



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

31 Foxholes Hill, Exmouth. EX8 2DQ
Tel: 01395 276148. Email: admin@novisurvato.org
Web-site www.novisurvato.org

Newsletter 006 - March 2005.

Having just returned from a month in Goa (was it really that long) I am pleased to update you on our progress and our plans for the next twelve months. It was lovely to meet so many of our supporters and I thank all of you who were able to visit the projects we are involved with. Unfortunately due to some of the children in the care home being sick some visits were curtailed but I am sure you realise that the children's health must take priority. I am equally grateful to all those people we met who have promised to support us in the future.

1. Christobelle. Regrettably Christobelle's health continues to deteriorate and give cause for concern. Mel took her and her parents to the GMC hospital where she underwent x-rays on her kidneys. The doctors say that there is very little that can be done for her. Her weight has dropped to less than 15 kgs. Her heart and lungs appear strong but she is a very poorly girl. We can only continue to monitor the situation, offer help where possible and most of all ensure that Christobelle is made as comfortable as possible. To this end we have supplied a soft mattress in an attempt to reduce the pain from her bedsores and oils to massage her hands and knees, which seem to give her pain.
2. Starting Point. This school is progressing very well and intends to open a third classroom in June. In keeping with our policy of assisting projects to get on their feet until they are self-funding we have decided to reduce our commitment to 50% of last years for the next six months when we will review the situation. We will continue to obtain sponsors for the children from Starting Point once they have graduated to the state schools.
3. Candolim Boys. Due to generosity of a group of supporters led by Kevin & Charlotte from Shaldon the boys have had a good year. A new mattress for each boy was donated plus the tiles and paint needed to improve the kitchen together with footballs etc. We purchased two cycles for the boys and plan to install a new water tank. The cost of fixing the tiles and painting the walls has also been donated in the last few days.
4. New Horizons. This is a new project for 2005. A small school founded 12 months ago by a local lady, like Starting Point, to cater for children from the slums that would otherwise have no chance of an education. The fourteen children who attend have learnt a lot over the last year but without finance the school has no facilities such as chairs, tables, cupboards etc. A number of chairs were donated and we have allocated them £200 to provide furnishings and will make twelve monthly contributions of £55 towards the running costs which includes transportation to and from school and a healthy midday meal before they return to their homes.
5. Care Home/ Hospice. This will continue to be our major project and we must strive to provide purpose built accommodation for the resident five babies and seven children the

eldest of which is 12 yrs. The present single storey Portuguese style bungalow is totally inadequate lacking space and number of rooms needed to cater for so many sick children. Furthermore there is nowhere for the children to play and you can imagine the problems that this causes. Sisters Jessie & Shanti plus Hazel all put in an awful lot of hours and hard work and their dedication is something to behold. We have an undertaking from 'The Doctor' to retire from her paediatric post and manage the project as soon as it is ready and we have a 'real estate' agent seeking suitable plots of land for us to choose from. Although we intend to start with a replacement for the present home the overall plan is to have a hospital with an Aids annex and a preventative medicine clinic plus sufficient grounds for a playing field. The land and first building phase will cost in the region of £85,000, which will be sufficient to cater for 25 children. By U.K. standards this is a relatively small amount and I am sure you will all help us achieve our goal of seeing this opened within three years.

6. In addition to the above we do get involved in small often 'one off' projects such as assisting families made homeless when their 'shacks' are demolished to provide land for building. These cases are not planned, are relatively inexpensive and usually come to the attention of volunteers in Goa who deal with them as they see fit.

Volunteers. I cannot stress enough how important it is to have loyal hard working volunteers without which we would not survive. Thank you Graham, Trish, Sally, Hazel & Mel who have laboured hard to carry out our work in Goa and the U.K. and to Alan who has joined me organising events and fundraising. By the way Sally you can help the Indian economy by drinking all the Honey Bee but you don't need to foster any more the relations between Great Britain and Kashmere!!!

Fundraising. With so many charities trying to raise money the task of fundraising is not easy and I know how hard you work to help us not only with cash but also by sponsoring items from our needs list, a copy of which is enclosed. If any of you need help by way of photographs, brochures etc please ask. I am hoping to have a slide presentation ready in the next few weeks and am happy to offer my services to help you.

Thanks to all of you who have brought back 'Anjuna' goods for me to sell and to Elaine from North Wales who not only brought goods back but has promised to sell them as well! Ann Brogan from the Exeter Volunteer Bureau usually buys her staff a Christmas present but decided this year that the staff would not receive a present but donated the money she would have spent to us. Thank you Ann & Staff.

If any of you have any unusual ideas for fundraising please let me know and I will include them in the next newsletter.

Web-site. Apologies that this has not been updated since September but we are having a new site set up as the present one is not very user friendly when it comes to amendments and my computer skills are not as good as they should be and Sally is never around when I need her! The new site will also have the facility for donations on line and newsletter archives.

A very happy Easter to you all and please keep that money coming in. Remember every little helps.

Clive Baker.