



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter No.13 December 2006.

It is December 10th and I am sitting on an apartment balcony situated by the beach in Candolim trying to focus on writing this newsletter. It's a hard life as those of you who know Goa will testify!! Christmas is just around the corner and all the children are practising their songs and 'skits' - the children of all faiths attending our projects enjoy the festive season with traditional parties and the receiving of presents (usually one).

Damedem.

Hazel returned to a great welcome from both the children and the staff at the end of September and as usual is working the minimum of sixteen hours a day seven days per week.

Since the babies left there are now 12 children (10 boys & 2 girls) three of which are new. They are Noj – 8 yrs, Krishna – 8 yrs and Arbind who is 13 years old.

Staff and children suffered colds following the monsoons but happily are now well. Four of the children have been introduced to new anti-viral medicines, which appear to working with little side effect.

Of the babies who were moved after being found HIV negative Ankit has returned to his family, Karan & Deepak have been adopted leaving Avishkar & Selwyn awaiting adoption.

New Horizons.

Regrettably the owners of the building housing New Horizons have said that their daughter is returning to India and will require the house and we have to vacate before Christmas.

There are many empty properties in the region but finding somewhere at a reasonable rent is not easy.

Meera found a dream place but the owner was not prepared to rent it so in desperation we decided to rent a third floor apartment at the back of Calangute Market, not the best of locations and it was not in a very good state. However the owner agreed to empty the rubbish in three days (there was that much) so that we could arrange for cleaners and painters to make it habitable. Since then the owner of the 'dream place' has decided he *will* rent it to us and we are waiting for the contracts to be signed.

Starting Point.

The children here continue to flourish. There are presently about 23 children in regular attendance and it is expected that six of these will graduate to St. Teresa's High School to join those that have gone over the last two years. Malik, Biyama & Karishma the first three to graduate two years ago are excelling having attained two firsts and a fifth place in their examinations!

If you know of anyone willing to sponsor a child's education at £8 per month please let me know.

Candolim Boys.

Graham continues to keep contact with the boys home and we will continue our support as and when necessary.

Registered Charity Number: 1100768

New Projects.

Following a request from Graham & Tricia we are seeking sponsors for three girls who have been accommodated at Shallom House. Two of the girls are sisters aged 6 & 8 years whose father died on September 27th 2006 and whose mother abandoned them as she is too ill with Aids to look after them. If you know anyone who might be interested in sponsoring these children please let me know and I will send them details and photos.

The third is a 5 yr old whose father is a chronic alcoholic and whose mother is a prostitute and neither are capable of looking after her.

All three children lived in the notorious Vasco slum and were seriously at risk.

In addition we have secured Educational Sponsors for four children from Shallom House who have been granted places in St. Bartholomew's a local formal school.

Thank you to each of these sponsors for giving a child the opportunity of a better life.

Day Care Centre.

Due to the heavy work load of Dr Mina (who is not only the head of the Paediatric Unit at the GMC Hospital but is also a government officer with responsibility for the implementation of the Goa Childrens Act) opening the Day Care Centre will not be immediately possible. In the interim period she will be contacting others who have an interest in helping the disabled to see if there is help we can offer them until we are in a position to proceed further. Although unable at present give us her undivided attention Dr Mina is very willing to help and guide us until she retires in two years time when she would be able to devote all her time and experience to this project.

We asked Dr Mina if there were any other problem areas and she told us of the many children who need operations but whose parents are unable to afford them. We have asked her to contact us when such cases arise.

Christmas Draw. A big thank you to Annie Reeves who has donated a large cross stitch creation depicting 'Big Cats' as the main prize for our Christmas Draw which will take place on December 23rd. So far we have sold just under 400 tickets of which Jean & Bob Morris have sold 100!

Volunteers.

Hazel, Jo, Paul, Alex & Annie are here at present but Paul & Alex will be returning to the UK for a few weeks around Christmas. Because the children are practising their Christmas plays it is a quiet time for the volunteers but after Christmas there will be much more for them to get involved with especially with the move of New Horizons to new premises and the likelihood that the numbers of children attending will grow to 25+.

Sponsors & supporters.

A very big thank you to all our sponsors & supporters who continue to help us in so many ways. I hope that all of you who sponsor a child's education will receive a card and photograph before Christmas (the children are currently making them!) and I hope to receive them before I leave Goa!

May we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a successful 2007.

STOP PRESS The contract for the new New Horizons School is to be signed on 14th December and the children will move in on 18th December!!!