

Report on 9th support trip to Sri Lanka from 9th to 29th October 2007

With € 40 000, 24 new sponsorships and 150 kg of goods Christine and Hans started on their 9th charity travels.

Wednesday, 10th October 2007

The first day of our trip we held meetings with our helpers on site to find out what work was completed and what was still to be done.

Furthermore we contributed € 1400 for an urgent heart surgery to a child that was already in hospital. Before we left the proud parents showed us the successfully operated child.



As hunger is a daily guest we established a new sponsorship for this family. A family of 6 where the father, the only bread winner, died in a fatal accident recently received a new sponsorship as well.

Friday 12th October 2007

Today we visited 15 families, out of which 4 have sponsor families. Two more were established for two very poor families

Thursday, 11th October 2007

In the morning we visited the mother/child clinic in Moragalla which has been established by us. We handed over some white bed linen as well as a blood sugar readers. We also handed over a sponsored bicycle for the midwife. As the roads were in bad condition due to the heavy rains we ordered gravel. The clinic seems to be very popular as approximately 30 pregnant women and mothers were waiting for their examination.

Afterwards we visited a patient who had been operated on the colon and has an artificial liver. We handed her some colostomy bags which have been sponsored by the Companies Dansac and Hollister as the general hospital only allows for one bag a month.

Later we visited four families with existing sponsorships where we handed over some money and made sure that everything was okay.

In the afternoon we visited a very poor family of three who live in a 6 sqm. shed.



For a large family with seven sons we provided some food aid as well as furniture as the father was very ill.

A widow with a son we helped into independence with a small food shop. For a spastic child we ordered a "Dekubitus-matress" (which prevents bed sores). For a family affected by the Tsunami we organized the maintenance of the roof and we repaired the motorbike of a self-employed courier. A man suffering from diabetes we handed over a blood sugar measure instrument. We paid € 675 for a "Gaumenspalten OP" for a 2-year old girl and a 8-year old was supported with € 500 for a heart surgery. Furthermore we decided to pay the cost for additional lessons for poor children in Bentota for the subjects computer and English (€ 300 p.a./subject), as the monks

agreed to have them use the class rooms in the monastery for free.

Saturday 13th October 2007

In the morning we visited 2 families with existing sponsorship and arranged a new one for a family of 5 where the father lost his job due to a knee operation. We provided crutches and a toilet chair.



In the afternoon we drove all the way to the south of Sri Lanka to visit some families in Weligama and to check on the building status of two houses.

Sunday 14th October 2007

Early in the morning we explained the blood sugar measure to one of the patients. Afterwards we visited a family with an existing sponsorship. Then we were able to help a father who used to earn his money with batik prior to the Tsunami but who lost everything, back into self-employment

For the afternoon we had organized a medical day. A few people with burns came to visit.



The consultation of 6 people with ear damages had to be postponed until the 21st as the ear doctor would only be available at that date. Two other families were helped with the support for the cost for heart surgery of their children. We also supported a surgery to the back. Two children, who needed a Cochlear-implant could not be helped as the cost would be approx. € 18 000 per person. We will try to find a clinic in Germany that might be able to help. A teenager, whose father became unemployed,

we helped with some money to pay for school fees for the coming year.

A 14-year old girl with a heart defect/arterial Septum damage we will only be able to help on our next trip as neither the confirmation of money from the president's fund nor the confirmation that the parents tried to raise some money on their own by selling tickets was forthcoming.

In the late afternoon we visited 7 families with existing "Patenschaften" and handed over the money. The "Europaletten" which were delivered in June were put to a good use as beds for children.



Monday 15th October 2007

Together with Lotti Loosli we visited a total of 15 families, 12 of them with existing sponsorship. For a family with 4 children, where the father died in a car accident in April 2007, we could arrange a new sponsor.



A father we helped to become self-employed by buying tools for his woodwork. For a very poor family, who has now moved into another Tsunami-house we bought some furniture and a wheelchair and a toilet chair for the grandmother.

Tuesday 16th October 2007

In the dental clinic in Bentota which has to be established by us we handed over some dental equipment collected in Germany.

We spoke with the director of the Gonedalle-Hospital in Induruwa. We talked for a long time as he had put together a wish list for equipment needed the most. We have ordered the urgently needed generator (image a hospital with a generator).

An old guy we gave a wheel chair and later on we visited 2 families with **existing** sponsor who live further away.

Today we visited 5 families whereby one new sponsor could be arranged. Three children with different health problems were seen to in hospital and the results will be available in October. Later on we visited 2 needy schools who need school equipment urgently. Lots of the children in these schools do not even have shoes and we will try and help here in October.

Wednesday 17th October 2007

During a festive ceremony in the presence of the mayor and some monks we handed over the papers to the Tsunami families in our housing estate "Coconut Garden" in Hettimulla.



The notary certificates have been made out to the youngest family member so that the sale of the property is not possible for the next 18 years. During the ceremony the original car papers were given to a Tuk-Tuk driver.

We have been introduced to a 6-year old girl, who is suffering from an arterial septum defect and has been in need of an urgent heart-surgery for the past 2 years. We have paid the missing € 1450 so that the child can be operated on at the beginning of November. For a 14-year old child who could not attend English classes due to lack of funds, we paid for one year of English lessons at a advanced school.

Afterwards we visited 6 families out of which 5 have existing sponsorship. For a window with 4 children we a arranged a new sponsorship.

