



carelanka

*Annual report 2013*



Contact details Sri Lanka  
Ms. Manon Kuin  
no 36/39 Darlinton Watta  
Hapugala  
Galle  
carelanka.foundation@gmail.com  
Tel.nr. +94-(0)77-9224290

Contact details the Netherlands  
Ms. Kirsten Giethoorn  
Sneeuwwater 2  
3991 ME Houten

Kirsten@carelanka.nl  
Tel.nr. +31-(0)6-52544847  
KvK Carelanka: 50061925  
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## Introduction

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### Foreword

Carelanka has become a grown up child. As we started in 2005 as the Ayesha Foundation and Dutch-Lanka Friendship Foundation with just a little help for Boossa School (Galle district) and Sarana Children's Home (Ampara district), nowadays we have shared our knowledge, power and energy and are able to give total support to six projects in the South and East of Sri Lanka.

More and more Carelanka interferes in the Sri Lanka society, which gave us the chance to collaborate with local authorities and institutions who are all involved in the social-welfare branch.

As the foundation is a Dutch guest in Sri Lanka we have to adapt to the culture and economical exposure of the country. And as a guest, one day you have to say goodbye.

Our head office is situated in the Netherlands, with the two founders as voluntary managers. They will take care for the fundraising, public relations, bookkeeping, the policy and structure of the charity and the awareness program at schools and churches.

In Sri Lanka a Dutch country coordinator works part time to manage the daily activities on the sites. A team of Sri Lankan professionals gives her support.

The Sarana Daycare Center that we announced last year is now fully operational. Knowledge is being shared between the two Daycare Centers that are now operating under the guidance of Carelanka in cooperation with local partners.

Managers the Netherlands

mr. Gerard de Jong                      ms. Kirsten Giethoorn

Country coordinator Sri Lanka

ms. Manon Kuin



## Carelanka / the Netherlands



Carelanka is a Dutch based charity -registered under CoC 50061925 / ANBI 822526098- with a board and two managers. The managers are the founders and initiators of the foundation.

The board monitors and advises the managers.

Carelanka is a joint venture of two Dutch foundations: Ayesha and Dutch-Lanka Friendship Foundation (DLFF).

Ayesha, founded in 2005, in first started to support Boossa School and Sahabandu Boys Home.

DLFF, also founded in 2005, started with the support for Sarana Children's Home and Sarana Elders Home.

Carelanka starts new projects. In 2010 it started the support of Jayawardana Home for the Blind. In 2011 it started Metta Day Care Center. Sarana Day Care Center was started August 2012.

In the Netherlands, all projects are managed as one foundation: Carelanka. This idea was worked out after a lot of misunderstandings by Dutch sponsors and donors about the use of three foundations.

## Carelanka Foundation / Sri Lanka



The aim of Carelanka Foundation Sri Lanka is to support people who are often neglected. Grown ups and children with any kind of disability, who stay on a permanent or on a daily base on a project might be supported by the organization.

Carelanka Foundation Sri Lanka is a small foundation that works in conjunction with the YMBA in Galle. Since the end of 2011 Carelanka and YMBA contribute together the care for new started project: Metta DayCare Center.

The cooperation, however, exists already for a quit long time. It started with the collaboration to improve the living conditions at Sahabandu Boys Home, an YMBA project.

In 2010 both organizations supported Jayawardana Home for the Blind, with great success. The residents of the Home are completely self-supporting nowadays.



## Ayesha Foundation / Sri Lanka



The Ayesha Foundation was established in 2005 shortly after its founder, Gerard de Jong, went to Sri Lanka to help out at a children's home in Galle. Main goal of the foundation was to help institutionalized children and children in difficult family circumstances. Main projects were the support to the Boossa School and to the

Sahabandu Boys Home. As it is the priority of the foundation to work with local institutions, for the Boossa school the cooperation started with the Boossa Aid Development Foundation and for the Sahabandu Boys Home with the Young Men's Buddhist Association.

