



# BENARES SCHOOLFUND FOUNDATION

## NEWSLETTER 2012

### PERFECT INDIAN CHAOS

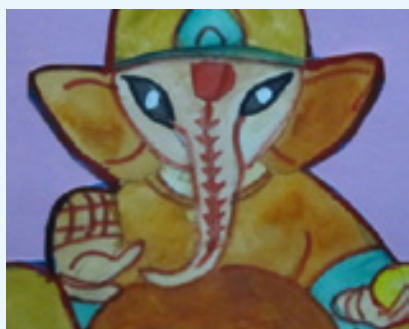
No less than four of our board members - all paying their own way - have visited our projects in Varanasi last November. All four of us feel at home in the perfect Indian chaos and besides, we like to see with our own eyes how the schools and the children are doing.

These visits give us the time to see and speak with everyone more than once and at leisure, to have late-night discussions, and exchange our views and opinions.

Our conclusion is unanimous: the schools and the children are doing very well - thanks to you, our sponsors, and your continued support. We cannot emphasise that enough.

Our three schools have made great progress. There are other schools that would benefit from a contribution by our foundation as well. Our finances are in good order and there is some room for expanding our activities. Last year we decided to support the Udayan School in Jaipur and this year the Asha Deep School in Varanasi will be a new project. In this newsletter we will tell you more about both schools.

Below, our Secretary Conny van Staalen relates her findings.



## THE INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR PROGRAMME

**Sadly, on the day of our arrival in Varanasi, one of the pupils in the programme, Jugal Sarkar, died. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a special section on this tragic event.**



*Jugal with his classmates*

Little Rajesh and his family left Varanasi, and Rukshar, one of our girl students, was given in marriage at the end of class 10. We would have preferred for Rukshar to attend classes 11 and 12 as well, as she loved to go to school.

There are now 47 pupils in the programme; 29 girls and 18 boys. 35 of them are in high school, the others in primary school. Of these 47 pupils, 15 are educated in English.

### Continued collaboration with Surendra Srivastava and Manish Bhatia

Some years ago, we entrusted the individual sponsor programme to the Ashray organisation, whose school we support. We also engaged the services of two of their employ-

ees, accountant Surendra Srivastava and computer teacher Manish Bhatia. Surendra left Ashray in May 2011, followed by Manish in December.

We have decided to remove the individual sponsor programme from Ashray and continue our collaboration with Surendra and Manish as independent agents.

We have opted for this solution because we were quite satisfied with Surendra and Manish and wished to continue working with them.

For the upcoming school year we have signed individual contracts with both of them, in which we have also incorporated additional checks now that they are no longer working within an organisation.



*Theo and Surendra discussing the finances*

We had a number of good meetings with Surendra and Manish. Fellow board member Theo and I have discussed the finances with Surendra and, in view of the new situation, we did so with extra attention to detail. We found everything in perfect order. All >



Abhijeet and his father



Kiran



Varsha and her mother

purchases of books, notebooks, etc. were meticulously accounted for with receipts. They also presented us with a statement of all the fees that the various schools received, together with receipts for all of the monthly payments.

### Redesigning the programme

We discussed our wish to make the programme accessible to very talented children only, in future; children we can expect, after primary school, to be able to continue

with English secondary education up till class 12. Secondary education in Hindi is provided by the Little Stars School, where the poorest children are given free books and school uniforms, paid for by the Benares Schoolfund Foundation.

It goes without saying that all current pupils in the individual sponsor programme will remain at their present school, also if this is a Hindi school. The new policy will only apply to new pupils.

We think that only a few children will be eligible for admission to English education each year.

This change in policy allows us to provide education that fits the children's individual capacities.

We have emphasised once again that it should be clear to all parents and pupils that our funding ends after class 12.

Starting with the new school year, the Little Stars School will facilitate the individual sponsor programme by providing accommodation for parents-pupils meetings, storage space for educational material to be distributed, and a weekly consultation session with Manish for parents and/or pupils.

Individual pupils can still go to evening classes at Ashray, just like at present, and the poorest of our individual pupils will still receive daal (lentils) through Ashray, for which we will make available €850 per year.

