



# *Novi Survat Charitable Organisation*

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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## Newsletter 004 - September 2004

The rainy season is drawing to a close and soon the tourist season will begin. Hazel returned to the U.K. last Tuesday, hence the delay in producing this newsletter as I needed updating, so we have no one in Goa until Trish goes on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The present position on our projects is as follows:

1. Christobelle. Peter her father has a job in Calangute so the family should be able to support themselves. There is no apparent improvement in Christobelle's general health but once our volunteers have returned to Goa this situation will be reassessed and monitored more closely with regular visits.

From previous discussions with our volunteers it had been decided that a wheelchair would greatly improve Christobelle's quality of life, it would enable her Mother Rosie and some of our volunteers to take her out for walks and also make it easier to attend clinics. We approached a local evening newspaper (The Herald Express) who kindly ran an appeal for a wheelchair during the week of 1 September to which we had a very good response. We have now been given a wheelchair which will be taken to Goa and adapted to suit Christobelle's needs. Donations have also been received towards the cost of this work.

2. Starting Point. The new class opened in June and the school now has 20+ children, most of who come from a 'slum' in Calangute. As well as academic studies the children are taught personal hygiene which includes brushing their teeth with toothpaste instead of ash from the fire. In addition they have regular medical check-ups. Sheryl who is at present in Bangalore will be arriving in Goa late September and will spend some time working with the teachers and children. We have started a scheme where children can be sponsored to attend the local schools. This is to cater for the children attending Starting Point who reach the standard required to attend the state schools but whose parents are unable to afford the £5.00 per month costs. Sponsors will receive a photo of the child they sponsor and copies of their school reports each year.
3. Candolim Boys Home. Few visits have been made since last May but no doubt when Graham arrives in Goa he will be visiting and continue where he left off. It is hoped that we can refurbish the kitchen over the next few months.
4. Care Home / Hospice. Hazel has been working here six days per week and has become very popular with both the staff and the children. Dr. Mina told me over the phone and by email that Hazel has been a godsend and that they were all very sad to see her return to the U.K. However it will not be for long as Hazel intends to return before Christmas but beforehand she has to meet her sister who lives in

Australia and who she has not seen for 25/30 years. The home has been decorated inside and is said to be a lot brighter and more cheerful - the outside is to be done once the monsoons have passed.

A number of the children have been very poorly over the last few months, some with Chicken-pox, heavy colds and one with Herpes. We are very sorry to report that Asha who was 4 yrs 9 months succumbed to her illness and died on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August. This picture was taken shortly before she died.



It is heartbreaking but reminds us that each of the children have a very uncertain future and very little hope unless we can provide the right foods and correct medicines. Furthermore they need premises where sick children can be nursed away from the rest and so avoid passing their ailments on.

Hazel, having spent so much time in the home, has been able to provide us with a much clearer picture of the plight of these children together with a list of items much needed to improve their quality of life.

The priority to be addressed is that of accommodation and it has been hinted that the Catholic Church may provide some land on which we could build a hospice. This has to be discussed later in the year/early next year when we hope to have a clearer picture of the way forward.

Volunteers. We have had numerous requests from people wishing to volunteer but at present we have limited places available. As our work and projects expand we hope to accommodate more volunteers in the future.

Fundraising. This is an area which needs constant attention and we welcome all the help we can get. Thank you Sue & Wendy for the money raised at your plant stall - despite lousy weather, to Ann, Graham & Trish for their efforts at a garden party, to Carol Rowe who organised a Car Treasure Hunt in July and is putting on another on September 19<sup>th</sup>, and to all of you who have helped raise money in various ways and those who have spent hours doing street collections. Keep up the good work.

Website. This is now up and running ([www.novisurv.at.org](http://www.novisurv.at.org)) but the photos take about five minutes to load. This we are trying to rectify.