## Dutch-Lanka Friendship Foundation / Sri Lanka



Dutch-Lanka Friendship Foundation, hereafter referred to as DLFF, is a registered NGO. DLFF's aim is to develop the talents of children and adults with a disability and to offer a fine old age to the elderly. Since 2005 DLFF supports the boards of Sarana Children's Home, Uhana, Ampara District and Sarana Elder's Home, Ampara, to improve the living conditions of the residents of the Homes. Sarana DayCare Center, started August 2012, on Sarana Children's Home compound is a newborn project, under supervision of Sarana Children's Home board. DLFF gives support in two lines: in first to share knowledge, in second in a financial way. The Sri Lankan Project Manager, Mr. E.A.P. Ariyawansa, is responsible for the daily performance of the work on the projects in the Eastern Province. The Sri Lankan Field Manager, Mrs. Ranjani Rajapaksha, implements the activity program at Sarana Children's Home and Sarana Daycare Center. At Sarana Children's Home and Sarana Daycare Center DLFF has appointed a staff of nine members.

## The presence of a Dutch country coordinator



Our Dutch country coordinator, Miss Manon Kuin, manages the projects of Carelanka, Ayesha and DLFF. She is educated as a development expert in the field of disabilities. In the past years she learned to speak Singhalese and learned a lot about the Sri Lankan culture.

She works on a voluntary part time base, with a payment of allowance. Her job description is multifaceted:

It is her job to maintain the contacts with local institutions and government.

She visits the projects on a regular base and keeps a strict eye on the organization's policy.

She arranges courses given by local organizations.

She can determine the limitations of the people and children on our projects.

Without the knowledge of the country coordinator, we would never be able to book such beautiful results in our projects in Sri Lanka. Although, nowadays the projects are becoming more and more independent and daily supervision is in hands of our local project managers. The country coordinator monitors the project managers' work and she gives feed back. For that reason a full time foreign coordinator is, with in mind our exit strategy, not necessary anymore.



## Facts and Figures

### *Fund inflow*

The three foundations: Carelanka, DLFF and Ayesha raised in 2012 the amount of € 86.128,00 divided as follows:

- Carelanka: € 36.629,00
- DLFF: € 34.443,00
- Ayesha: € 15.056,00

This income was sufficient to pay for all expenses in the joint six projects. None of this income has been spent on office cost or travel expenses or fundraising. All donations were spent in the six various projects. Dutch businesses offer their service for free as a manner of socially involved entrepreneurship. The traveller himself pays travel costs.

### *Visits*

The two Dutch voluntary managers travelled in total five times to Sri Lanka and had numerous meetings with authorities and local organizations.

This year residents and pupils of our projects could welcome nearly ten of our sponsors on site. The sponsors reflected us that the information, which was given the past years, compared with the reality on site. All of them were touched by the happiness and fine environment at the homes.

### *Dutch Board*

In the Netherlands Carelanka is monitored by a board. Four times a year they meet each other.

Mr. Piet van der Meulen	Chairman
Mr. Gerard de Jong	Treasurer
Mrs. Kirsten Giethoorn	Secretary
Mr. Kees Zachariasse	Member
Mrs. Suzanne van Emden	Member

### *Professionals*

Carelanka is an organization of Dutch volunteers. The background of the volunteers is in the field of pedagogy, welfare or special needs. Carelanka's ambition is to find the knowledge in Sri Lanka itself. For that reason the Carelanka Dutch staff consists of three members only: the founders and the country coordinator. Local professionals run the projects. These professionals have a background related to the field.

Nonetheless sometimes Dutch volunteers co-op with the local professionals. The main aim for these volunteers is to develop themselves. Carelanka gives them a chance to share knowledge with each other.

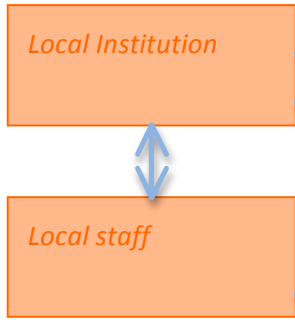
### *Cooperation between local institutions and Carelanka*

The local authorities have the final responsibility on the projects. Carelanka is only a guest. The local institution has give Carelanka a task to give temporarily support to increase the life circumstances of the beneficiaries.

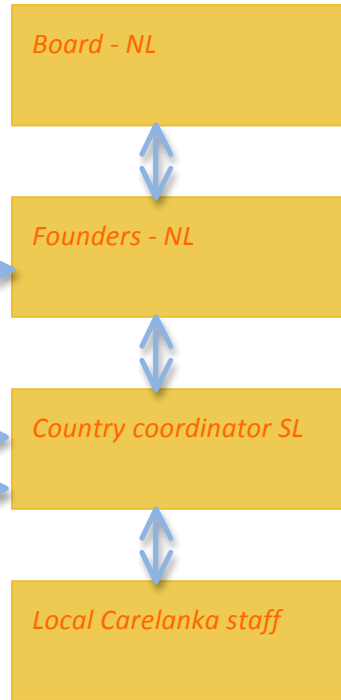
### *Communication lines*



Local Management



Carelanka management



## Mission

Carelanka's mission is to create a safe and devotedly community at the supported projects; a community in which elderly people, disabled women and pupils with a disability feel free to develop their talents and to be as they are.