On 2 December the last parents-pupils meeting was held at Ashray. Turnout was very good: only 3 out of 47 pupils were absent. The meeting went very well. Problems were discussed with great care and solutions were offered. One boy will be dismissed from the programme because of his persistent bad behaviour and lack of effort; another boy will be monitored more closely. Some children suffer health problems and they were referred to the Ashray clinic. The majority of pupils enjoy going to school and are making good efforts.

Fellow board member Karin and me, together with Surendra and Manish, visited two schools and one family. It was examination time, which is twice a year, and both schools were crammed with zealously writing children. Visiting the family gave us a good idea of the standard of living of people who have just

## FRANCIS BAARTMANS

The individual sponsor programme signalled the beginning of the Benares Schoolfund Foundation. In 2003 we took over the programme from Mill Hill father - and our good friend - Francis Baartmans. This August, Francis will leave Varanasi for good. The people from Nagwa will miss him; he has been living among them for over thirty years, assisting them in word and deed.

Francis arranged education, medical care, and a magnificent communal vegetable gar-

den. He need not fear that his work will not be continued: his Dutch friends will continue to support his projects now and in the future. He has published a number of scientific articles describing Indian society and Hinduism.

Francis has been a source of inspiration to many people who are concerned about the fate of the less fortunate, and a guide and adviser to countless young people whom he helped in broadening their view of the world.







Babu

risen above shantytown existence. The father is a bookbinder - we used stacks of paper for chairs and table - and the whole family is assisting the father, as they cannot afford to hire outside help.



Karin on a 'paper chair'

Surendra and Manish agreed to do another check on the pupils' family income, which must be below poverty level, as this remains the primary criterion for selection. It may be that a few pupils will have to leave the programme on the basis of this audit because their parents now earn decent wages and can afford to pay for their children's education themselves. We would consider this a great success.



Surendra and Manish

In cases of severe hardship we give a bit of extra support to specific families. Payal's father died, leaving the family without a breadwinner. We will admit one additional child from the family to the programme and give the family food support for six months.



## LITTLE STARS SCHOOL (LSS)

When visiting LSS, be sure to arrive around noon. Director Asha Pandey, who has become a dear friend, enjoys seeing you often and treating you to a delicious lunch, during which many things are discussed. There is not much need for formal meetings.

The school has a very nice atmosphere and everyone seems to be quite happy.



At the moment, the school building is being repainted both inside and outside. After that, the floor housing the 25 hostel girls will be renovated. This means that the building will be good again for many years of service!

### Rotary Project

We had a meeting with Pierre Satijn, Asha and Mr Singh of the local Rotary Sunrise. In March 2009, our chairman Marien had given a benefit concert at Rotary Roosendaal Donkenland to raise funds for fitting out a computer classroom, a Chemistry and Physics classroom, and a library for LSS. The proceeds of this benefit were matched by Rotary International in November 2010 and the to-

tal amount of almost €25,000 was transferred to Rotary Sunrise, who is in charge of the project.

By the end of May, Pierre will return to the Netherlands for good and by this time this Rotary Project, as well as the first stage of the new building, should be finished. For five years Pierre has been a great support to director Asha, not only in the building project but also in the daily management. It is hard to imagine LSS without Pierre.

### Quality

At the moment the school has 739 pupils (2010: 630; 2009: 500; 2008: 400) and 40 teachers (earning a very meagre average salary of 2750 Rupees = €42 a month). Thanks to the contribution of our new major sponsor the school has been able to appoint more teachers, especially assistant teachers to help with the larger groups. The original goal to have smaller classes and higher salaries for teachers has not been realised so far and we discussed this issue at length. We have tried to convince Asha of the necessity not to accept any more new pupils, as the school cannot afford them. She does see the problem, but she also has a big heart and finds it very hard to refuse children who are so anxious to go to school.

For financial reasons, the number of pupils should not exceed 650.

Last year LSS showed a deficit of 3 lakh = ±€4800.

