

Newsletter from the foundation "Stichting Netherlands Sri Lanka"

March 2012



The year 2012 started very well for the foundation "Stichting Netherlands Sri Lanka". The second children's home, the construction of which started in February 2011, was officially opened on the 20th of January 2012. This was, of course, for the board, a reason to travel to Sri Lanka to be present at this ceremony. The main focus of our visit was the children's home in Katupotha, but, of course, we did not forget the Milhous Children's Home in Pamunugama.

The day before the official opening we arrived in Katupotha and we were all visibly moved to see the beautiful, new building and the statue that was designed by Sister Amatha and that she had made together with her driver. A child who is open-minded in the world protected by the hand of an adult.



"Whoever who saves a child, saves the world"



With music, some played by "our own children", and speeches the opening was performed by our chairman, under great interest of the villagers.



The Katupotha Children's Home is in many ways like our other home in Pamunugama. It is also intended as a safe home for 24 children. Also here there are two dormitories, beds with mosquito nets, showers, toilets, a kitchen, a sitting area, a living room etc. And of course, tiles on the floors, closed ceilings and roof tiles on the roof.

The board of the foundation planted 4 coconut trees in the front garden of the children's home.



*Planting a tree is a sign of trust in the earth
An act of hope for the future
An act of charity towards future generations
who will enjoy its fruit when we are no longer there
Louis Mercier, 1714 - 1818.*

Banana plants, coconut trees and 2 mahogany trees were planted in the garden, thanks to the donation of a friendly gardening company.

And it is important to announce that the construction was carried out according to our wishes and realized within the price agreed in advance with the contractor. The contract price was 7.000.000 Sri Lankan Rupees, which is about € 50.000.

The sisters also have a plan to open a "nursery". Children of poor villagers can then bring their children there during the day's for a small fee when they have to go to work themselves. Partly because of this, these sisters also generate income so that the "self-supporting" aspect is growing. In the village Katupotha the children can go to school. They can also go to the village for first-line medical care.

Together with the sisters we have already done discount shopping for our charitable work, such as household goods, food and school clothing and shoes and other study materials for the children. Thanks to a donation from a befriended contractor from Kapelle (Holland) we were able to build a well and with the help of an engine and pipes the well water is now being pumped up to tanks on the roof of the orphanage. This saves quite some money on the costs of water consumption.



Back in Holland we received a message that a girl from our house in Pamunugama (Yasanthi) was hastily admitted to the university hospital in Colombo. She had a heart defect and possibly also a bleeding of an important blood vessel. What her chances of recovery are is not known at the moment. This is no doubt a great shock for Yasanthi, the sisters and the other children of our children's home. Nor did it leave us unmoved. Caring for 48 children in two children's homes now takes a lot of effort and costs a lot of money. The board cannot do this alone and we have faith in you who are prepared to continue supporting us in the form of gifts, a fixed donation, or a legacy.

You can already become a regular donor for € 5.00 per month!

Because the foundation "Stichting Netherlands Sri Lanka" is considered a Public Benefit Organization, your donations are fully deductible for the tax.



On the website: www.stichtingnetherlandssrilanka.nl you can read what we have done and what we still intend to do. You can also view photos of the children and the two houses.

Kind regards,

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 **Milhous Children Home**
in Pamunugama

 **Katupota Children Home**
in Katupota