## Vision

Our vision is to offer personalized service at the projects, by sharing knowledge with the local staff, with respect for local customs and habits.

## Exit strategy

Even before we start a project, we already have the exit strategy clearly in mind. A project starts at request of the local authorities. The local authorities stay responsible for the project, its daily policy and the beneficiaries. Carelanka only takes temporarily responsibility for just predefined tasks. We will give those tasks in return to the local responsible institution in the near future.

Stage 1: Carelanka gives its full support by giving financial support and by sharing knowledge.

Stage 2: The local institution and Carelanka determine a high degree of satisfaction about achieving the objects. We start with local funding in co-operation with the local authority.

Stage 3: The project is given to the local authorities and Carelanka keeps an eye on it from a distance.

## Method and Evaluation

All Carelanka projects have the aim to become independent from foreign support at some point in the future. The so-called exit strategy is defined in each project plan, which is constantly updated.

All projects are conducted in a manner that relates to the local culture and with respect for the local religion. To be able to do that Carelanka works closely with local organizations, which varies from project to project.

Progress in the projects is carefully monitored and matched with the objectives set out in the project plan. If necessary the project plan is adjusted. The objectives vary from project to project, but the heart of each project is to improve the quality of life for vulnerable people and help to open doors to a better future.

## Marketing, Fundraising and Awareness

To be able to run the Carelanka projects in a professional way the foundation puts a lot of effort in fundraising in the Netherlands. Locally we create more and more awareness for the "Carelanka" brand. Fundraising is done through a variety of local activities in





churches, schools and companies down to the level of individual families. Through the years a growing group of ambassadors is helping the board members with local initiatives.

Besides marketing and fundraising to help cover the cost of running the projects, our awareness program in the Netherlands is mutually important. We give lectures at schools, churches, service clubs or businesses about abilities of people with disabilities in Sri Lanka. We also provide the audience with common information about Sri Lanka. Our awareness program is an important issue of our voluntary work in the Netherlands, to create a community who is interested in, considerate towards and well educated about people living in another social-economical situation.

Communication lines are set by website, Facebook, Linked-in, digital newsletter, paper flyers and our annual paper up date.

Fundraising in Sri Lanka is even important! One day, the Dutch interference will stop and the local organizations have to manage the source of income themselves. Carelanka gives a helping hand to start the fundraising. For each project we create a network of benefactors. The local Country coordinator trains the management to maintain this network and to keep a proper administration.

## Review to the projects

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### Sarana Children's Home

#### *Brief introduction*

Sarana started in the early eighties as a children orphanage. Not only orphans were brought in, also children with any kind of disability. Over the years, the orphans were taken home by relatives or got married. The disabled children remained seated, and became adults.



In the beginning of 2005 DLFF started with the support of Sarana Children's Home. In first we offered the 30 residents, mainly women with a disability, an activity program.

The living conditions of the residents were very poor. Some women were locked up. No one had the opportunity to develop their talents. After a while of working with the residents we noticed that without adequate mental and physical care and reconstruction work of the buildings people could not develop their skills very well. We

extended our aims by giving medical support and starting the reconstruction project. After two years of support some residents were looking for a new challenge and we

started a social- primary school trainings program for them.

Meanwhile DLFF supported the board and staff of Sarana in a financial way. But mainly, may be more important, by sharing knowledge.

### *Board / Staff*

- Sarana Children's Home was, like 2012, the award winning Children's Home in Ampara District in 2013! Nilmini Madam -matron-, Miss Soma -kitchen mother and caretaker-, Radeesha teacher -activity program-, Mrs. Ranjani - assistant project manager-, Mr. Ariyawansa -project manager-, Miss Ayesha -cleaning lady-, and Sarana Board have achieved great results, with their commitment throughout the home.
- At the end of 2010, within five years after the start, the Dutch and Sri Lankan boards agreed to start with the exit strategy. An exit strategy means that the involved third party steps back and hand over the responsibility of the temporarily taken over tasks to the origin party. In 2011 we started with the independency of the staff. The Sri Lankan project manager visited the Home often, but not on a daily base. During his visits he monitored the situation and gave suggestions to improve the staff's skills when necessary. In 2012 the project manager continued the monitoring in that same way.