Asha has emphasised that even with more pupils the quality of education at the LSS >



*'Surveyor' Pierre Satijn in the new building*

## NEW BUILDING

The construction of the new school building is progressing steadily. In July, when the new school year starts, seven classrooms on the ground and first floor will be finished, along with a large basement. The new building will accommodate classes 5 through 10. The floor plan of the second floor is ready

and we hope that this floor can be finished within a year. The large roof offers possibilities for having extra classes as well as providing a playground. It will be a fine-looking, airy building. We can't give enough praise to volunteer Pierre Satijn, who has been realising this project tirelessly.

will not suffer and may even improve in some aspects:

- > The school is teaching more and more subjects, also for the youngest ones, in English. That is a big plus compared to otherschools.
- > The school now has monthly exams, instead of the usual half-yearly ones.
- > There is better attendance control (pupils who are absent for two days are fined Rs. 50, unless it is because of health problems) and this leads to better results.
- > Every year, the teachers attend refresher courses during the summer holidays in the form of five-day workshops. This however is not enough. Especially at the beginning of the school year they

now get extra coaching from Asha herself and others.

Asha gets expert help from a retired head of a renowned school and from three vigorous department heads.

### Sponsoring

Most parents can afford to pay for their children's textbooks and school uniforms themselves. For those who cannot (one in three), the children are provided with books from the school's own stock. This means that the school, at least in part, meets the legal requirement to provide at least 30% free education.

LSS has 46 very poor children from the Nag-

wa neighbourhood. Our foundation pays the full cost of their education.

### Meeting with parents and pupils

As we do every year, we have met with a great many of these 46 sponsored children and their parents. The meeting was presided over very efficiently and attentively by Anita, since a year one of LSS's department heads. She could be strict if necessary, but also warm and understanding. Five children were expelled - for being absent too often and not making enough of an effort - and four children were cautioned.

### Collaboration

After class 10, some pupils at LSS wish to continue their education. We agreed with Asha, Manish and Surendra (the latter two of the individual sponsor programme) to accept the poorest of those children in our individual programme for two years, so that they can complete classes 11 and 12.

There will be consultations between LSS and Manish and Surendra on a monthly basis.

We also urged LSS to do a new income check for the sponsored pupils' families. The criterion of 'not admitting more than half of the children from one family' must also be strictly adhered to.

We are glad that director Asha facilitates our individual sponsor programme now that Ashra is out of the picture in that respect. Starting this school year, LSS will also make a classroom available for Ashray's sewing class, which means that Ashray doesn't need to rent extra space anymore. The sewing class will also accept pupils from LSS.



## THE ASHRAY SCHOOL

The school is doing fine and has a closely-knit and enthusiastic staff of five teachers. Now that Manish Bhatia has resigned, the school no longer has a principal. A solution has been found by assigning each of the teachers the duties of headmaster by rotation for periods of three months. As an incentive, they will all receive a small monthly remuneration.

The new deputy director Shiva will supervise everything, keep an eye out for possible improvements (which can also be initiated by the teachers themselves), and he will make a training schedule for the mandatory refresher courses.



The afternoon classes, which were set up to better prepare classes 4 and 5 for a secondary education, are beginning to show results: most pupils go on to secondary education without any problems.

The tabla and dance classes that were set up last year are a huge success. We were able to admire the results of just one year of lessons during a performance arranged especially for us.

How proud the children - both girls and boys - were of their beautiful costumes! The girls were beautifully made up, wearing floral wreaths in their hair.



Having seen where these children live, it is hard to imagine a greater contrast with their own situation. I was very much moved by seeing the children dancing so gracefully and seeing them so happy and content.

The structural implementation of sports and games once a month in the adjacent park (for which we pay the admission fees) and also once a month on the University's sports fields, has turned out to be a good idea. Teacher Avinash himself also enjoys it! There are also chess classes and a few talents have already been spotted.



Together with the tabla teacher, Marien has purchased two new tablas, a harmonium, and cymbals and foot bells.

The sewing class for girls and young women from Nagwa was having exams just when we were visiting. The external examiner from a renowned institute was favourably impressed with the quality of the work. All pupils passed the exam.

