

The Faridpur Foundation

in

Oentsjerk

The Netherlands

Annual report 2009

Bank account Friesland Bank: 292.662.610

Preface

The Faridpur foundation was founded in 2001 after dr. C.A. Spronk, a plastic surgeon at the Medisch Centrum Leeuwarden, visited his brother-in-law Shamim Haque who lives in the village of Faridpur in Bangladesh. He started to operate upon children with serious medical problems and burns, which he did free of charge. Many patients came and more than 30 children could be operated upon. Unfortunately many others had to be disappointed, so that dr. Spronk promised to return, which he did every year after 2001. From 2004 he was accompanied by a team of doctors. By now the "Plastic Surgery Camps" are well known.

In 2002 our sister foundation The Faridpur Welfare Foundation (FWF) was founded, governed by local doctors. Its chairman is Shamim Haque. The foundation pays for all the operations in Faridpur.

Faridpur has many homeless children. Thus the plan originated to build a children's home in Faridpur, which was realised in 2008. Its name is "Holland Children House". Ten kilometres outside the city of Faridpur 100 children not only found a beautiful home here but also a place to be educated. The foundation tries to generate income for the home locally, but the revenues are insufficient so that support from the Netherlands is still necessary. Dr Spronk's wife, Mrs Neeltje Spronk, is responsible for supporting the children's home.

Since 2005 our foundation has also been active in Mangu in North Nigeria, where dr. Spronk used to work as a doctor treating leprosy patients in the Cocin Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre. Here medical attendance is offered in cooperation with Interplast-Holland.

Apart from supporting dr. Spronk's work in the Cocin Hospital we also support the medical work of dr. van de Venis from Leuvenheim, who also used to work as a leprosy doctor. Once in every eighteen months he operates upon children with deformations. We also support non-medical projects related to the Cocin hospital in Mangu, among which a rehabilitation centre and a boarding school for handicapped children. Dr van de Venis' wife, Mrs Annemiek van de Venis and Mrs Neeltje Spronk support the Mangu projects.

At the end of 2009 a total of 1208 patients suffering from hare lips or severe burns were operated upon in Faridpur and Mangu. This happened free of charge due to the aid of our foundation.

Our foundation consists of volunteers who do their work without any financial reward. With your permanent support we will be able to offer people a better life and to offer children a bright future. Our aim is to spend the money that you donate for nearly 100% on the project of your choice.

In this ninth annual report you will find a summary of the activities and we also render account of the money that we received in 2009. We like to go on offering help in Bangladesh.

Oentsjerk, May 2010.

P.K.A. Poortenga, chairman Faridpur Foundation.

Aims of the Faridpur Foundation

The Faridpur foundation aims to offer help to the very poor in this world by means of medical and non-medical projects. The foundation particularly supports direct medical and plastic reconstructive care in Faridpur (Bangladesh) and in Mangu (Nigeria) given by plastic surgeon dr. Cees Spronk and his medical team. The foundation also supports the medical work of dr. Arend van de Venis in Mangu. In Faridpur and Mangu we also support projects for housing, education, schooling and rehabilitation of children, the latter meaning to teach children to accept their handicap and how to cope with it in society.

In 2009 the members of the Faridpur Foundation were:

Chairman:

Mr. P.K.A. Poortenga
Jan de Wittstraat 6
9062 EX Oentsjerk
tel. 058 – 2561379

Secretariat :

Mrs. Th.J.F. Booijink-van Raaij
Staniasingel 16
9062 GM Oentsjerk
tel. 058-2562551

Treasurer: Mrs. L. Roodhof-Swaagman

Heemstrasingel 48
9062 GH Oentsjerk
tel. 058-2562699

Correspondence and contacts:

Mrs. N. Spronk-Mulder
Wynserdyk 43,
9062 GP Oentsjerk
tel. 058–2562029

Mrs. J. Geense-Doeleman

Zevenhuizen 5
9064 DE Aldtsjerk
tel. 058–2563326

Mrs. A. van de Venis-van der Beek

Kerkweg 1
6974 AM Leuvenheim
tel. 0575-564235.

In order to carry out our work locally our sister foundation Faridpur Welfare Foundation (FWF) was founded in Faridpur in 2002, controlled by local doctors and local governors. Its chairman is Mr Shamim Haque.

Website

The website of our foundation is www.stichtingfaridpur.nl, where you can find the annual reports and detailed reports about our work and projects in Dutch and English. The webmaster is Johan de Wagt from the Dutch village of Zuidhorn.

