



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

New beginnings for the destitute of Goa

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Newsletter - December 2003.

Welcome to our first Newsletter. As many of you are aware Novi Survat was born in the Spring of 2003 after Clive made the decision to act upon his ideas of establishing an organisation with the simple objective of providing self-help projects in the slums and remote villages of Goa. Clearly there is much to be done and we have had a number of meetings over the course of the last few months to formulate a strategy to get Novi Survat up and running, the first target was to register the organisation with the Charity Commission and obtain charitable status, this was achieved on 18 November 2003, our registered Charity Number is: 1100768.

It was also established at the various committee meetings that for the first year we will concentrate on correctly setting up the charity and deciding who, when and where we should help. Mel, Graham and Trish are currently out in Goa setting up the foundations for the research with the help of various agencies in Goa. Discussions will also be held with medical clinics, soup kitchen organisations and those looking after destitute women and the elderly with a view to finding out where the problems are greatest and what we can do to help those most in need.

Whilst this is going on we intend to give immediate help to the Street Children but with limited funds this will initially take the form of ensuring they have nourishing food and where possible medical help.

In the meantime we in the U.K. are busy fundraising. We recently attended the Rotary Annual Conference for three days in Torquay with a stand advertising our work and making as many contacts as possible. This was the first Rotary Conference we have ever attended and as well as receiving over £200 we also made some useful contacts for future use. On Saturday 6th December had a street collection day in Exmouth and raised £118 even though it was a freezing cold day!!

Other activities include presentations to Rotary Clubs, schools, ladies clubs and really anyone who is willing to let us talk and show our slides, and contacting local shops and offices asking for pledges of just £1.00 per week. Hopefully we will soon have goods back from Goa which we can sell as this is a very good source of income. If you are aware of anyone going to Goa please ask if they would take and bring goods to and from for us.

Receiving money by these methods is very good but the downside is that it is haphazard. Our commitments to the Street Children and the families living in the slums can only be as great as our regular income and at present we do not have many standing orders guaranteeing a regular income. The money raised from the sales of 'Anjuna' goods and ad hoc donations will be used for irregular payments such as purchase of land and other one off requirements. But as you will all know if you are to feed a family you must have money regularly available so that you can budget correctly.

We would like to thank Ann Varah who recently returned from Goa and who donated 80 of the hand painted leaf skeleton cards and to Alan Cook a local wood turner who donated eighteen wooden bowls he has made. These are being sold and all the proceeds are for our funds.

If you have any suggestions or queries or can offer help in any way (delivering leaflets, organising 'Anjuna' sales, street collections etc) please contact me. We need all the help we can get to raise awareness of our work and to give backing to all the hard work Mel and friends are doing in Goa.

We aim to produce a newsletter every three months so we will take this opportunity of wishing you and your families a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Registered Charity No: 1100768