Next school year, the sewing class will be

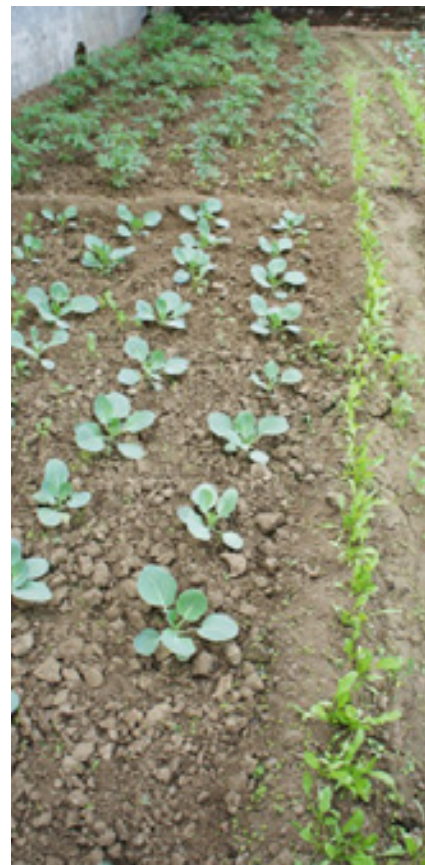


Manish Verma

## THE SCHOOLGARDEN

Next spring, the school garden will be opened on the grounds of the communal garden of Ashray. Under guidance of one of the teachers and chief gardener Manish Verma pupils from classes 4 and 5 will tend the garden once every fortnight and learn about gardening and agricultural techniques and theory. They will grow vegetables, look after ornamental trees (for the market), and perhaps cultivate seedlings, also for the market.

The garden has a new classroom for theory lessons and education about nature and the environment.



moving to the new building of Little Stars School. It will then be a combined class of Ashray and LSS.



There is still a lot of interest for the evening classes. Upon our urging the home work assistance for the younger pupils will be continued. We find this very important in view of the background of these children. Children from higher classes get extra tuition in Bio, Maths, Chemistry and Physics. There is also a computer class. The computer classroom has been renovated and soon a number of new computers will be bought with the proceeds of the benefit concert in Zeist in November 2010.

We have recommended to start with computer education in Ashray's primary school as well. Especially disadvantaged children

appear to benefit greatly from these lessons, showing significant improvements in their school results.

We joined staff and pupils of the primary school for a picnic in the countryside, in green surroundings and fresh air, with lots of sports and play activities and of course a lovely hot meal afterwards. It was quite a party!



At the end of our visit the Ashray children went with us to the airport on a bus. They gaped at the automatic sliding doors, something they had never seen before. There was a lot of walking in and out! Later, they saw two planes take off and waved at both of them, just to make sure.





## THE JEEVAN SCHOOL

### Library and computer class room

The children of Jeevan had hung up large welcome drawings on the school's roof. We had to close our eyes and were only allowed to open them once they had guided us inside. We found ourselves in the library, with an adjacent computer space containing seven laptops. Last year, this was still a ramshackle room. We couldn't believe our eyes! The rooms were nicely painted, just like the classrooms downstairs, and there were some colourful, open bookshelves displaying the beginnings of a small library. In the computer room a few children sat behind computers at low tables that were painted a cheerful yellow. The enthusiastic young computer teacher could have passed for one of the children himself.



All this was made possible by the great results of the benefit concerts for Rotary Zeist in November 2010, and of course by the unrelenting commitment of principal Kati Richter.

### Quality

The school is hugely successful, providing excellent, almost un-Indian education to 110 pupils. The highest class at the moment is class 7, with only two pupils. They don't have

their own teacher, so they are being taught by Kati and manager Sheelu. For this newsletter, these pupils have written their own report.

The school has eight teachers. Their salaries have been raised to Rs 6000 (€92) per month, which is quite acceptable but does mean a substantial increase of the total cost of wages. Kati and Sheelu hope this will lead to an improvement in the quality of the education. As a comparison: Jeevan has the same budget as LSS (€28,000), but at Jeevan this includes the rent of the building and school meals, and the salaries are higher. LSS has



*Kati and Sheelu teaching*

seven times as many pupils but has its own building, doesn't provide school meals, and pays lower salaries.

Kati is working hard to provide extra training for the teachers, hoping that one day one of them will be able to take over her position. There is a lot of potential in the staff.

We had a meeting with Sheelu and Kati to discuss finances and we found that the financial situation of the school has improved considerably. Last year we still had to provide additional funds, but now the school has engaged quite a few new sponsors, some of them for the longer term, and with larger contributions.

