

Newsletter

Let all things be done in love

volume 12 | 2nd edition | 2011

**BAHAY
AURORA**

From Herke en Arleen (Founders of Bahay Aurora)



Dear friends,
Our children are doing just fine. Three meals a day, going to school every day and sleeping in a great bed, handmade by the Flying Carpenters, under sheets with new pillows from Elly. What more could one want? The Dutch embassy in

Manilla has replaced its computers and we have received the old ones. The kids are now learning how to work with computers. There is always something going on at Bahay Aurora, sometimes so much, that the kids don't even feel like going to school, because they like it better to stay at home... although going to school is a luxury here and nobody minds going to school.

We have been working hard again lately to make progress with Bahay Aurora. That progress is becoming less and less visible, because one can't always recognize the quality of the care on the outside. A nicely painted building doesn't mean a qualitatively good child care. That quality has been measured by the DSWD (Department of Social

Welfare and development).

They have been here for three days and they have analyzed all processes. We have passed these intensive external audits very well and we have been credited for three years. We are very proud of that. The demands that are made are comparable with the demands for Dutch institutions.

Last year we have had many visitors from The Netherlands who have been very active in the Philippines. In January there was the kids' marathon with 14 visitors from the KLM, Netherlands. We have also welcomed some youth: first Elodie and Lynn, after that Florine and Kristina, apprentices from the Utrecht College. Eight teenagers from the Youth Academy and 7 gentlemen from the Flying Carpenters. They have all supported and helped Bahay Aurora and done fun things with the kids. We greatly thank our dear friends for this.

In the past few months a few more people have become donors and we highly appreciate this. However, we need another 100 donors to be able to break even. We will try to find these donors over the coming period of time. At the moment we are in The Netherlands and are willing to travel to all parts of the country, even for small groups, to give a power point presentation and tell our personal stories. Get in touch, herke@bahayaurora.org, we'd love to come by.

Youth Academy



"Youth Academy" is a cooperation between several hockey clubs in the Haaglanden region. Apart from hockey the governing bodies of these clubs want to teach their young players a little bit more than just sports.

They have come up with the idea that participating in a charity project somewhere on the globe would benefit the development of these young players.

A way of thinking very much supported by Bahay Aurora. To provide for the money for this plan there have been several fundraising campaigns

in The Netherlands, varying from collecting money at a birthday party to selling stuff on Queensday. In June and July of 2011 Nicky, Joost, Emily, Nienke, Robin, Eva, Anouk and Jelmer visited Bahay Aurora for 3 weeks. They learned all about Bahay Aurora, they have helped out, organized a lot of activities for our kids and we've made a few small day trips in the area like a tour through Smokey Mountain (a huge rubbish dump where families live and work in recycling), a visit to a police station, a local prison, a visit to the family of a few kids that are living with us. The mother of these children is a psychiatric patient and is tied to her bed to prevent her from walking into the street. So they were all visits that, put together, form an image of the Philippine society. Combined with my explanations about how life works here I think we have easily reached the goal of the "Youth Academy"; "an extra impulse for the general knowledge". The two groups had gathered a lot of money before their visit. We will use the proceeds of € 2,500.- for a year's salary of one of our employees. Nienke, on of the 8 participants called it: "the best three weeks of my life".

It was a very valuable experience for all of us.



Original Christmas cards



Are you looking for something different? Than you might consider sending self-made Christmas cards from Bahay Aurora.

The children have made these nice cheerful cards together with the staff.



The cards are available in sets of 5 cards and cost € 5 per set. By ordering these Holiday cards you directly and for 100% support the street children and orphans that are living in Bahay Aurora. By sending the Bahay Aurora Christmas cards you also raise attention for our children's home.

On our website you can read all about ordering the Christmas and other greeting cards (available in the Netherlands only).