The foundation is registered at the Chamber of Commerce - Friesland, number 01094054. The bank account number of the Faridpur foundation is 292 662 610 at the Friesland Bank.

On 1 January 2008 we received the ANBI-approval, which means that donations to our foundation can fully or partly be deducted from the taxable income. The Faridpur foundation is mentioned on GeefWijzer.nl, the survey for Welfare on the internet.

BANGLADESH

Plastic Surgery Camp (number 7) in Faridpur: from 8 until 21 February

The medical team that performed the operations this year consisted of dr. Cees Spronk, professor dr. P.H.M. Spauwen, plastic surgeon from Nijmegen, dr. Corien van Rijswijk, anaesthesiologist and Mrs Aafke Lautenbach, assistant anaesthetist all from Leeuwarden.

Mainly due to the preparations made by our local sister foundation the Faridpur Welfare Foundation, the organisation of the seventh Plastic Surgery Camp was excellent and also this year it could be concluded successfully. In close cooperation with local doctors and nurses a total of 191 operations were performed, mainly on children with a hare lip and a cleft palate and children with burns. Several local doctors participated in the operations thus gaining much experience with plastic surgery and anaesthesia.



Holland Children House (HCH) in Faridpur

Together with the medical team Mrs Spronk also visited Faridpur from 8 until 21 February. In these weeks the children's home was visited several times for discussions with mothers about the daily routine and their special wishes. Using the reports that our foundation receives monthly Mrs Spronk discussed with the principal Mr Manik the current affairs, the operational costs and costs for maintenance of the children's home and school. The atmosphere at school is good and the children make steady progress. The boys and girls grow older and that is why plans are made to separate them. In 2009 the stone wall between the children's home and the fishing pond in front of it was reinforced and lined with tiles, which has improved safety. It is now also easier to reach.

The goals of the Holland Children House

The children's home HCH is open to all children, regardless of their religious background. Its approach resembles the concept of the S.O.S. children villages in which a foster mother looks after a number of children in a family setting. This setting is important when later they start a family themselves. In our children's home the foster mother is helped by an assistant foster

mother, which is good for the children as well as the foster mothers and assistant foster mothers, who often are single widows.

The children's home consists of three apartments each with three storeys. On each storey a foster mother lives together with an assistant mother and ten to twelve children. A storey consists of a common living room and recreation room, two dormitories for six children, showers, a lavatory and a separate bedroom for the foster mother and assistant mother. At the moment 100 children are accommodated in the Holland Children House.



The school near the Holland Children House

Early 2007 the building of a school for primary education was started on the grounds of the children's home with six classrooms. In the "Sunflower Kindergarten" 40 children from nearby villages follow primary education. Foster mothers and assistant mothers are also taught here. In 2009 a group of children finished the primary school of HCH. They now attend secondary modern education in town.



Class HCH



Teacher HCH

Growing vegetables and fruit

On the grounds of the HCH the growing of vegetables and fruit takes place on a small scale for consumption of the HCH itself.

Fishing ponds

The HCH has two fishing ponds. Twice a week the HCH menu has its own fish.

Project farm

In 2007 a simple farm was built on the grounds of the HCH for fattening cattle. As the farm was not profitable we stopped. We try to find a new destination for the building.

Project seed potatoes

We try to generate money locally for the children's home and the school. That is why we started with a test field with seed potatoes this year. Aafke Lautenbach helped us to contact a company that exports seed potatoes. If this project is successful, we intend to import seed potatoes in the future, to grow them locally and to sell them at a profit, which will fully be for the children's home and the school.



Aafke is examining a test field

Despite the projects mentioned above the children's home and the school will still fully need the support of the Faridpur foundation.

NIGERIA

Introduction

From 1974 till 1980 dr. Spronk worked as a leprosy doctor in a hospital in the village of Mangu in the north of Nigeria. In that period a hospital and a rehabilitation centre were built and the existing school was adapted for handicapped children. This building is called the Cocin Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre. Cocin means Church of Christ in Nigeria. Apart from dr. Spronk dr. A. van de Venis also worked as a leprosy doctor in Mangu.

In 2004 both dr. Spronk and dr. van de Venis visited the hospital in Mangu again. The hospital appeared to function as a general hospital quite reasonably, but it was badly maintained and outdated.

