



Mrs. Welmoet Kok

Van der Helstlaan 2
1412 HK Naarden
The Netherlands
T. +3135 69 48 846
E: welmoet@hellabeem.org
W: www.hellabeem.org

Stichting Hellabeem in Bussum
ING bank BIC: INGBNL2A
IBAN: NL39INGB0009479807

April 7th was the day: a great event because of the farewell of six pupils who have finished their education. Everything completely organized by our boys, together with the staff. Like last year there was live music all day long. Our pupils were singing classical Sinhalese songs, as a group, but solo as well. They were accompanied by pupils of the School of Music which is run by our graphic design teacher Suraj and his wife.

Two of the leaving boys, Shehan and Niron, both slightly mentally disabled, are going back home to help their father on the tea plantation. They have been with us for half a year and have obtained a certificate in gardening in this period.

Pradeep, who has been with us for two and a half years and whom we have given extra support in his administrative training, gets a job as an administrative staff member in a tea plant.

Samith, who has a spinal cord lesion, will start his own business soon. We gave him a computer complete with all fittings and tools for the electronics. The Liliane Fonds gave him a monitor. He will certainly invite us for the official opening of his business.

Sahan and Ajith will do a traineeship first for half a year with various companies before they start their own business.

These last three students have taught computer science to boys and girls from our neighbourhood. It cuts both ways: The children from our neighbourhood get extra training which they wouldn't get otherwise because there are no computers at the schools in this area. And our students get the necessary experience in teaching so they can do this at home as well. In this way Thusara, from the previous group, who really was too shy because he is so small (80 cm) could still get the necessary experience.



Tharanga's new shop



Left side new shop. Backside Tharanga's computer centre

The school-leavers of the previous group were there too. They are doing very well. Especially Tharanga. He is not only a part-time teacher with us, but also opened a new shop (after he had already started a computer shop) for reparation and sale of telephones and accessories. Tharindu works for a toy factory. He has become a designer there. In the evening and in the weekend he gives computer lessons.



From half May nine new boys will arrive and we will have 27 pupils in total.

A DAY OUT

At five in the morning we left for Colombo with all the students and staff and with deafening noise of drums and singing. All wheelchairs went on the roof of the bus.

First we did a tour of the harbours of Colombo, with a lot of containers. Then we boarded a big old passenger ship with a gigantic library on board. The boys were carried on board in their wheelchairs.

After this we had a picnic in a bird sanctuary with many beautiful tropical birds. Next to it was a big aquarium complex with an enormous number of sorts of tropical fish. There even were sharks. Then we went to a very old temple complex, it is said to be 1000 years old, with many wallpaintings.

We were back at Hellabeem at 23.00. It was a fantastic day!

INTRODUCING ISHARA, OUR ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBER OF STAFF

I am Ishara and I am 24 years old. I am responsible for the administration. I do the cash and cheque registration and am responsible for the receipts and expenditure. I keep the staff registration for leave and presence and other recurrent administrative things.

Apart from this I teach English to the group with learning problems. I like this very much. I am glad to be able to do my best for this work. Now and in the future.

Thank you Hellabeem for the opportunity you gave me to work here.

Did you know that birds are just as curious as people? When there was a dead poisonous snake in the garden, at least twenty birds were twittering loudly, wandering about and trying to get nearer. Only when the snake was removed did they stop. We have two calves and through them eight liters of milk every day. In this way the students get milk and yoghurt and we sell the rest.



Ishara our administrative staff member

VOLUNTEERS

Again there has been a number of volunteers at Hellabeem. Siham and Serina are two students and they have been with us for six weeks with an assignment. Saskia was with us for three weeks. She gave the boys a very nice home trainer.



Saskia teaching English



Serina, Wendy, Siham



Irene gives footmassage

Ellis was with us again, she painted the entrance gate beautifully and Fabian, a Frenchman, constructed a solid stairs for training.



Didi en Janko



Cor



Ellis

Then there were Cor and Els, friends of ours, who really put their shoulders to the wheel. Cor put the motor frame of the windmill together. Els painted the outside of the shed which is eaten by termites with used oil.

Didi and Janko painted the inside of the shed and cleaned and tidied up all things. Irene gave massage and did foot care etc. Wendy van Veen stayed with us longest. She wrote us a letter:

In my three months at Hellabeem it became clear to me that the boys should be very happy with their place in this wonderful project. They go to school, learn a trade and can rehabilitate meanwhile. This of course is the best you can think of. The site is beautiful and I awoke every morning to the sound of monkeys and birds.

I mainly helped Samira with the physiotherapy. It was remarkable to hear in what condition the boys arrived at Hellabeem and what progress they have made, physically but also mentally. Even in the three months that I have been here I have seen them make progress! I have also been able to do a lot more, like games, aerobics, music lessons, drawing, teaching English, giving swimming lessons and I have been allowed to make a wallpainting. I have got to know the boys well and they have taught me to be glad with who you are, to enjoy small things, to help each other and respect each other. I have warm memories of the many games of 'Mens-erger-je-niet', cricket, the campfire, dancing and feasting, the foodprocessing and the opening of the house in Buthkanda.

My time in Sri Lanka has been a great adventure! Meanwhile I have also been able to enjoy the wonderful outings so that I have come to know the country pretty well. I am very grateful that I have had the experience of three months at Hellabeem and have been able to help building a future for these boys. Jan and Helène do an excellent job there and hopefully will go on for a very long time. They give these boys a future!



Gagani Hirundini gets a standing frame

SPONSORS

Thanks to the Liliane Fonds for the great contribution to our pupils but also to the boys and girls from our neighbourhood who received various orthopedic aids, like special chairs, standing frames and leg or hand prosthesis.

Thank you, dear friends who donated your birthday money to Hellabeem. Thank you Diaconie Soest-zuid, Vitakruid, Harting Bank for the wheelchair and Stichting Lakeland for the restoration of the shed.

NEWS FROM THE DUTCH BOARD

In the extra newsletter we sent you in February we told you about the disappointing receipts of 2010 and asked you for your support for the four boys who will be leaving soon. Well, you have given this support! The net proceeds have become € 2.616,00. Thank you very much!!

But there is something else we would like to ask you.

Sometimes we get a tip-off from a Hellabeem friend who knows of a fund or foundation that has money at their disposal for good causes like ours. We then write to this fund asking them for financial support and in a number of cases this really results in support. We would like to ask you to keep open your eyes and ears and inform us about new possibilities. Together we hear and see more! By the way, is there a company that would be prepared to sponsor our postage and/or printing?

A VERY SPECIAL PRESENT

In January **Pieter Goltstein**, friend of Hellabeem from the very first moment, took leave as a general practitioner in Bussum because of retirement. As a present he had suggested a

contribution to Hellabeem. His patients and staff have expressed their great esteem of Pieter by donating the enormous amount of € 7.009,50.

We are most grateful to Pieter for his sympathetic gesture and to his patients for their generous gifts. We hope that Pieter and his wife Annelise will visit Hellabeem within the foreseeable future and then will see what we have achieved with their own eyes.

Well, you are informed about all new developments at Hellabeem.



Wendy before her wall painted map of Hellabeem

Best wishes, Helène Heijen and Jan van Beek and the Dutch Hellabeem Board.

Our address is: Hellabeem Sri Lanka,
Mahagodawatte
Ibbawala, Weligama
Sri Lanka.

My e-mail address is helene@hellabeem.org