, to stay!

Last October we were in Sri Lanka for a whole month to get the last things organised and we are looking forward to making the real step and initiate Hellabeem!

The construction of the Hostel, financed by our contributors and the 'Wilde Ganzen', is in good progress (see photo: the Hostel under construction). We do feel, though, the influence of the demand for Tsunami-houses



(houses for the Tsunami victims). Prices are rising every month. We don't let ourselves be influenced by them, though, as far as quality is concerned, our buildings are being built in a very solid and sustainable way. All buildings of the compound meet the Dutch quality demands and they are all accessible for wheelchair users. The Hostel is now in scaffolding, a very sophisticated construction of bamboo and wood, held together by bands of cotton. It is a real joy to see how by old-fashioned sawing and with simple tools such beautiful things are made. With this project we are doing a good job too as far as employment is concerned. Every day about 30 people are at work, all of them local craftsmen.

Apart from the building of the compound, Lahir and others are working hard to find boys who we can offer a place at Hellabeem, for we want to start a phased welcoming of the first children from mid January. The youngsters will be from all over the country and we will see to it that there is a proportionate representation of the four religious groups of Sri Lanka. Each year we want to admit about ten, twelve children so that in a number of years, when the first group of boys will be eighteen years old, the same number of qualified youths will be able to start for themselves each year.

We are going to coach disabled boys and girls from the area with short courses and medical support. The 'Liliane Fonds' has promised to help us. In January they will visit us to work out our plans in further detail.

In one of the classrooms of the Long School a temporary kitchen will be installed until the real kitchen can be built. We have received wonderful help with the equipment from the religious community of Borne. They gave us, among other things, a stove, fridge, washing machine and cooking equipment.

VOLUNTEERS

In our last newsletter I wrote that we were looking for a bookkeeper. We are very happy with the contribution of **Admin Dextera** in Den Dolder. They have offered us to do the bookkeeping from now on for free. We are talking to Ernst and Young in Amersfoort, they may take care of the final audit.



The firm **Art Impuls** in Nieuw-Roden has helped us out, they designed our brochure. **Drukkerij Walden** in Bussum, as usual, has copied this newsletter free of charge.

When we are leaving for Sri Lanka in December, we will not be alone. Three Ladies and a couple offered their help. They will help us cleaning and getting everything ready to start Hellabeem. We are expecting Mayke, Dirk and Roel (the family we were talking about in our last letter) in January. Unfortunately the consulate is not quite cooperative in giving them the required visa.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our president Lauk Slabbers has indicated that his busy work doesn't allow him any longer to play an active role in the Hellabeem Foundation. Our new president is Marion Kiwi. We also have a new secretary, Welmoet Kok and a new treasurer, Sonja van de Walle. Judith Vernhout and I myself remain active as members of the board.

FINANCE

The action of doubling the amount of money for the kitchen by Plan Nederland has been successful. Thanks to this action, in which € 40.000 has been collected, we can build the kitchen. We will start building this after we have finished the Hostel for the children. Many thanks to all who have contributed to this, e.g. all these people who have given us their birthday money. **Patricia de Vries-Stomp** has run a sponsored marathon for the second time, Berlin this time, and collected € 900 for the good cause. **Willemijn Westhof** has started an action of her own and has been able to give us 20 beds. Thanks to an action by the **Diaconie from Soest-Zuid** we can buy sun boilers for € 1.141,50. We received € 10.000,- from **Stichting Klein Verzet**. Staff and directors of **Johan Matser Projectontwikkeling** in Hilversum collected € 900,-. From **Stichting Louisa** we received € 10.000,-, which enables us to have 100 tables and 150 chairs made. From **St. Sint Arnhem** €1.200,00, from **Stichting Lakeland** € 5.000,- so that we could extend the watertower with stairs and a platform. On this platform we will build a windmill. As there are regular power cuts in Sri Lanka, it is a safe idea that we can switch to wind energy at any moment. On 10 December 2005 a Christmas concert was organised by, among others, **Karin Kopp** and the **Lionsclubs Leiderdorp and Rhijnlandt Leiderdorp** in cooperation with **Rotaryclub Leiderdorp**. They collected € 1.365,-. This amount has been doubled by **Cordaid** and will be used for the fencing of the site.. **Stichting Steunfonds Overgooi** is supporting us for € 3.876,- for the building of the well. And, last but not least, there was this wonderful benefit farewell party on Sunday 12 November, offered to us by **Lionsclub Loosdrecht** and many sponsors. We were overwhelmed by all the people who came to say goodbye, all the presents and all dear words. We have sold all kinds of things, with a total profit of € 5.000,- all for Hellabeem. This amount too will be doubled by **Cordaid**. Many, many thanks to everybody for your presence and for your support!

As you can see we are supported on all sides, with big and with small amounts and we are greatly helped with all forms of sponsoring. Our next goal is saving money for the eatingroom. You too can help us reaching this goal. May be you would like to be a contributor on a monthly basis. We do have 30 contributors now from whom we receive a fixed monthly amount of money which they determined themselves. Or may be you prefer to sponsor your own project. If you would want to sponsor a project with your firm or with your friends, you can contact us for information.

We are leaving for Sri Lanka on 1st December and there we will go on building Hellabeem. We will go on keeping you informed about our progress and adventures. To us it means a lot that our dream of years is going to come true and that we will be able to welcome the first children in a couple of weeks. We are very grateful to everybody who has helped us realising all this, in whatever way!

Our new address is: Mahagoda Watte, Ibbawela, Weligama, Sri Lanka. Our e-mail addresses will remain the same: helene@hellabeem.org and jan@hellabeem.org.

Kind regards on behalf of all four of us, Helène Heijen



From left to right.: Mahrooza, Lahir, Jan and Helène

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The foundation has been approved by the tax authorities, see art. 24 paragraph 4 of the 'Successiewet'.
Board: president M.R. Kiwi ■ secretary W. Kok ■ treasurer S. van de Walle
Members: J.B.C. Vernhout - Koopman and M.H. Heijen