In 2011 we hand over the financial responsibility to the Board and staff. Although the charity still paid for the medical care, maintenance and reconstruction work of the buildings and social welfare of the residents. In 2012 we continued this way of independency and extended it by doing the bookkeeping by the matron, which was checked by the treasurer of the Sarana Board and DLFF project manager.

In 2013 we started the local fundraising. Sarana Board and DLFF project manager created a network of private people and institutions that are involved in Sarana and are willing to help in any kind of way.

In 2013 we solidified the basement of independency reached in 2012.

### *Financial Situation*

- The Dutch fundraising was adequate for the fixed costs. We could continue to achieve the set objectives.
- We finished the final stage of reconstruction work by tiling and painting the buildings. A playground was build in a garden which was constructed.
- The Sarana board managed, according to the exit strategy, the maintenance of the buildings and garden. We found out that, contrary to the Netherlands, the Sri Lankan way of fundraising is more in a material way, or by giving time and expertise, instead of giving money. So, Sarana found the labor and materials, DLFF completed in a financial way.



### *Activity Program*

- o The ladies of the Civil Security Force who taught the residents were replaced this year. We found an enthusiastic and capable new teacher; Ms. Radeesha. Ranjani trained her. Still the residents were divided in three levels: low, medium and high and still the program was adapted to the skills of the residents.
- o It is mentioned by people that the low level residents still develop themselves in a social context. Some of the residents start to speak, some of them respond to simple instructions.

### *Social- Vocational Program*

- o Ranjani teacher has given a lot of practical counseling sessions for the residents.
- o Mid 2013 the Sarana Shop opened its doors! This shop is located at the veranda of the Home and managed by one of the residents, Malika. People who are visiting the Home can buy some stationary, personal care items or creative items made by the residents. The revenues are used to fund the activity program. Malika earns an allowance, which is saved on her bank account.
- o Three girls, without a disability, continued their service as an employee at a supermarket, warehouse and hospital. In October the girl from the supermarket, Suddharma, quit her job and started a plant nursery at Sarana compound. The girl from the warehouse, Nirosha, got married in December. She moved with her mother, who also lived at Sarana, to her own house in Ampara.
- o We went several times on a trip with the residents. They went to Kumuna, National Park, to see the wildlife. For Vesak they visited Ampara town to see the Vesak decoration.

### *Reconstruction Work*

- o We could finish the final stage of the reconstruction work. In the beginning of the year we could paint and tile the buildings. Tiling is important to keep the hygiene on a high standard. We painted all walls inside and outside up to 1.20 m with washable paint. We renovated the bathhouse, by tiling the hall, breaking out one wall to extend one shower cabin. By breaking the wall we created a lot of space, so the caretaker can give a helping hand to residents. We constructed a new bathroom next to the dormitory of the low level residents. We created a playground in a re-landscaped garden and a special relaxation garden.



### *Health Program*

- o Six days a week Miss Ayesha, the caretaker, helps residents with their personal hygiene and by cleaning the buildings.
- o Several residents visited specialized doctors.
- o Every month Doctor Dammika visited the Home for regular consultations. He did his work on a voluntary base.
- o With great sadness we had to say goodbye to Mala and Indrani. After months of decay and the warmth help of Ampara Hospital, Dr Dammika, Sarana staff and residents, and her family, Mala passed away because of her old age. Shortly after the death of Mala, Indrani suddenly passed away. Indrani suffered COPD for so many years.

### *2014 Future Plans*

- o We will proceed with our exit strategy as planned. We are on schedule with the steps that have to be taken. This means that we will support the Sarana Board by fundraising in Sri Lanka, to get more financial independency.
- o We will give support by starting and carrying out the maintenance calendar of the buildings and compound.
- o The procedure, set up last year, of the management and communication with the project manager and the initiator in the Netherlands will be continued in the same line. The project manager sends twice a month his report and monthly administration and twice a month a Skype meeting is scheduled.