We also saw Jessie Morwood again, one of the founding members of the overall organisation Basic Human Needs. She is such a warm, open, and enthusiastic woman. She is currently living in Hyderabad and misses 'her' children very much.

A new floor is being constructed on top of the existing hostel. As this is a rented building, an agreement has been made with the landlord to deduct the building costs from the rent, which is a great offer.

All of us spent an evening at the hostel. Our good friend Toos cut cauliflower while the children and me watched a Tom and Jerry DVD that I had bought in Delhi, and Theo sliced tomatoes. Later, the children played

all sorts of exciting games in the large inner courtyard, together with Sheelu and Marien, with Toos, Theo and myself watching, holding babies in our laps.



Marien playing the electric cello. And the kids may try themselves.

A week later, in the same courtyard, Marien gave a modest recital on electric cello. Even though the sound amplification was far from ideal, it was a great success. The children had never heard anything like it before. Afterwards, some of them gave it a try and found it a lot more difficult than they had expected! Their teachers didn't do much better though, apart from Kati, but then she had once learnt to play the violin.

Two days before we left, we had the NGO meeting organised by Kati and Sheelu. Many NGOs had accepted the invitation. I led the discussion group on quality improvement in education and found that there was a lot of interest in this. We had a very well-informed debate.

One of the results of the meeting was that all agreed to meet four times a year, which is quite unique in the world of NGOs.

As they do every year, Jeevan gave a 'mass feeding': a meal was cooked for 400 children, their parents, and other residents, all very poor people who were only too happy with a free meal. A wonderful initiative!

Before our trip I had asked the schools for their medium and long-term visions. LSS already had these ready, Kati provided them during our stay, and Ashray some time later. Kati's document is well composed, clear and orderly, providing us with something to refer to in judging results and measuring progress.



Umar and Maya conducting an experiment

## AN INTERVIEW

**The Jeevan School was originally set up as part of a centre for street children. Its main task was looking after children that were neglected by their semi-nomadic parents. However, over the years the school has greatly evolved. At first, the older children would be sent to other schools. They had many bad experiences with that, so Jeevan decided to provide education for all the children in its care. The highest class, class 7 - roughly equivalent to the first two years of Dutch high school - has two pupils, Umar and Maya. They don't have a separate teacher; their classes are being given by Kati and Sheelu.**

**How does it work to be only two in a class?**

Maya: Before I was in a bigger class, but now in class 7 there are only two children. I feel a bit lonely.

Umar: Last year I felt very lonely, because it was only me in class 6. Therefore, now I'm happy that we are two.

**Which subjects do you like the most and why?**

Umar: I like Math and English most, because I want to be a pilot and for this I need to know both subjects very well.

Maya: I like Science and Math, because I have never studied like this before - we experiment a lot, which is very fascinating. I also really like Math but at the same time it is really hard for me.

**How is your school day structured?**

Umar: In the morning we have structured lessons, after which we work independently. After a long break in the afternoon we have another class in the evening.

**How do you like Jeevan compared to other schools?**

Maya: At our school the teachers teach nicely and take care of us and they never beat us. In our school teachers also study - they get trained on Saturdays. This does not happen in other schools, where teachers usually beat children and also they do not look after the children very well.

Umar: Their English is not good and during class time they use Hindi or Bhojpuri. We were in a private school before, and got beaten. Now that we are back, we don't want to leave our school anymore.

**How does it feel to live at the hostel?**

Maya: It feels so nice and comfortable to live at the hostel, because we have lots of fun. We always work together.

For example, we wash our clothes and do the dishes ourselves. We sweep the floors and clean the bathrooms, too.

Umar: Apart from work and study, we do lots of fun things as well, like going for outings, dancing, and playing games and sports.





## JUGAL

On 16 November, 12 years old Jugal Sarkar, one of the pupils in our individual sponsor programme, died of acute meningitis.



*The day after the cremation, two young Dutch volunteers - Maaïke and Nienke - organised a commemoration at Jugal's former school Ashray.*

*The children wrote valedictory letters that were bound with a red ribbon and were set adrift on the River Ganges, together with a small oil lamp.*

Jugal Sarkar played with his friends, asked the teacher to explain further. Then he got bad headaches and fever. The second hospital admitted him. There, he died the next day.

