

## NEWSLETTER

April 2018

### WORK VISIT REPORT - OPENING OF THE FOURTH CHILDRENS' HOME IN JANUARY 2018



On the 10th of January 2018, the board members departed for a new work visit to Sri Lanka, but sadly, our treasurer was unable to join us due to health problems. At the airport, we were met by sister Amatha... it was so good to see her again!

On Friday we left to visit our new children's home in Ja Ela. It has turned out absolutely beautiful! Inside the building, all the floors and walls are tiled, there are nice ceilings, enough showers and toilets, and all the roofs are tiled with roof tiles. These are, in fact, conditions that we insist upon.



The new orphanage features a sleeping loft in which 14 girls can sleep. There is also a kitchen and a dining room, a chapel which also includes the library, and plenty of space for the children to study. In addition, there are 3 bedrooms for 2, for the sisters or for the children should they become ill.

We are delighted that, with your help and support, have been able to realize this project!



On our arrival there is no washing machine, refrigerator, stove, television nor a range of other more practical utensils like cleaning materials, pots, pans and dishes. So, together with sister Amatha and one of the older girls, we went shopping. Fortunately there is still enough money in budget to purchase these items! It is really a pleasant experience to do this together.

### OFFICIAL OPENING

On Sunday at 10 o'clock the official opening of the new home is planned. Everything is beautifully decorated with red, white and blue balloons. We are welcomed by the children who have all put on their best dresses! A pretty flower garland is placed around our neck and we are given a flower to hold in our hand. First of all, a little fire is lit on which a bowl of milk is brought to the boil. As soon as the milk boils over, the opening ceremony may commence. That is an old tradition in this area. Then the bishop hoists the Sri Lankan flag, and our chairman hoists the Dutch flag. The children all sing the national anthem of Sri Lanka. So wonderful!!

Then the Bishop cuts the ribbon attached to the door and our chairman unveils a plaque on the wall. On behalf of the board, the secretary then presents a beautiful book with pictures and information all about The Netherlands.

The girls show us the beautiful dances they have practised. In the dining room everyone is served rice with curries and delicious cake! Each board member plants a palm tree. And together, all three of us, plant a palm tree for our treasurer. We hope that these will grow well and bear much fruit so that there will always be plenty of coconuts to harvest and enjoy!



We all wish the sisters and children, much happiness in this new children's home.



**Festivities!**

## PAMUNUGAMA

On Saturday we visited our children's home in Pamunugama. And again we receive a very warm welcome! It is so nice to see the children and the sisters again. After having done a tour of the premises, we enjoy a delightful lunch with the children.



If you would like to find out more and/or see more photo's... simply go to our website: [www.stichtingnetherlandssrilanka.nl](http://www.stichtingnetherlandssrilanka.nl)



## KATUPOTHA

We are also pleased to be able to pay a visit to our orphanage in Katupotha. The children are delighted to see us. For each of us they have made beautiful flower garlands! After tea, the children give us a tour of the orphanage and the garden. Everything is quite neat and tidy! We also take a look at the

spot where they had drilled for water last year. That was necessary because, due to the drought, there was no water. Then the children sing and dance for us. We sing a few Dutch songs for them (such as 'Vader Jacob' in canon!). They thoroughly enjoy that! We are also able to make time for extensive talks with the sisters.



## KELANIYA:

Two of our board members are staying at the Kelaniya orphanage during our visit. It is good to participate and share in the daily activities, and to observe how well everything is with the girls. They are really glad that we are here. That is in itself absolutely heart-warming and very rewarding!



Amatha, and we sing the Dutch: 'Lang zal ze leven!' and 'Er is er één jarig'. It is truly a cheerful and happy birthday/farewell party!

It was really wonderful to see the children again, and quite useful and important to discuss several matters with sister Amatha and the other sisters. We all enjoyed our 'work visit' immensely.

## FAREWELL

On our final day in Sri Lanka, it is sister Amatha's birthday! Together with the children and the sisters we celebrate this in Kelaniya. Sister Amatha's brother, his family, and their mother, are also present. At the same time this is also our farewell party! The children have been rehearsing special dances. We are allowed to join in with the last dance. That is really a great deal of fun. After that we all sit down to eat. Everyone sings for sister



With kind regards,



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Our 4 Children's homes in Sri Lanka are situated in:

 Pamunugama

 Katupota

 Kelaniya

 Ja-Ela