

www.stichtingnetherlandsrilanka.nl
secretaris@stichtingnetherlandsrilanka.nl



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Simon Vestdijklaan 27
4481 DM Kloetinge The Netherlands
Telephone: 00 31 113 212290
Chamber of Commerce: 22058464
ANBI Tax-id no.: 8147.79.979

IBAN: NL83 RABO 0111 799 112
BIC: RABONL2U
Account holder name:
Stichting Netherlands Sri Lanka location Goes

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2019

Easter Monday atrocities

On Easter Monday we were all shocked to hear the terrible reports on the terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka. Our thoughts immediately went out to the children and sisters in our orphanages. We were, however, unable to reach them. We did have contact with Sister Amatha who happened to be in Italy due to health concerns. Luckily she was able to reassure us as to the welfare and safety of the children and sisters. Throughout the week she kept us fully informed. Unsurprisingly, the schools remained closed for 2 weeks, after which the older girls resumed their studies, whilst the younger ones remained at home for a further week. On a regular basis a teacher visited the orphanages to give lessons there to the children, so that nobody fell too far behind with their studies. It was a very tense and sad time for all. Happily things are now pretty well 'back to normal' but the fear and shock have not yet gone.



Latest news

Celebrations

The children and sisters celebrated Independence Day together.



In April they celebrated the Sinhala Tamil New Year and there was plenty of dancing and games to play. It is very nice to notice that they celebrate each other's feast days.



Thanks to the extra contributions...

Sewing machines

From the extra donations we have received, we have purchased sewing machines for the older girls in Ja Ela who have done a course in sewing. They have already received their first order: hemming towels. They are all very pleased and proud! Their ultimate aim is to make clothing for the local villagers, and later the uniforms for the girls in the other orphanages.

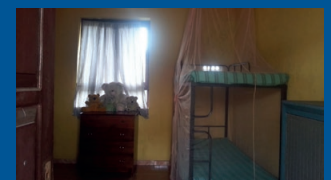


that we were able to help.



Mosquito nets

For the Kelaniya orphanage, Sister Amatha has arranged for mosquito nets to be made. This is important as there have been signs of the malaria mosquito. They have also bought a printer because they needed to copy so many documents for school. Up to now they had to go to a 'copy shop'... and that costs quite a lot of money. They are very pleased to be able to do it themselves now.



Our own water well!

We are pleased to report that we have had a water drilling done at the Ja Ela orphanage and that they now have their own water well which supplies fresh water every day! It was good

Lending a helping hand

All the children assist in a variety of little but important tasks... watering plants, sweeping, tidying things up... and unloading the groceries!



Markets

Every year at the Kelaniya orphanage they organise a market where the youngest children can sell the things they have made themselves, together with the fruit and vegetables from their own garden. It's always a great feast!



Annually they also have an 'Art and Handicrafts Exhibition' in Kelaniya, where the children also sell a range of articles they have made themselves.

Sister Amatha

Two of our committee members have recently visited Sister Amatha in Milan, Italy. It was good to be able to spend time to chat with her and some of the other sisters. Happily, her health is back to normal and she is now back in Sri Lanka. She found it very difficult to be in Italy after the atrocities in Sri Lanka. Needless to say, both children and sisters are very happy to see her back!



Trips

Now and then trips are arranged for and with the children. Recently they went by bus to Nuwara Eliya where they visited a beautiful park. They also took a trip to the beach at Negombo where they had lots of fun!



The development of the older girls



Another girl, Cristina is starting a course at the hotel school.



These two girls are now studying at the University of Colombo. It is truly wonderful to see how well they are developing and how well they are doing.



Holidays

After the older children's exams were completed in July, the summer holidays started on August 2nd.



Angela's birthday was celebrated! She was one of the first girls to enter the orphanage, having been severely traumatised by the tsunami. She underwent therapy (where dancing played an important role)... and now, she dances so well that she has been accepted as a member of the National Dance Group. Quite amazing!

For the latest news and updates, simply go to our website: www.stichtingnetherlandssrilanka.nl

Algemeen Nut
Beogende Instelling
ANBI

With kind regards,



Tanja Uitterhoeve - Geene
Secretary

Telephone: +31 113 212290
secretaris@stichtingnetherlandssrilanka.nl



Theo Schouwenaar
Treasurer / Vice Chairman

Telephone: +31 113 221725
penningmeester@stichtingnetherlandssrilanka.nl



Elsbeth Sanderse - van den Berg
Board member

Telephone: +31 113 214816
bestuurslid@stichtingnetherlandssrilanka.nl

Our four children's homes
in Sri Lanka are in

 Pamunugama

 Katupotha

 Kelaniya

 Ja Ela