## Sarana Elders' Home

### *Brief introduction*

In 2008 DLFF started to support the board of Sarana Elders Home, situated in Ampara, to improve the condition of the buildings, to give the 25 residents a decent life. In consultation with the board, staff and residents we renovated the buildings: electricity, roof repair, sanitary facilities, water management, foundations of the buildings, kitchen, tiling, window- door repairs, painting, everything was done by a local contractor, who worked with local laborers and materials. During the reconstruction work we have kept in mind that hygiene, safety and accessibility is our prior concern. Another important fact is that the board has the ability to maintain the buildings after DLFF has



completed her tasks. For that reason we built to Sri Lankan measure and will give the board support to start up their own local fundraising.

Beside the construction work, we also offered the residents a social program. They went on trip to the beach, a temple or a festival. We introduced the Psycho-Social Intervention Program – a local group of people comes to visit the Elders Home to have a chat with the residents- and we introduced the Adoption Program – each resident has a local family who will look after him/her for a year. Nowadays 40 elders are living at Sarana Elders Home.

### *Management / Board*

- Just like the Children's Home, Sarana Elders Home was awarded as best Elders Home in Ampara District in 2013.
- In according to the exit strategy, the matron of the home has to do the bookkeeping of the medical care. DLFF is paying for medical expenses, the Sarana board has to justify her spending. The transfer of responsibility was successful.

### *Financial Situation*

- We were pleased by the ongoing support of Dutch sponsors for the fixed costs.
- The Sarana Board did their administration well. They could take care for several fixed costs, such as funerals and general food.
- Several local institutions supported the Elders Home in a material or labor way. This way of sponsoring is more than welcome. DLFF supports the initiatives taken by Sarana Board to win structurally local donations.

### *Health Program*



- The elderly people need more medical care than others. Most of the medical care in Sri Lanka is without any charge. And in case that there has to be paid, DLFF can give support. We supported multiple eye surgeries and Ayurvedic treatments and transport of the residents.

- Hygiene is very important for the health of the residents. For that reason the

program 'a clean site' was arisen. Staff and residents must be aware for the risks of food garbage. Bins were placed.



### *Social intervention program*

- o Social wellbeing of the residents is one of our objectives. If you feel socially comfortable, you will feel healthier. With this in mind the project manager launched two social programs in 2010, which were continued.
- o Several local institutions visited the Elders Home for a meeting with the residents, to talk with them about daily life or to sing with them.
- o Some residents developed themselves skills for gardening, cooking or embroidery. It is not only the activity, but also the contribution to the home, which makes them feel happy.
- o The elders went on trip. They visited the beach, a temple or celebrated Buddhist Festivals together.

### *Reconstruction work*

- o We have accomplished our reconstruction last year. From this point on we will give support by maintaining the work that has been done.

### *2014 Future Plans*

- o We will conduct the exit strategy, by giving more responsibility to the board and staff to do the local fundraising and bookkeeping.
- o The social programs will be continued, but the responsibility will be hand over by the project manager to the matron.
- o We will give financial support by the maintenance of the work that has been done.

## Sarana DayCare Center

### *Brief introduction*

Sarana DayCare Center is a newborn Carelanka project.



We noticed that the disabled women of Sarana Children's Home, once were brought in as a handicapped child. In general we can say, their parents were not able to take care of them. The handicapped child also brought the family in a precarious financial situation. Nowadays, while they are grown up disabled, they still live in the Home. In first we did research to find out what is the need of parents with disabled children and what is the aim of local government

institutions in case of disabled children.

We found out that there is a need for daycare for disabled children. Daycare is suitable for each party: the children can learn skills adapted to their possibilities. The parents can continue their daily life when the child is in daycare. And for both: there is no interruption of family life. Government institutions also benefit by daycare facilities. Families can increase their income and contribute to the local economy. Children are not placed in a children's home, which saves a lot of public funds. On site of Sarana Children's Home the Sri Lankan government has built a new building. In this building, DLFF could start the DayCare Center in August 2012.

As DLFF is a guest in Sri Lanka, one day we will leave. For that reason it is very important to get local authorities involved from the beginning. The Sarana Children's Home Board, is ultimately responsible for Sarana DayCare Center. A network of local institutions with knowledge about disabled children supports Sarana Daycare Center.

### *Management and Staff*

- o The DLFF assistant project manager will be responsible for the everyday practice at Sarana DayCare Center. Two teachers and two teachers assistants are teaching 20 children five days a week. The teachers assistants are residents of Sarana Children's Home . We give them the opportunity to develop their social and working skills in a safe environment. A cleaning lady is responsible to keep the building clean, to do the gardening and to give a helping hand when a pupil needs some extra help with the personal hygiene. A kitchen



mother takes care for the food and beverages. Each morning the pupils are collected by DLFF van, driven by our own driver. At the end of the day the children are brought home again.