An unpaved yard. Two buffaloes, two cows, and a calf. A dead tree. Four walls, the sunny side covered in a random pattern of cow dung. In the shadow, three small rooms, the living quarters of twenty people, all quietly gathered. And neighbours, relatives, friends, and, towering above them all, a number of volunteers.

Jugal is laid out on a rug in the dirt, joss sticks beside his head. A good-looking boy, regular features, thick black hair. Helping hands chase away the flies. The father is heartbroken, the mother succumbs - popular dramatics, but this is real. Francis goes round among the Westerners, collecting money for the cremation.

Later he joined the men at the burning ghat. The father circled the funeral pyre three times and then lit the fire. As the flames blazed up hiding the body from sight, he sat down next to Francis put his head on his shoulder and wept bitterly.

That night Francis tells us all about it. He estimates from the current price that the wood for his own cremation will cost 700 rupees.





## THE UDAYAN SCHOOL IN JAIPUR

Before going to Varanasi I spent five days in Jaipur as a member of an international women's advisory board of the Vatsalya NGO. The children's village of Udayan for street children is one of this NGO's projects and I had been involved in setting it up almost ten years ago. Since last July, Udayan has its own school and our foundation is supporting the school for three years with an annual contribution of €3000.

The school is a charming, U-shaped building with spacious, light, and airy classrooms. The classes are still small, with no more than ten children per class. Next school year, Vatsalya hopes to welcome more children from outside the village.

The international women's group has looked at the new school with special attention. We

feel that the teachers could do with some additional training and that their English should improve as well. Speaking good English is after all a must for an organisation that has many international relations and works with volunteers from all over the world. We would also like to see computer education being introduced.

Contact has been established with the nearby Amriti University, who have offered volunteers and free courses for the teachers. We expect to see much improvement in quality from this collaboration.

Recently, a start has been made with audio-visual education, educational programmes on the Internet, and lessons given by teachers from other parts of India and even abroad via Skype. It is all quite revolutionary and modern.

Vatsalya, with its inspiring founders - and dear friends - Hitesh and Jaimala Gupta, is quite adept at developing and implementing new initiatives, which always turn out to be viable.

The 60 children in Udayan appear to be quite happy and joyful. They have lots of space for sports and games, and live in small housing units with a 'house mother'. Meals are adequate and much attention is given to culture, dance, music, yoga, and meditation.



I was present at a big dance and sport programme for all the residents and nearby schools. The day began with a medical examination of all children by an eye doctor, a paediatrician, and two general practitioners. A file was created for each child and any child needing medication received it instantly. A very good initiative! Afterwards a meal was served for everyone.

It's worthwhile to have a look at Vatsalya's website.

There you can see the wonderful work this organisation is doing in Jaipur.

> [www.vatsalya.org](http://www.vatsalya.org)



## ASHA DEEP SCHOOL

The Benares Schoolfund Foundation has accepted a new project: the Asha Deep School in Varanasi.

One of our relations, who has recently retired as director of a large company, made a substantial donation that enables us to help out Asha Deep for a period of three years.

This school, catering to many children from

our own neighbourhood Nagwa, will certainly put the money to good use: its staff has quite deliberately chosen to have a good - and therefore expensive - school building, keep the classes small - requiring more teachers - and to provide hot school meals at noon.

> [www.asha-deep.com](http://www.asha-deep.com)

### QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

This school year, our new major sponsor began his support, which will run for another nine years. Through his contribution he hopes to facilitate quality improvement. We meet with him twice a year: once before we visit India and again upon our return. He wants to know how we are going to monitor quality improvement and discusses the results with us when we come back.

This sponsor is both involved and business-like, and at the same time has realistic expectations as to how attainable the projected goals are.

We are very happy with this new sponsor, who will certainly keep us on our toes.

## GOES GOES WELL

The Goes Lyceum, thanks to its enthusiastic teacher Peter Rhebergen, is very active on behalf of our foundation. As a young man, Peter spent some time in Varanasi where he met the inspiring Francis Baartmans and when his school was looking for an educational project it could support structurally, Peter immediately thought of him. Through Francis, he contacted our foundation, since we had taken over the educational part of Francis' work nine years ago.



