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## Newsletter March 2011

This newsletter is a report of our working visit from the 17<sup>th</sup> of February to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2011 at the children's home in Sri Lanka. We were glad to hear that the children are in good health and that they are "doing well" at school. It's nice to see how the children have grown and changed in a year and that despite the language difference we can still communicate with them a little. It gave us an indescribable warm feeling of welcome and that what we do is greatly appreciated. We would like to draw your attention to this because it is your donations that enables this.

Again we brought clothing, footwear, embroidery thread and special attentions along with us in our suitcases. From the children of the Princess Beatrixschool from Goes we had received drawings for the children in Sri Lanka and there were nice reactions when the children saw each other's drawings, among others, animals such as elephants, but also snowmen. Dick was even been able to delight the doctor in the village with a delivery suitcase. With a list of things they needed in the house, we went to a big store in the city, where they have literally everything for sale and Theo managed to get a discount from the boss for our social work. With money from our donors, we were able to buy two rice cookers, a kettle, a radio-cd player and other inventory. We were even able to buy a Singer pedal sewing machine from the money donated by a sponsor run. Jacintha, a girl from our home, who cannot go to school anymore, is going to use this sewing machine now.



On our website we have posted several photos of our trip, giving you the opportunity to see what we have done during our working visit.

We find the development of the children very important and that is why we have bought four computers with all accessories. With the purchased dongle we were now able to skype with the children of the Beatrixschool from Goes. The children are now at an age that they will now also start working with computers at school and that is why we think it is important that they can practice this in the home situation. E-mails have already been sent back and forth to Goes.

We also visited the school. That is about two kilometres away from the home, the small children go there with a van, the larger on foot. We were shown around by an English-speaking teacher. It was good to see "our" children at school in the middle of their boyfriends and girlfriends. At school we also visited the computer room which looked rather professional. The children can follow education in the village until the age of 17. Then the university or another training in the city.

We want things that are broken in the house to be repaired. So we made a list and discussed this with the management and left money for the repairs. Sometimes it concerns small matters, but we want the beautiful building to remain in a good condition.

In the town of Katupotha about 15 km from Kurunegala in the interior, the sisters were donated a piece of property on which a half-finished house stood. The sisters had made a budget and asked us if we wanted to participate in this project. They themselves had already saved an amount together, but that was not enough to complete the construction. The building is to accommodate 24 orphans.

Recently we received a few large donations. In our opinion, we now have the opportunity to spend this responsibly. We do, however, impose a number of conditions on this project, and these conditions made it a lot more expensive but also more sustainable. Our treasurer Theo made a calculation and the board considers it responsible to participate in this project.

This way we can provide shelter to 24 orphans on short term. The fact that the local population is very positive about this project was demonstrated by the fact that the local population cleaned the entire site during the weekend.

We started building again during our stay in Sri Lanka.

Because we currently cannot fully pay the monthly operating costs of this new project, we have asked the sisters to make an effort themselves. In this village, for example, the sisters have started a crèche from which they will receive income. Moreover, it is a large piece of land on which vegetables / fruit can be grown and they also want to keep chickens, so that the food costs can be kept low.

We therefore also call on our donors to help us to realize this second project for another 24 orphans.

We look back with satisfaction on this journey. Because we hardly incur costs in our foundation, we can spend 100% of the donations received from you on our projects.

And with this you can really do something specific for the poor orphans.

We thank you for your financial support, which allows us to take care of the children.

We have great confidence that our second project will also succeed. We will do our utmost to ensure this, but we will need your help.

With kind regards,

The board of the foundation "Stichting Netherlands Sri Lanka"

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