In 2005 dr. Spronk began operating in Mangu and since then he has done so twice a year in cooperation with Interplast-Holland, an aid-organisation of plastic surgeons. Dr. van de Venis goes to Mangu every eighteen months to perform operations. Due to the enormous dedication of the staff the Cocin hospital functions quite well. The buildings and medical devices are, however, in a poor condition. The hospital desperately needs a new ward, a new operation room and new surgical equipment. In 2009 we started with plans to build a new ward for fifty patients.

NB:

Patients must pay € 60.- to the hospital for nursing costs after an operation. For many patients this amount is often a reason not to have an operation done as they do not have the money. That is why the foundation has decided to contribute € 50,- per patient. The costs for children who need nursing, rehabilitation and crutches after an operation are € 200,-, which we also pay. In 2009 Mangu was visited three times. The team of plastic surgeons of dr. Spronk went from 7 until 22 March and from 10 until 24 October. Arend & Annemiek van de Venis went from 10 until 26 November.

Visit of the plastic surgical team of 7 until 22 March 2009

The team consisted of plastic surgeon Cees Spronk and anaesthetist Rob Steur (both working in the MCL in Leeuwarden), of plastic surgeon Floris de Graaf and operation assistant Hilly Weima (both working in de Sionsberg Dokkum) and of anaesthetist assistant Marijke Postma of the Groningen University Medical Centre. The team operated upon a total of 75 patients, 46 suffering from burns, 10 from hare lips and 19 from other deformities. For medical tuition a beamer and a laptop would have been welcome. During this stay the Dutch Embassy's secretary Ronald Sonnemans and his trainee Christel Oomen visited us. Both were very enthusiastic about the project and the hospital. The Embassy is willing to contribute financially for further development and modernisation of the hospital.



Visit of the plastic surgeon team from 10 until 24 October

In October the group consisted of Cees Spronk plastic surgeon, Jan Jaap van de Biezen plastic surgeon, Eddy Verschuur plastic trainee surgeon, Annet Brouwer operating assistant, all working in the Medical Centre Leeuwarden and of Neeltje Spronk. Jurjen Oosterhuis, anaesthetist, and Hidde Visser assistant anaesthetist of the Groningen University Medical Centre accompanied them. On their way to Mangu they received good news. The container with medical equipment from Leeuwarden had arrived in the hospital after three 3 years!

On Monday the doctors screened the patients. Neeltje unloaded the container with medical equipment and Annet en Hidde placed the medical equipment that had just arrived in the operating room. The operating table and operating chair with mobile transfer tables were highly appreciated.

In the next days 82 patients were operated upon, 55 patients with burns, eight with hare lips and 19 with other deformities. The atmosphere in the operating room was excellent and during the operations Annet and Hidde taught the operating assistants. Local doctors watched the operations closely and even assisted the doctors. During this camp doctors and nurses were given a presentation about the prevention of burns and their treatment, about the operation of contractures and about the basics principles of plastic surgery. The laptop (given by the MCL) and beamer (given by the partnership of plastic surgery in Leeuwarden) were handed over to the hospital.



Visit of Arend and Annemiek van de Venis from 10 until 26 November

For the third time Arend and Annemiek went to Nigeria for two weeks to work in the hospital in Mangu. This time they were accompanied by Ethel Brummelman from the poor-relief board in Brummen. As a nurse she was very much interested in the daily business in and around the hospital. On the day of arrival the screening of 150 little patients, children and adolescents began. Eighty of them were placed on the operation list. The next days there were operations for 15 polio patients, nine patients with clog feet and 56 patients with growing disorders. These operations were done in cooperation with the local doctor, dr. Ashom.



The boarding school for handicapped girls and boys

Mrs. Spronk and Mrs. van de Venis spent much time on the boarding school for handicapped children. In 2007 this school was renovated and made larger. A school bus to transport the children was also bought.



Children in front of the school



Pupil in wheel chair



Pupils at school

Now there are 220 pupils at school, 35 of whom are handicapped children who stay at the boarding school. The other children live in the neighbourhood. Annemiek and Ethel attended lessons in all classes and together they taught the children. In both cases the children were very enthusiastic. In the first forms there are more than 50 children, so that an individual approach is not possible, but by asking to them to repeat the questions and answers aloud they do not find themselves at a loss. In 2009 the school introduced a new teaching method. It gained access to the internet via the internet connection that is installed at the complex. The teaching method and the internet connection were paid for by our foundation.