In April, Peter's school organised the event '24 hours of The Goes' (see our website under 'News') and in the week after Christmas they baked and sold the typical Dutch treat *oliebollen*, or 'doughnut balls'. Both activities raised a lot of money and allowed - and still allow - us to do many extra things.



The Jeevan School, for instance, was able to buy extra textbooks and warm sweaters, as well as healthy but expensive food for malnourished children. Next July, Peter will visit Varanasi, as he wishes to establish contact between his school and one of ours. He has also pledged more support in future.

*Thank you, Peter, and thank you, all pupils of The Goes Lyceum.*



## NAGWA IN FIGURES

**The poverty line, as defined by the World Bank, is 40 rupees [€0.63] per person per day. The Indian government says it is 10 rupees.**

- > The 190 families in the 'basti', the poorest part of the Nagwa area, have an average monthly income of 3700 rupees (€58). On average, each family consists of 5.39 people, which means €0.23 per person per day.
- > 43 families have an above average income
- > 125 earn less, out of which 57 families earn 3000 rupees, 26 earn 2500 rupees, 25 earn 2000 rupees, and 15 families even less than that.
- > Through the Ashray Centre 52 of the poorest families receive food support. From 16 of those families we have accepted one or more children in our individual sponsor programme.
- > Nagwa used to be the area where the rickshaw cyclists lived. Now only 16 men still earn their living in this way. Most men work as either construction workers (66) or as technicians (19), while most women work as servants (32). A lucky few (17) have obtained well-paid government positions (for life!).
- > One sixth of the children in the Nagwa-basti do not attend school.

Of these there are 5 between the ages of 5 and 11, and 48 between 11 and 17.

*[These are some preliminary results of the research conducted by Francis Baartmans in Nagwa, together with Ashray social workers.]*



## INDIA IN FIGURES

Economic growth in India is roughly 8% per year. A minority of the population has profited from this and is leading a relatively good life.

Not so the vast majority. Here are some figures:

- > Life expectancy in India is 64.4 years.
- > Child mortality is 63 per 1000 children below the age of 5; perinatal mortality is 230 women in every 100,000 births.
- > Average number of years of schooling is 4.4.
- > Adult literacy is 74%.
- > 43.5% of children is undernourished.
- > Only 66% of all children has been vaccinated against DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, and polio).



# FINANCIAL REPORT 2011 (all figures in euros)

# BUDGET 2012

## IN

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Contributions school sponsors and regular contributors | 20,285 |
| Contribution major sponsor                             | 12,500 |
| Contributions for Ashray school                        | 10,000 |
| Contribution Rotary Zeist                              | 11,650 |
| Other donations  | 18,310 |
| Out of earmarked funds                                 | 3,215  |
| Interest   | 1,535  |

**Total in** **77.495**

## OUT

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Little Stars School             | 18,000 |
| Extra donation for new building | 3,500  |

### Individual Sponsor Programme

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. school costs                        | 7,130 |
| b. administration and coaching         | 1,200 |
| c. secondary education 3 former pupils | 1,050 |

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Education at Ashray                     | 10,000 |
| Picnic and purchase musical instruments | 465    |
| Daal programme for the poorest families | 850    |

NB There was a surplus of € 5,250 from previous years, out of which we paid:

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| School meals                           | 3,000 |
| Rent for extra space                   | 750   |
| Contribution to salary deputy director | 1,500 |

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Jeevan School                                     | 11.400 |
| Extra donation by Rotary Zeist (to buy computers) | 2,500  |

|               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| Udayan School | 3.000 |
|---------------|-------|

### Other donations

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Divya Jyoti                        | 500   |
| Asha Deep School                   | 1,600 |
| Country school Bhaskar Singh Yadav | 120   |

### Other

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| To earmarked funds (part of the money from Rotary Zeist)               | 9,150 |
| Foundation expenditure<br>(newsletter, printing, stamps, notary, bank) | 1,430 |

**Total out** **71.895**

## IN

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Contributions school sponsors / regular contributors | 18,570 |
| Contributions two major sponsors                     | 22,500 |
| Other donations                                      | 12,535 |
| Out of earmarked funds                               | 9,500  |
| Interest   | 1,580  |

**Total in** **64.685**

## OUT

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Little Stars School                                      | 18,000 |
| Extra donation by Rotary Zeist (to buy school furniture) | 2,500  |