Two Dutch volunteers, students of the study occupational therapist, assist the assistant project manager and the teachers by the development of an ADL (Activity Daily Living) profile for disabled children.

### Financial situation

Our opinion is that costs should be minimized, to ensure the continuation of the project after the departure of DLFF. Step by step the costs must be covered by local funds. Immediately at the kick-off, we started with a parents fund. This tuition fee is paid on a monthly base.

### Activity Program

The pupils, aged 5 till 11 years old, are suffering for any kind of disability. For that reason they cannot attend a regular or special need school. At Sarana Daycare the teachers are looking for the specific talent of each child, and will develop that talent. The children will coop with gardening, cooking, cleaning and at the vegetables market. These skills are very useful for their future at home. Some of the children have the ability to learn to write and read, those pupils will be educated in that way.

An important part of the program is the place of the children in the social environment. This year they participated in the community ceremonies at Dayatha Kirula and New Year with several dancing items. The children went on trip to Kumana National Park.

### Parents Awareness Program

On a frequent base parents are invited to attend a parents meeting. During that meeting the Sarana Daycare staff tells about the progress of the center in common. At every meeting specific topic about disability and possibility is illustrated by an expert. The parents are closely involved in the project. Often, after a parents meeting, they are doing 'Shrama Dhana', which means a donation in practical way by cleaning the compound for example.



### 2014 Future Plans

- o As we started in mid 2012 we will conduct the particular success factors we have already reached and are still learning from our faults. In 2012 success factors were the veggie market, 'playing the real world' such as pretend to cook and dancing. Several performances on stage are



planned.

Success factors of 2013 were the social participation projects of the children.

- o We will give our staff practical trainings about time management and differentiation in class situations.
- o As a second step in financial independency we will create a network of ‘ Friends of Sarana Daycare Center’.
- o As the results of each child are marked on a frequent base, we will create a certificate as a reward.
- o A Dutch volunteer, a trainer of a daycare center for disabled children in the Netherlands, will assist the staff by developing practical lessons to extend the ADL profile.

## Boossa School

### *Brief introduction*

The Boossa School is founded in 1906 and serves the village of Boossa and its surroundings. Boossa is a relatively poor fishermen's village with mostly low educated families. The school does not get much support from the government in spite of the fact that it is a government school. The project started in 2005 and since then the school grew from 60 to 150 students. The local partner organization of the the Ayesha Foundation is the Boossa Development Foundation. Initially the Ayesha foundation supported a large variety of activities of the school as a whole. Since the start of 2013 we have started to concentrate on the Special Education Unit with children with mental disabilities and with children with a hearing disorder.

### *Special education*

As announced in our annual report 2012 it was the plan to split this class in two: a class with children with mental disabilities and with children with a hearing disorder. However, there was a serious delay in the construction of a new classroom. Therefore the group of 24 children had to continue in one very crowded classroom.

- o Volunteers have trained the teachers in a variety of techniques that were new to them. As a result the teachers have not only improved their skills, but have also become more excited about helping the children to develop themselves more.
- o A speech therapist, Mrs. Anoma, comes once a week to work with the children in a group and individual. Not only the children are educated,



but also the regular teachers are being trained in the speech therapy techniques. Overall, speech therapy is a slow process but we have seen enough progress to continue these lessons.

- o The school library now contains books, suitable for children with mental disabilities. The children use the computer classroom in small groups under guidance of the computer teacher.
- o The children of the Special Education Unit are maintaining a small piece of land in the schools vegetable garden.

#### *Financial situation*

- o As in the past years the foundation has received sufficient funds to run the Boossa school project. Major investments are done as soon as the funds are received.

#### *2014*

- o The delayed split of the Special Education Unit into two classes will happen after the April 2014 holiday. A class for children with a mental disability and a class for children with a hearing disorder. The new classroom will have a small piece of land directly connected to have some agricultural education.
- o We help to finalize the schools sportsground.
- o Because of the lack of government funds the school has not been able to organize a cultural schooltrip for the last years. Ayesha will provide funding for a two day trip after the April 2014 school holiday.

## Sahabandu Boys Home

#### *Brief introduction*

The Sahabandu Boys Home is founded in 1995 and is run by the Young Men's Buddhist Association but falls under the authority of the department of probation and childcare. We are involved since 2006.

