

Hellabeem Sri Lanka
Mahagodawatte
Ibbawala, Weligama
Sri Lanka
Tel. +94602902635,
www.hellabeem.org

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News of the Dutch board

Welmoet Kok returned from abroad and is back as our secretary from 1 July. We thank Ineke Guichelaar who replaced her for half a year. The board has made a very nice SCHOOL VOOR SCHOOL PLAN, with which you can get the school of your child or grandchild enthusiastic to organize a campaign for Hellabeem. The plan provides the teachers with many suggestions, so that they are already well on their way. You can order this ready-for-use package by phoning 0031 35 6948846 or by mailing to welmoet@hellabeem.org. You can also find and download the plan at www.hellabeem.org.

Note: the plan is written in Dutch.

We go on building Hellabeem. What we need most right now are supporters who contribute on a monthly basis to secure the project. Another possibility is to sponsor a child, for instance with your colleagues or friends, if you would like to do this, please contact me. Our address is Hellabeem Sri Lanka, Mahagodawatte, Ibbawala, Weligama. My e-mail address is: helene@hellabeem.org.

Kind regards,
also on behalf of Mahrooza, Lahir and Jan,

Helène Heijen



Status project

The last few months we have done a lot in Sri Lanka. The building of Hellabeem is getting on very well. In June again a new building has been completed. In this building the dining room and kitchen are situated and the physiotherapy department. This building has been realized with the financial aid of Plan Nederland, the Liliane Fonds, Wilde Ganzen, Rotary International Amsterdam, Rabo Share for More and Marieke Feenstra. We are greatly indebted to all of them. As Hellabeem is growing more and more, we can really use all these rooms. Soon we will start building our own house (of course financed by ourselves) and we are looking forward to this very much. Also there will be a swimming pool for rehabilitation, which will be a great help.

We are building not only physically, but also as far as content is concerned. We have daily consultations with various authorities in order to have as many pupils settled at Hellabeem as possible. Building is also going on at a managerial level.

Mayke, Dirk and their son Roel have assisted us in a wonderful way for a whole year and have by now returned to The Netherlands. They have played a most important part in setting up remedial therapy and sports lessons for the children. They also have contributed enormously at the administrative level. The pupils gave them a wonderful, self-made theatre performance as a farewell present. In March our team has been reinforced with Thishantha Ganearachchi. He is an academically trained agricultural manager. After the tsunami he worked for big NGOs (non governmental organisations) and in this way has built a wide network. We hope to further professionalize Hellabeem with his help. We have also engaged an assistant physiotherapist Sameera. Mayke and Dirk helped him settle as a sportstrainer and remedial therapist.

Pupils

In the beginning of July we will welcome a new group of boys. We will then have a total of fourteen resident boys. Our boys make great progress. They are coming along by leaps and bounds thanks to the specialized attention they get here. They have physiotherapy nearly every day. In addition to the regular subjects, they have many sports lessons



as well. In September the first group of pupils will have been with us for one year and they are going to specialize in a trade. It is our aim that this trade will enable them to earn their own living. Those who can walk will be taught to cultivate the land. They have half an hour of practical lessons every morning. For these lessons we cooperate with the University of Agriculture. The government very much stimulates small scale agriculture because of food shortage. Soon we will also have cows and build a bio-gas tank. In this way we will not need any more the expensive gas cylinders we use for cooking.

Cooperation with other organisations

We cooperate with the Sri Lankan organization Leonard Cheshire International (LCI). They have a physiotherapist with whom we have a monthly contact. Our assistant physiotherapist consults him on the exercises for the pupils. They also saw to it that a number of pupils arrived. And they put us in contact with AMURT (www.amurt.org). This is a big international organization with offices in Japan, Austria and the USA. Since the tsunami they also have an office in Sri Lanka. They particularly concentrate on establishing community based small organizations. Right now they are interested in educating the disabled. They want to broaden these young persons' knowledge by means of simple, short courses. There are several courses, like batik, making shoes, sewing, running a chicken farm, working herbs and making necklaces. These courses take between three days and three weeks. From July on these courses are given on our campus. Every month twenty children stay at Hellabeem and take one or more courses. All in all 120 children will have an education through AMURT at our place. All costs are covered by this organization. After this short education the children are offered a place to work (free of interest) near to where they live. Also the purchasing of materials and machines is taken care of. This way of offering help is exactly in line with our way of thinking. Our pupils too will be set up to independence in this way after their stay at Hellabeem.

Volunteers

Also during the last months did we get help from various volunteers. They helped us in all kinds of different ways. Jana Heide for instance was here for one week to give physiotherapy. Hans Langhout helped us during three weeks sorting out the workshop, hanging the curtains

and installing the solar panels together with Jan. Chris and Jacques of Lions club Mijdrecht-Wilnis came along. This Lions club has collected a considerable amount of money, with which the two men have built a nursery for plants. They have also made a swing and given a welding workshop. Later on two young French people arrived, Marian en Mandana. They have painted furniture and provided more than 100 chair seats with thick plastic. We are very glad with all this (international) help! Maybe this is something you would like to do too. We can always use the help of physiotherapists and handy people! The job which is most important now is designing a tricycle for disabled people. Do you know somebody who can do this? At Hellabeem you can have a good combination of holiday and volunteer work.

Finance

Our file of regular supporters is getting bigger and bigger. We now have 57 authorized supporters. Again we hereby appeal to all Friends of Hellabeem who so far have not done this, to give an authorization to the treasurer to contribute monthly, quarterly or yearly. In this way we can secure further exploitation of Hellabeem. In The Netherlands you can have a tax reduction of your gift of up to 50 % if you do this through a solicitor. May be there is a similar possibility in your country. It is also possible to sponsor a small project, you can always ask me about this.

Sponsors

We thank H el ene R oling of Admin Dextera who again has taken care of our bookkeeping all for free. We also thank Peter Fr uhmann Addition BV who has designed the website and our new logo for free. He is also responsible for the new lay out of this newsletter. The Louisa Stichting of the Dutch Freemasons has sponsored the new concrete wheelchair paths. And the Lakeland Foundation has financed part of the construction of the three phase electricity including the necessary concrete poles. Stichting Steunfonds Overgooi gave a contribution with which we could pay for a part of the floor tiles of the physiotherapy. Stichting Gooiland-Mavo in Laren contributed to the costs of exploitation of Hellabeem.

All gifts, great and small, too many to name them all, we are very grateful for them! It is good to feel that there are so many people who help building Hellabeem with us, in whatever way.