Thursday 18th October 2007

In all the years we have never experienced such heavy monsoon rains as today. All roads of the main road were impassable so that we needed to drive back to our hotel to catch up on some paper work and the lack of sleep over the past few days.



Friday 19th October 2007

The visit of 14 families was on the agenda today, out of which 2 with existing sponsorship. For 7 families we arranged a sponsor.



To 2 people we gave medical aid and food aid to a family, were the father is temporarily out of work. For a talented but poor family we paid for the school fees. For two of the siblings we help with support of the study fees as the parents living in the center of the country cannot pay the entire study fees for the Colombo-University.

Saturday 20th October 2007

A school director has asked us to buy shoes for 34 poor pupils, who come to school barefoot. In the early morning we gave the shoes to the children.



Later we handed over some food aid to a poor family. Furthermore we visited 3 families with existing sponsorship. For 6 other families with different fates we established new sponsor family.

For another family we organized repairs to their derelict roof.



The worst we had to see on this day was a 73-year old woman who lived in a 4 sqm tin hut with a 27-year old disabled girl. On the completely wet clay floor the only piece of furniture was a derelict bed. Every dog's house in Germany would have been more comfortable. For food necessary for survival the 73-year old goes begging in the neighborhood. We would have the possibility to build a small house on an already existing foundation right next to the hut for which €2.000 would be needed. Support for this special case would be more than welcome.



Sunday 21st October 2007

This day was under the motto "Eye and ear day". The monks of a temple in Bentota allowed us to use one of their rooms for this occasion. 85 people big and small were seen by our eye and ear doctor from Colombo.



Some matching glasses could be handed over to the people whereas some need to be done in Germany. 24 of the hearing aids collected in Germany did fit and 4 digital hearing aids, especially for children, have been ordered.



Monday 22nd October 2007

In the morning we were invited to the opening of a 2 storey building of the Bentota Gamini Primary School. The cost for this building has been sponsored by the SEB Trust. The prime minister of the Southern Provinces, some other ministers, the mayor and other politicians held speeches in front of the teachers and approx. 800 pupils. A television crew and some more reporters were there to report on this event.



A In the afternoon we visited 5 families, out of which one has an existing sponsor. For a widow with three children we arranged a new sponsor. 3 pupils (one male/2 female) who did an excellent school exam we paid for the first year at university as the parents are not able to pay for the study costs.

For a 1 ½ year old girl we paid the missing €240 for a heart surgery. The primary school in Haburugalla received a new pump for the fresh water well as the old one was stolen overnight.

Tuesday 23 rd October 2007

Today the visit of 14 families was on the agenda, out of which 5 families have an existing sponsor. For three very poor families we arranged new sponsor family. Furthermore we gave food aid, help with medical costs and three support payments towards study costs.

Wednesday 24th October 2007

The morning was spent on administrative work and in the afternoon we met with the German organization "German Helping Hands Sri Lanka" for the exchange of experiences.

Thursday 25th October 2007

Early in the morning we left together with our Swiss colleague Lotti Losli to visit 15 families (7 with existing sponsor family) in the daylight hours.



For three families we arranged a new sponsor. In two cases we could help with a payment towards the medical costs. Two seamstresses we could help back into self-employment with the purchase of new sewing machine. Their old machines broke as a consequence of the Tsunami.

We bought a stand for selling fish for a father who is disabled after an accident and helped him into self employment.

For 22 pupils with very good marks we arranged English lessons 4-times a week as preparation for the exams..

Friday 26th October 2007

The heavy monsoon rains continued. In the pouring rain the kindergarten in Kanihintota was handed over. The ordered toilet and the playground have also been completed. The children were very happy about the cuddly toys, coloring pens, balloons and jelly babies which we brought with us.



Saturday 27th October 2007

In the morning we went to Panadura, where the opening of a 2-storey school building for 8 classes took place at the Pinwatta-School. The building was sponsored by the Korff-Trust.



The prime minister of the Western Provinces, the education minister and the mayor held lively speeches. The biggest thank-you came from the children and the teachers who thanked us with music and dance performances.



In the afternoon we ordered the building of 4 toilets in Kanihitota. We also supported some families with medical and food aid.

In the late afternoon we were guests of the Lion's Club Bentota-Induruwa, who had arranged a colorful afternoon for 550 children of poor families, some of them children living on the streets. We could contribute to the event with cuddly toys and ballons.



Sunday 28th October 2007

Finally we had some sunny weather and we had 13 appointments on the agenda. We visited 4 families with existing sponsor. For a very good pupil we paid some money towards the study costs for the coming semester. For a very ill patient we handed over some medical aid. For a 6-year old girl we paid some money towards a heart surgery. The dentist in the Bentota-Hospital received the missing dentist's chair. Four eye-operations sponsored by us were arranged via the Lion's Club in Bentota as this is the most cost effective way. An old man received a wheelchair.

For the school for the poor we gave 300 school uniforms for the new school year.



For 2 schools in Induruwa and Elpitiya we bought exercise books for 200 pupils for the new school year starting in January.



The largest sum for this day, namely € 1.650, was spent on the opening of a garage. The mechanic we helped into self employment with this garage promised to offer apprenticeships to some pupils named by us.

Monday 29th October 2007

Meeting with the local helpers

Our tenth trip starts on January 30th and will be for three weeks.

Munich, 10th November 2007