



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 008 – September 2005.

Hello from a still warm and sunny Devon where we have enjoyed a good summer and as I write England are doing well in the final Test match against Australia.

Some of you will no doubt be thinking of, if you have not already arranged, your next visit to Goa where today it is raining hard but the vegetation is lush and green after the rains of the last few months. Pat & I will be going to Sri Lanka on 14th October to help where we can those victims of the tsunami who still find themselves in dire circumstances. It is upsetting to hear that so many are still without adequate shelter, food or clothes despite the millions of pounds raised. We have just received over £2000 but there is still time to improve on this if you know of anyone who would like to contribute to the fund. In keeping with our policies we will take photographs of the work we do and will report back to all who have donated where and how the money has been spent.

Project updates:

Christobelle. Graham & Trish continue to call and see her regularly and report that she remains strong and cheerful but sadly she is still losing weight. Apart from ensuring she is comfortable and receives adequate food there is little we can do to improve her situation but we will continue to offer whatever aid is needed.

Starting Point. I am pleased that this school continues to grow from strength to strength and am looking forward to hearing how many of the children have passed the entrance examination gaining them entry into the state schools. I understand there are now 30 children receiving education an increase of 10 over last year.

New Horizons. The redecoration of the building has been completed, the chairs and desks installed and the teaching aids acquired. There are now 17 children regularly attending and it will be interesting to find out how many of these manage to pass the state school entrance examination.

To those of you who have pledged to or are currently contributing and are awaiting a specific child to sponsor we should have details of the children eligible to attend the state schools before Christmas.

Candolim Boys Home. Through Graham we maintain our assistance to the boys. We have recently paid for six of the boys to attend computer courses at the local college; repaired the two cycles we bought in February (which with 31 boys get an awful lot of use) and have purchased or repaired school uniforms. Charlotte who will be going to Goa in November is taking two sets of football kit and I would love to be there to see the boys faces when she hands them over.

Care Home / Hospice. We reported in the last newsletter that the children had been moved to new premises. Hazel returned to Goa a week ago and today gave me this update:
The children have settled in very well and all are reported to be in pretty good shape. The children thoroughly enjoy being able to play outside and the attitude of the older boys has shown a marked

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improvement possibly because they can 'let off steam' in the garden. Yesterday was a big event when two of the children celebrated their birthdays with a party that was enjoyed by all. Although this is the rainy season the house has a large covered veranda where the children can play and enjoy fresh air. The 18-month-old boy Avishkar has had his final HIV tests, which have proved negative. This is fantastic news as he is a bright and intelligent child. He is however white skinned and blue eyed which means he will not fit in to the Indian society very well and it would be in his best interests if we find adoptive parents here in the U.K. If you know of anyone who would be interested in adopting him please let us know, as it will take perhaps twelve months for the formal adoption programme to be completed.

Our child profile this month is of 'Jane' a girl of four who at the age of seven months lost her parents to AIDS. Whilst awaiting adoption she was taken in by her aunt who has children of her own. Part of the adoption process includes health checks and it was then that 'Jane' was discovered to have the HIV virus. Unfortunately the follow-up tests proved positive and the aunt felt she could no longer look after her for fear that her own children would contract the virus. At this time 'Jane' was referred to the hospice.

We have a number of projects under review ranging from seeking medical help for a girl who appears to be profoundly deaf to supplying cows and clean pumped water to remote villages. For £300 we can supply a cow, to a family living in a tribal area, which will produce around 15 litres of milk per day. The family will use approx. 2 ltrs and sell the rest providing them with an income. The cow will calf each year – a male offspring will be sold for meat and the females passed on to another needy family. Over a period of years that initial investment of £300 should help a number of families escape the poverty trap.

Volunteers / supporters. Graham, Trish & Hazel are in Goa and Sally and Mel are due to go in early November. We welcome Jo who has arranged to be in Goa as a volunteer for three months commencing January and wish her all the best. I am sure she will thoroughly enjoy working with the children and find the experience very rewarding. Two other volunteers are in the final stages of making their arrangements for long term stays in Goa.

Fundraising. Grateful thanks to all of you (to many to name) who have held events to raise money for us. For example: Jean & Paul Corbett and friends who organised a BBQ at their home on the Isle-of-Wight resulting in over £1000 being raised. Jenny Delahaye who donated one of her beautiful paintings of the Exe estuary which we raffled and Sue & Wendy with a very profitable plant sale. As the result of suggestions made by two parties we have decided to sell gift certificates, which can be given as birthday / Christmas presents. These can be for any value starting at £10 for an outing for a group of children up to £300 to provide a cow to a family living in a remote village. Further details on request.

Visitors to Goa. If you, or anyone you know, are going to Goa this year please consider taking an additional case of clothes for the children and returning with the case full of craft items. The airlines normally allow free excess baggage and the Customs & Excise do not charge duty. Please contact me for details.

Best wishes to you all.

Clive.