#### *Project description*

- o Over the years all buildings on the grounds have been renovated or renewed. At this point in time it is only a matter of maintenance and therefore the financial burden is a lot less the earlier years.
- o Our prime goal is to help the children to grow up as independent and self-confident adults. The matron of the home is like a mother to the children and is strict, sincere and honest to the children. The foundation helps the children in their education by arranging extra lesson for weaker subjects.



As children can only live in this home until they reach the age of 18, we help to prepare them for a life outside the home with vocational training. After they leave the home we follow them closely in cooperation with the YMBA to ensure that they can lead a good and safe life.

- o In the course of 2013 the number of children in the home has declined step by step. Main reason for this is the change in the government's policy towards children in various types of homes. Aim of the government is to place children, if possible back into their family's homes or, if circumstances make this impossible, in the home of (extended) family. It is understandable that the Ayesha foundation is supporting this new strategic choice of the government. In close cooperation with the YMBA and the Department of Childcare we have decided to make sure that the last five children were transferred to a home with a reliable organization behind it. At the end of the year the children were transferred to a home in Baddegama under guidance of the Sarvodaya foundation. We will continue to follow the children in this new home.
- o In close cooperation with the Social Service Department and the YMBA the home is in December changed to an Elder's home as such facility is not available in the surrounding of Wanduramba. Goal is to house a maximum of 20 elderly people. Early 2014 we will evaluate with the YMBA which help is needed from us.

## Metta Day Care Center

### *Brief introduction*

- o Metta DayCare Center is now open for over three years. A lot of progress has been made. Every day 17 children come to Metta. They are being picked up by our transport service and dropped off at home at the end of the day. We can conclude that the Metta Daycare Center fills a gap for mentally disabled children in the region. All children make tremendous progress and the economical situation of the parents is significantly improved. As Carelanka is a guest in Sri Lanka, one day we will leave. For that reason it is very important for us to have local authorities involved from the start of the project. The YMBA, based in Galle, is ultimately responsible for Metta DayCare Center. A network of local institutions



with knowledge about disabled children support Metta.

### *Management/staff*

- o The management is in the hands of Carelanka and YMBA, in the person of Mr. Sarath Dias, president of the YMBA. Staff consists of three teachers, who work on a daily base with the children. Three staff members give facility support. Two gardener maintain the grounds. Various fruits, spices and vegetables grow on the Metta land. This is used in the kitchen and also sold as a source of income to to help make this project financially independent in the future.

### *Activity program*

- o The requirements for children to come to Metta are: no school access possibility, mental and/or physical disorder, concerned parents and living in the neighborhood. We now serve a coherent group of 17 children aged between 4 and 17 years. We employ three teachers, with knowledge and experience as a Montessori schoolteacher and affinity with disabled children. We have trained and continue to train the teachers to become professionals. This year one teacher is replaced. The new teacher is very organized and a great addition to the staff.
- o Various volunteers spent time with the teachers and the children to improve the skills and develop the talents. Staff of METta and the Sarana Daycare Center in Ampara meet to exchange experience and to be trained by professionals. The children are being picked up daily and are brought back to several pick up points. On the basis of a prepared schedule the children develop different kind of skills: personal hygiene to become self sufficient, social behaviors to be prepared for a life outside their family and Montessori activities such as music class, crafts, games and sport. Some of the older children learn to work in the garden surrounding the buildings. This can be seen as vocational training.

### *Financial situation*

As in all Carelanka projects we depend for this project also on kind donations from churches, companies, schools and individuals. So far Carelanka has received sufficient funds to start up the Metta Daycare Center, but as this is a longer-term project the foundation is seeking sponsorship on a regular bases. Monthly or quarterly donations will help to manage the project in an even more adequate way. We hope that we can achieve this by proving



that this project is a really make a difference in the children's and their families life.

#### 2014

- o We will continue to add more children. Children will be divided into groups based on their capabilities and age.
- o These groups will grow up to 15 pupils. Two teachers will manage a group. One extra teacher will support all groups.
- o In 2011 Metta DayCare was dependent on its income by sponsoring of Carelanka. In 2012 we started with financial independency by starting dhana. Dhana is a common way of almsgiving in Sri Lanka. Families from nearby offer lunch meals or other goods. This has worked well so far, but not all days are covered yet. The calendar for Dhana is filling up step by step now.