

# HELLABEEM FOUNDATION

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



## NEWSLETTER 6 – FEBRUARI 2005

### THE PROJECT SO FAR

To begin with the most important thing: Fortunately our project has not been struck by the Tsunami; it is situated in an area only three kilometres from the coast, as the crow flies. This area is between Galle and Matara, towns that have been heavily struck. The construction workers of our project all have lost relatives. Lahir, our partner, and his son Murchid were, at the time, on the spot where the busstation of Galle was situated. They were dragged from their van and smashed against a wall. The van caught fire and is total loss. Fortunately they survived, only wounded at their legs and bruised all over. Many friends and acquaintances of Lahir's and his relatives, however, have not survived the disaster.

### NASURDEEN

In earlier newsletters we told you about the development regarding the disabled Nasurdeen, the boy, whom we had thought to welcome as the first inhabitant of Hellabeem. It deeply grieves us that Nasurdeen and all his family have drowned. We would have loved to give him a bright future. It was not meant to be.



Somebody told me, as a comfort, and I found this a precious thought: "You did give him hope of a bright future and this is more than the future itself would have been".

### ACTIVITIES

The Children in Need Foundation and our foundation have joined hands. Together we sent a large container with goods to Sri Lanka. This container is expected to arrive about 14 February and then the goods will go on to Lahir and Mahrooza. Jan and I are going to Sri Lanka in the beginning of March and will distribute these goods among the people. We will dedicate this distribution to the memory of Nasurdeen. This means that we will distribute the goods among the surviving people in his neighbourhood and round his school, the place where we first met him.

We will go to Weligama too. Many fishermen there lost their boats and we will find out what kind of support we can give them. Also we would like to have our schools, as far as they are finished, available for the local school, as this school has been damaged by the water. We will talk about this to see what we can do.

It is remarkable that several women in The Netherlands started campaigns to collect goods and money for our container. Four Volkswagen vans full of sorted goods were delivered from Borne and also in Culemborg, Alphen aan de Rijn, Hilversum and Enschede there have been campaigns.



But the team that beats everything is the team of the Children in Need Foundation (see photo below). They have sorted out all goods and clothes and repaired them, during a whole week and with twelve people at least. Thanks to Annie and Joop Heerschop 53 wheelchairs could be shipped and many other goods. St. Joseph's Church in Bussum collected money for the container's transport from Bussum to the harbour in Rotterdam. The Children in Need Foundation pays for the rest of the transport. The container

itself was given to us by Pacific International Lines. The transport in Sri Lanka is financed by our foundation. A second container will be on its way on 25 February.

### **BUILDING**

Everybody is trying to go on with his life as far as possible. The Hellabeem workers have resumed the building of the roof of the school. In our next newsletter we will tell you more about it.



### **FINANCE**

We want to thank you all very much who have given money after the disaster and for the Wild Geese campaign. The money for the house of the first twenty inhabitants (the aim of the Wild Geese) has nearly been collected. More about this too in our next newsletter.

We go on building Hellabeem, realising that our help is needed more than ever. We welcome your gift in any form!

*Helène Heijen*



Mahrooza

Lahir

Jan

Helène

Secretary: *Helène Heijen, Herenstraat 113, 1406 PC Bussum, telephone:0031( 0)35 – 691 97 98, email: helene@hellabeem.org, girobank account: 947 98 07, in the name of Stichting Hellabeem in Bussum*

**[www.hellabeem.org](http://www.hellabeem.org)**

The foundation has been approved by the tax authorities, see art. 24 paragraph 4 of the "Successiewet".

Board: Mr L.F.J.Slabbers - president, Mrs J.B.C. Vernhout-Koopman - member, Mrs M.H. Heijen - secretary and treasurer