The boarding schools were also visited. In 2009 the boarding school for the girls was renovated. New ceilings were installed, everything was painted again and each child now has a private locker to store things. After school the girls are washing their clothes or braid each other's hair. In 2009 plans were made for new toilets for the boarding school for boys and for the lighting of both boarding schools by means of solar energy. The federal government gave the school money for a new conference room.

During her visit in October Mrs Spronk taught the handicapped children to crochet bags and caps from small plastic strips of littered bags.



Girls crocheting bags



Girls with a crocheted cap

Governing Board of the Faridpur Foundation

In 2008 the entire governing board met four times. Apart from that some members have personally contacted Shamim Haque, chairman of the Faridpur Welfare Foundation. Each month we receive emails from Faridpur with a financial report about the children's home, giving us a good idea of the income and expenses. In April 2009 a new information bulletin with photos was published.

Fundraising

In 2009 we again received substantial donations from churches, schools, foundations and private persons. For the medical project in Bangladesh we received a large amount from an inheritance. In January Neeltje Spronk was given a cheque of € 750 during a festive meeting of volunteers of the Kennedy-march Fryslân 2008. In September we were given € 930 by a group of people who walked the Kennedy-march Fryslân in 2009. For Nigeria we received € 5000 of the Tineke Hut foundation. We also asked money from Impulsis, an initiative of Edukans, ICCO and Kerkinactie.

In Leuvenheim a long distance walk, the "Beekloop", was organised, resulting in € 2000. In Brummen an art market was organised, resulting in € 1000. The winter market, also in Brummen resulted in € 3500. The total proceeds of these activities will go to our projects in Nigeria.

On Saturday 6 June the Spronk family organised the sixth open garden day or Fancy Fair in their luxuriant garden. Among other things many plants grown by volunteers were sold who thus raised € 4960.



On 11 December a Christmas fair was organised by three care-farms from Oentsjerk and Mûnein and the Faridpur foundation. Two thirds of the proceeds were given to the Faridpur foundation, which amounted to € 4279. During this fair volunteers of the Faridpur foundation sold ornaments and shawls resulting in another € 1445 so that the total proceeds that day were € 5724.

As we will have to finance the Children's home for some time to come, we started an action in 2009 to find financial supporters who are prepared to transfer a monthly amount. A child in the Home costs less than € 1 a day including education. In 2009 Cees and Neeltje Spronk and Arend and Annemiek van de Venis gave several presentations, which nearly always resulted in Financial support for our foundation.

Financial report 2009**Income:**

Donations Children's Home Faridpur	€	42.403,87
Donations medical work	€	26.000,00
Refunded travelling expenses	€	2.676,44
Donations school Mangu	€	3.980,00
Donations medical work Mangu	€	30.578,74
Interest Current Account	€	697,44
Interest InternetSavings Account	€	1.915,37

Total revenues 2009 € **108.251,86**

Expenditures:

Costs Children's Home HCN for 2010	€	35.000,00
Medical work Faridpur	€	6.244,65
Travelling expenses Faridpur PSC January 2010	€	1.548,40
School Mangu	€	2.000,00
Medical work Mangu	€	18.721,47
Chamber of Commerce and admin. costs	€	302,39
Bank costs	€	131,70

Total expenditures 2009 € **63.948,61**

Balance 1 January 2009 € **92.800,75**

Current Account € 34.237,00

Internet Savings Account € 58.563,75

Balance 31 December 2009 € **137.104,00**

Current Account € 36.624,88

Internet Savings Account € 100.479,12

To conclude:

2009 is the second year in which the children's home in Faridpur was fully occupied and operational. We are responsible for the finances, well-being and education of 100 children. In anticipation of the results of the fund raising activities started in 2009 it is our policy to reserve a considerable amount of money for this purpose.

The Faridpur foundation likes to thank every one who contributed financially or who registered to support the children's home financially. As you can see in the financial report the money that we receive will almost solely be used for medical aid and non-medical projects. You can also transfer money to bank account 292 662 610 of Stichting Faridpur - Oenkerk, where you can also register to support us financially. Detailed information with our annual report can be found on our website: www.stichtingfaridpur.nl

The FARIDPUR Foundation

**helps in Bangladesh and North Nigeria
to build a future for orphans and
handicapped children**

BY

- **Corrective surgery and rehabilitation**
- **Accommodation and education**



Girl in Faridpur



Mother and child in Mangu

**Stichting Faridpur
Wijnserdijk 43
9062 GP Oentsjerk
Nederland
tel. 058-2562029
Bank rek. 292 662 610
E-mail: neeltjespronk@hetnet.nl**