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## Newsletter december 2010

The end of the year 2010 is nearly there. With gratitude we look back at the development of our project the Milhou Jayakody Children's Home. Our evaluation of the past year is positive. Of course, a lot happens in such a large "family", but we can tell you that both the children and the sisters are doing well. The children achieve good results at school, they are healthy, they get good nutrition and clothing, they make trips and have fun and even in the holidays they were able to stay elsewhere. We as a board are pleased and grateful. This is all only possible because of the donations we receive from you. On behalf of the children and the sisters we thank you very much for this. It allows us to offer our children and the sisters a solid base. From the sisters the treasurer periodically receives a financial report, which shows that all the money is completely used in benefit of the care of the children and everything that happens around the household. The costs vary from food, clothing to electricity and visits to the doctor. Fortunately the doctor does not have to come too often.

Also in this time of the year we give something extra to the children in the form of a Christmas present. This will be offered during the Christmas celebrations. The sisters buy these presents themselves, because they know what's best for the children. Currently there are 24 girls living in the house, so there were lots of presents under the Christmas tree. In the next newsletter we hope to be able to show some pictures of the Christmas celebration.

We are also happy with the contacts that have evolved between several schools in the Netherlands and our children's home in Pamunugama. For example, weekly collections for our project were held in the past year at the Ichthusschool in Wolphaartsdijk, the Noorderlicht and the Beatrixschool in Goes. This makes the children in the Netherlands aware of the luxury in which they live compared to that of a poor country like Sri Lanka. With modern means like skype we have made contact with the schools in Sri Lanka and the children's home. Unfortunately the exchange with skype was not always successful due to the time difference and the bad connection, but there have been regular contacts. It is nice to see how children react to each other. The girl on the photo on the left above is Ganga. She speaks English very well and she received an award for this in the past year in her class. That is something to be proud of. Because she speaks English so well, the contacts between the school and the children here often pass through her. Of course the children are assisted by the teacher in the class and the sisters in the children's home and sometimes, of course, things have to be translated. The children ask each other interesting questions and it is nice to hear how children want to know the same things about each other. For example, they are asked if they have pets, what they eat and whether they have friends, in short the things that are important in a child's life in Holland are the same as in Sri Lanka. Children are children around the world. Some things are different, however, for example the school uniform (see attached picture) something we are not familiar with in the Netherlands. On the other hand the Sri Lankan children cannot understand the cold and snow as we experience it in Holland sometimes. And also the time difference is something that needs to be explained properly.

Ganga is a somewhat older girl who takes care of the smaller children in the children's home and often helps with washing. When the children are in the shower it becomes one big water ballet. In Sri Lanka it is always hot, so wet clothing is no problem. Ganga helps the sisters with the lathering of the children and another girl Jacintha then helps with the drying. It all goes very fast, but what do you expect, 24 children showering at the same time; everyone would need some help. Jacintha is on the picture in the top right corner.

When our treasurer visited Sri Lanka in August, the sisters asked for an aviary. Just like in the Netherlands, birds are also fun for the children in our children's home, so we decided positively. So we can also do things like that with the money we receive from donations and for which we are very grateful to our donors. The assignment was given to a local contractor to build the aviary and this also results in a lot of goodwill among the local population.

We look back with satisfaction at the first full year of operation of the children's home and thank you all warmly for your financial support and we trust that you will continue to support us, and thereby also the children the sisters, in the work we do.

The board of the foundation "Stichting Netherlands Sri Lanka" wishes you and your family a

*Happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy 2011.*

With kind regards,

The board of the foundation "Stichting Netherlands Sri Lanka".

Ria Milhous-Willemse  
Dick Keizer

Theo Schouwenaar  
Elsbeth Sanderse-van den Berg