



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 017 December 2007

As the weather deteriorates and the Christmas Season quickly approaches us, we think of our supporters, friends and volunteers enjoying the approach of the Christmas festivities - Goan style, in India. Hazel and Jo are both busy with their respective tasks, Ann has already returned from her first visit this season, bringing some much needed “Anjuna” goods with her to re-stock our stall in the market, in time for the Xmas rush.

Project Reports.

Day Care Centre

It gives us great pleasure to be able to tell you that our Day Centre opened for business on Friday the 19th October. Situated in a quiet area of Porvorim, this spacious building has been equipped to a high specification. It has a modern kitchen, bathroom / wet-room, two treatment rooms and an office as well as the physiotherapy equipment needed. It has been painted in the Novi Survat colours and named “Novi Survat House”.

It is unique, there is no other of its kind in Goa, catering mainly for children with varying degrees of Cerebral Palsy, who are referred to the centre from the Paediatric Dept. at the Goa Medical Hospital. As in any medical referral, the children do have to fit certain criteria, one being that they cannot afford to be treated privately. We also consider paying for transport to and from the centre in certain cases.

The Centre is run by Dr Ashika Sawant and Dr Reena Braganza, who are Paediatric Physiotherapists, and Dr Mina D’Souza who is the senior Paediatrician at the GMC. A cleaner/maid is also employed, and our volunteer Jo has been helping with some therapeutic massage. The centre is now fully operational and is able to treat thirty six children each week, who attend with their parents/carers who are instructed and supported to enable them to continue effective care at home.

Some of you will want to visit when you are in Goa, whilst we are assured that a warm welcome and refreshments will be available, this must be strictly by appointment, which can be arranged through Jo, and because of the medical code of ethics, no photographs of the patients please.

Damedem

Since our last newsletter there have been several new arrivals, including two tiny babies, one of two months and the other just 25 days old when he arrived. This coincided with Sister Jessie being away, so it was down to Hazel, who was incapacitated with a bad leg to do the 2 hourly feeds (very small babies).

Happily the situation has now improved.

Registered Charity Number: 1100768

Starting Point

Continues to tick over as normal, we are awaiting a list of the children who are due to go up to St Theresa's. Our volunteers are arranging a Xmas party for the children.

New Horizons

As Starting Point, the school continues as usual, there are 12 children attending at the moment.

Fundraising

We have had some unusual and very welcome ideas that have raised money for us, our sincere thanks to all those who work so hard for Novi Survat, some of the ideas were: Bill and Jenny Smith donated a lovely 1950's dolls pram and dolls house that had belonged to their daughter, and a camera. These raised £90.

Sheila and Phil Scott have persuaded their local Wyevale garden centre to make us their Christmas charity this year, for their part they have volunteered to be Father and Mother Christmas every weekend in the Grotto, except one weekend that Clive and Pat will do!

Vanessa Chapman who has donated two framed cross stitch items.

Annie Reeves who has donated a framed cross stitch 'teddy bears' canvas.

Jenny De la Haye who has donated one of her paintings from her recent exhibition at "A La Ronde" in Exmouth.

John and Pat Pemberton; Pat has been busy making scarves for us to sell and John organized "first day" cover of the new Hovercraft "Solent Express" which is to go into service shortly, linking Kircaldy with Edinburgh.

The Rotary Club organized a community raffle on behalf of 100 charities from which we benefited by £395.00.

Jean Gray, who donated the cost of her airfare to Goa as she was unable to go herself.

Volunteers

A meeting of the Trustees and volunteers was held on Saturday 15th September at Exmouth. Plans for the forthcoming year were discussed, ideas were thrown around, a quantity of wine was drunk and a good evening had by all, many thanks to everyone who made the journey to attend.

Hazel returned to Goa on October 15th after her summer holiday in Exmouth (to renew her visa), she missed the children and they missed her.

Ann went out on October 27th and is home again for Christmas

Jo left England on November 10th and will be in Goa for the rest of the season.

Other News

We would like to thank all those who kindly donated wheelchairs; the child's one is invaluable in the Day-care Centre.

Dr Mina suffered a bad fall during one of the torrential storms and has fractured both her ankles – we wish her well and a speedy recovery, meanwhile she is making good use of one of the wheelchairs we took out!

We have heard that Visa applications are once again being accepted by post which will make things a lot easier for us all.

It just remains to wish everyone a very happy Christmas