

Newsletter

Let all things be done in love

Volume 13 | 2nd edition | 2012

**BAHAY
AURORA**

Van Herke en Arleen (founders of Bahay Aurora)



**Dear friends,
About 20 years ago we were standing knee deep in the mud of a piece of rice land (half a hectare) somewhere between Morong and Baras. To get there we had to cross another piece of rice land and a small river which, back then, had a trunk lying across it. This is where it had to happen; this was the**

place where a children's home would be build.

One year before the foundation 'Stichting Noodhulp Filippijnen' was founded in the Netherlands. The board was formed by the former deputy ambassador of the Philippine Embassy, Gien and Herke and Arleen. It was necessary to start a foundation in order to be able to raise funds in the Netherlands.

Arleen went to the Philippines to negotiate with the owners of the land about building a road so that we could reach the building ground. When she came back the road was built with a bridge to the piece of land where

the children's home was supposed to be situated. Without this road it would have been impossible to deliver materials to the building ground. Almost two years later the first building was finished and the first children were admitted. The Dutch foundation started finding donors to pay for the monthly expenses. There have been many fundraisers and motivated people involved to get to where we are now, which is a professional organization with 12 employees. There are three residential buildings with room for 45 children max. There is a school building with two classrooms, one for mentally challenged children and homework and the other classroom is a computer room and is also used for yoga classes. We have a beautiful overlaid basketball court with a stage for sports and other activities. There is a new kitchen area that we will soon start using. We've got a lovely playground and there is a living area for our social workers with storing space. In the garden are many fruit trees and the entire area is elevated and walled. In short; a beautiful and save location with good and well maintained facilities.

Through the years lots of people have contributed to improve or support Bahay Aurora. In the Netherlands institutions receive money from the government to pay for running their charity, but that things are very different here. We depend on donations for 100%. Which sometimes makes it very difficult to make ends meet. After 20 years though, we are proud to say that we can still manage to offer a home to kids with huge problems. Therefore we are most thankful for your support throughout the years.

Donate smartly with a notarization

The 'Stichting Noodhulp Filippijnen (SNF)' is a so called ANBI-insitution and the Dutch finance authority acknowledges it as a charity foundation. This means that one can make a periodic donation. This kind of donation is completely tax deductible as apposed to a 'normal' gift. Prerequisite for complete tax detectability is that this has to be recorded by a public notary for a minimum of 5 years. Depending on your income and age you will receive 16% to 52% of the yearly donated amount back from the tax office.

We would like to direct you to our website (www.bahayaurora.nl) where you can find full and extended information on the subject of notarized donations. You can calculate your benefit here and find an easy way to get started on getting such a notarization. Of course you can also always contact the treasurer of SNF through email (henk@bahayaurora.nl) or phone (00-31-(0)73-5211028).

Big 20th anniversary party

On Saturday June 2nd the foundation wants to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Bahay Aurora in a very cheerful way and would like to do that together with you. We hope to meet you there and have already planned a spectacular program that is fun for both young and old. You will also be informed on the latest developments concerning the children's home, because for us that is the reason to get together!

It will be a beautiful evening that you wouldn't want to miss for the world. We won't tell you everything just yet, but we will offer a small peek: For only 15 euros you can enjoy a delicious Philippine buffet starting with a welcome drink and a lottery. Do you like Philippine singing and dancing or are you curious about that? Than this is the place to be! There will be contemporary well known artists (that perform for free for Bahay Aurora!) among which the dancing group All Style Division (see picture with the children), singer Marcel Duprix and Princess Inge. The last two are very well known from Dutch television. Marcel Duprix got famous through the TV-show "The Winner Is". Princess Inge is a star in "Nederland Hollywood vrouwen" and has become "goodwill ambassador" and regular donor of Bahay Aurora. We will end the night with the well known DJ and TV-personality Kelly Pfaff, so plenty of chance to dance! Once again: we do hope to see you there.

When: next Saturday June 2nd.

Where: Engelenburcht in Engelen - 's-Hertogenbosch

Address: Heuvel 18, 5221 AP in 's-Hertogenbosch (Engelen)

Time: the program will start at 5 PM

Entrance fee: 15 euros a person (including a delicious Philippine meal and welcome drink)

Register: through info@bahayaurora.nl, the entrance fee should be paid in advance



Periodiek
notarieel
schenken

SING, DANCE & FLY

It is a little cold and rainy Dutch weather when I am standing in line waiting for our flight with Sunshine Airlines on this Saturday March 10th. In the departure hall are souvenir stands with goodies from all around the globe and the speakers keep bringing updates on delays and other announcements.

The departure hall is an ant hill of aviation staff that are running back and forth in their blue uniforms. It is like a whirlwind and the excitement about the upcoming world trip is running through my veins. We all have a real ticket, the line in front of the security gates is long and as I want to push my suitcase through the detector all signs turn red. There seems to be a bomb in my luggage... and it needed some tough negotiating to get through. Pilot Brick (sounds promising...) gives the kick of sign and there we go. The purser has got some problems with a difficult



passenger (Miss. Feather Duster) but soon gets the situation under control. After the safety instructions we continue our way to the warm south. We visit Spain and the choir children of the Sunshine choir sing a beautiful song. With the same singing and dancing we go to Italy where we are treated to two

opera singers, great! Then on our way to Siberia. Miss Feather Duster continues to be a problem. Her suitcase got lost....well, one can buy underpants anywhere.

In the mean time we landed in the Philippines. The children of Bahay Aurora dance the tinikling between bamboo poles, a local dance. After that we can see them on a big screen singing "twee emmertjes water halen". Then all of a sudden turbulence comes up and thunder

starts. Before we know it we have to make an emergency landing. Fortunately pilot Brick has done this before and we survive the crash. Now that we have landed on an uninhabited island the children of the choir and ballet school entertain us with beautiful songs and dances while the plain is being repaired. They sing lovely and the costumes are a gem. The well chosen combination of singing, dancing, lively music, customs, decor, light and sound constitute a great spectacle.



Our world trip comes to an end when we arrive again on Enkhuizen Airport. We have all greatly enjoyed this fantastic world trip. With this concert children's choir Sunshine has flown in more than 10.000 euros for Bahay Aurora. A truly fantastic result! The children of Bahay Aurora are closely connected with

the Sunshine kids, we hope that this connection will remain throughout the future. If it is for the kids of Bahay Aurora this won't be a problem. This summer, in the car on the way to the running court where I will be running with the children, we will sing out loudly, a special song, you can guess: "Twee emmertjes water halen".



Talk with one of the children

By Elodie and Lynn (they visited the children's home in March 2011)

She is 17 years old now and has been living in Bahay Aurora ever since 2002. Her parents are divorced. She moved in with her mother while her brothers and sisters went to their father. She doesn't know at this point in time where they are. From the moment her mother got a new boyfriend and she was abused and molested by him. Her mother never stood up for her in this respect. Although she was only 7 years old at the time she took the courageous decision to stop this and leave home. Her neighbor saw this and took her to the DSWD. That is how she got to Bahay Aurora. We asked her if she is angry with her mother, but she answered that she isn't. She is only angry with her stepfather. Quite impressive after everything that has happened. She usually likes life at Bahay Aurora. Although she did admit that sometimes it is hard to live together with that many people. "I did gain an extra 42 brothers and sisters", she told us.



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. Apart from the children's home, they are also running a preschool and in the afternoons there is a shelter for children that are mentally challenged. The children's home Bahay Aurora is governed by the foundation Felicísimo-Aurora Bahay Kalinga Inc. (FABKI). Officially registered at the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

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