Flying Carpenters

The charity foundation 'The Flying Carpenters', grounded in 2004 after the tsunami in the Indian Ocean, has the goal to offer specific help to projects in developing countries. This happens through the voluntary commitment of carpenters. This way they gather experience and knowledge and when they return home they can raise understanding for other cultures, habits and ways of living and thinking. This all happens in close cooperation with the locals.

This year they had projects planned in Bolivia, Malawi, South-Africa and with us on the Philippines. In July a group of very motivated carpenters under the knowledgeable guidance of Klaas Veenbaas paid a visit to Bahay Aurora. The goal was to fabricate 46 bunk beds because the old metal bunk beds had

suffered to much from the flood in 2009 and needed to be replaced. Last year this foundation had gathered money in The Netherlands through a variety of fundraisers to come up with the necessary money for the materials. The Foundation Saved Tools gave the tools. The men were allowed to use the workshop and the machines of our local carpenter shop 'Karel Brouwers Furniture' in Baras to belabor the 276 lose parts and 460 battens for the bottoms. The employees of Karel, a Dutch immigrant, have also voluntarily helped to get everything ready in time. They have been working really hard for 3 weeks in the tropical heat, which was not light! Fortunately there was also some time to relax: they visited Manila, the beach and the waterfalls and of course they played with the Bahay Aurora kids! And the goal has been reached, a wonderful result: 46 beautiful wooden beds with the words Bahay Aurora in-scripted. The parts arrived at the home in



a huge truck and have been assembled inside. All parts fit: incredible! Real craftsmanship. And as if this was not enough they have put in a new floor on the first floor of our school on the last day of their stay. These unique volunteers have left a deep impression on us. Klaas, Patrick, Rick, Coen, Koen, Sven, Bart: it was an unforgettable time with a wonderful result. There are not enough words to thank you for what you did. One more time: thank you very much for your help, also in name of the children. When we asked the kids if they had slept well in their new beds, they all smiled and beamed with joy. That says it all...

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Rice campaign and more...

Traditionally in this time of the year we ask for a lot of attention for our rice campaign. To provide well for the children of Bahay Aurora there are a lot of returning costs. To remain able to pay for this we need a lot of money every month. The children's home can exist thanks to the long lasting support of many donors, and thanks to that the kids who have been through a lot of hardship can find some kind of home at Bahay Aurora. In the attachment that is sent together with the newsletter you can read in which way you can contribute. This is possible through becoming a donor, but also single gifts are more than welcome. One of the possibilities is donating to our RICE CAMPAIGN... Rice is the most important staple in the Philippines and therefor a big burden on our budget. Otherwise you could order the original Christmas and other greeting cards that have been made by the kids of Bahay Aurora. Through the website you can very easily donate (part of) a rice bag or order the cards. Of course there is always the possibility of transferring your donation directly to the bank account of FABKI (mention donation for rice).

Bank: Banco De Oro Unibank, Inc
City: Sitio Ilog Pugad. Brgy San Juan,
Accountholder: Felicisimo-Aurora Bahay Kalinga Inc.
Accountnumber: 4060086706
BIC/Swift code: BNORPHMM



Bahay Aurora anniversary

In June 2012 Bahay Aurora and the Noodhulp Filippijnen foundation will exist 20 years.

On Saturday June 2nd 2012 we would like to get together to look back upon these 20 years at a festive gathering and - more importantly - look towards the future!

Keep June 2nd 2012 free in your day planner!

More news will follow soon!



Bahay Aurora

Bahay Aurora is a children's home in Baras, Philippines. The children's home offers shelter to 45 street children that can no longer live at home, for whatever reason. The children's home is an initiative of Herke and Arleen Smidstra. Together with their staff, they do their utmost every day to give these children a loving and safe home. All children are attending school.

There is also a school building on the premises. This is where the children receive individual education, guidance with doing their homework and computer classes. In the afternoon there is daycare for kids who are mentally challenged.

Children's home Bahay Aurora is supported from The Netherlands by the 'Foundation Noodhulp Filippijnen'.

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Donate now with..



Thanks to your financial support, these children have a chance of a better future