### Individual Sponsor Programme

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. school costs                        | 7,130 |
| b. administration and coaching         | 1,200 |
| c. medical care                        | 300   |
| d. secondary education 3 former pupils | 1,050 |

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Education at Ashray   | 10,000 |
| School meals  | 2,000  |
| Extra donation Rotary Zeist<br>(for computers, toys, library additions) | 2,105  |

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Contribution to salary deputy director                                      | 1,500 |
| Daal programme<br>(for the 16 poorest of our individually sponsored pupils) | 850   |

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Jeevan School | 10.050 |
|---------------|--------|

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| Udayan School (Jaipur) | 3.000 |
|------------------------|-------|

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Asha Deep School | 3.000 |
|------------------|-------|

### Other

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Extra donations Varanasi | 1.000 |
| Foundation expenditure   | 1.000 |

**Total out** **64.685**



The SBS Foundation has built up a reserve fund of €27,500 to guarantee the continuation of the children's education at all times, even if major sponsors would withdraw their support. The money is in a fixed deposit account. In light of our growing expenditure we are aiming to enlarge this reserve fund to the sum of €35,000 as soon as possible.

Organisations in development work are advised to maintain a reserve fund of one and a half times their annual turnover.

The foundation also currently has earmarked reserves of € 27,500. Out of these earmarked reserves we give additional support of € 2500 per year to the Jeevan School and Hostel project until the end of the 2013/2014 school year. Also, we have added the money from Rotary Zeist to the reserves, money that will be spent for the most part in the upcoming school year. All in all, in 2012 €9500 will be taken out of the earmarked reserves.



## A STRONG WOMAN: TOOS HOOGHWINKEL

Primary school Triangel in Gouda supports our foundation through its Lent fundraiser. Teacher Ingrid is Toos Hooghwinkel's niece and this family link gives us the opportunity to sing the latter's praises.

Toos has had a full and adventurous professional life in education, which has taken her to New Guinea and Uttar Pradesh. She has been a friend of Francis Baartmans since she was a young girl and is one of our most

loyal contributors. Far more important, however, is that between 1997 and 2005 she has taught English for four months, every year, at the Shanti Ashram. This is a centre for education, sports and games founded by Francis at an idyllic site on the River Ganges, 12 kilometres out of town. And Toos, who is now 84, is one of the indestructibles.

In the past five years she went with us to Varanasi to continue teaching at the Ashray School. In the mornings she teaches classes 4 and 5 and in the afternoons she gives refresher courses for the teachers.

Everyone in Nagwa knows Toos and she is the subject of almost boundless adoration. At the opening of a sewing centre that she financed she was referred to as 'our Goddess, miss Toss'!

Her warm, unassuming personality, high spirits and emotional wisdom make Toos the ideal sound-board and we intend to whisk her away to India many more times in the future.

OUR SINCERE THANKS GO TO ALL OUR SPONSORS AND DONORS WHO HELPED CONTRIBUTE THIS PAST YEAR.  
**THEIR FUTURE DEPENDS ON YOUR HELP**

## HOW CAN YOU HELP OUR FOUNDATION?

### As a school sponsor

For €23/month (or €275/year) you can provide education, books, a uniform, homework aid and tutoring for one child.

And, if needed, medical care and food support for the family.

With that amount you also contribute to the schools' educational materials, salaries and yearly teacher training.

### As a (permanent) donor

All donations, whether one-off or a fixed amount per year, will benefit the children and their education.

### Your donations are tax-deductible

Benares Schoolfund Foundation has been classified by the Inland Revenue as an Institution Aiming for General Welfare (Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling).

In case of donation by notarial deed, the costs are at the foundation's expense.

Through the courtesy of Notariaat Leijser of Rotterdam, these costs are reduced to the minimum. The secretariat can provide the necessary papers (license for donation).



Clockwise: Theo, Karin, Alet, Jantine, Jacques, Marien, Conny, Joep

### Board

Marien van Staalen, *president*  
Conny van Staalen-van Leeuwen, *secretary/treasurer*  
Jacques Baartmans  
Joep Baartmans-van den Boogaart  
Jantine Unger  
Alet Meurs  
Theo van Pinxteren  
Karin van Duijnhoven

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