



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 018 March 2008.

Project reports.

Day Care Centre

This has been a steep learning curve for all concerned; the success of this project, the first of its kind which we opened in October 2007, is exceeding all expectations. One little boy with Cerebral Palsy has improved so dramatically he is now able to go to school whilst another can now walk for the first time. News of the successes have got around and Dr. Mina is being contacted by many people wanting their children to be able to attend, however at the moment we have as many children as the doctors can cope with on an eight week planned therapy cycle. We are now thinking of the future, we may need to employ an Occupational Therapist to continue the good work that Drs Ashika & Reena are doing, it is also a possibility that these premises will no longer be large enough, so we have decided to spend no more money on the fabric of the building but will continue to provide equipment as it is needed. For instance Mosquito screens are being fitted to all windows & doors, padded mats are being purchased, some framed mirrors for the walls, a children's walking aid, and two pieces of play equipment, all due to the generosity of Paul & Jean Corbett, thank you. The donated pushchairs and baby buggies that we have taken out are being put to good use by the parents of children attending the centre.

Damedem

A number of the children have had chickenpox, which has caused concern, and the staff have been stretched to the limit, coping with illness and the night feeding of new babies. Matthew has developed a tumour on his face - affecting his eye and after spending 18 days in the GMC Hospital, (where a member of staff has had to be with him throughout, to feed and care for him), is now back at home but returning to hospital weekly to continue his Chemotherapy treatment. The tumour, happily, has diminished in size and we wish him well for the future.

Sister Barbara has left to take up another post, and Sister Sheba has returned temporarily to take her place and Sister Jessie has been on 15 days home leave. A new cook has also started.

New Horizons

With the continuing problems regarding their accommodation plus the ill health of the only teacher, it was found necessary to close the school again for a period of time. Following a meeting, the Trustees agreed to withdraw the financial support given by Novi Survat and the eight children that were attending at that time have fortunately been accommodated at Starting Point School. They have integrated well with the other children and have benefited from having regular lunches and tuition. Prior to the closure of the school the children had a lovely day out at Miramar Beach and playground with many thanks to Paul and Jean Corbett who funded the day.

Starting Point

The addition of the new children from New Horizons brought the attendance numbers are up to 30, which can be accommodated with ease. Eleven children will definitely be going up to the state schools this year, with another three going if they can come up with birth certificates in time. The new

Registered Charity Number: 1100768

playground equipment has been installed and Jane reports that the children cannot wait to finish their school work so they can go outside to play. This school also had a day out at Miramar Beach.

Volunteers

Now the season is drawing to a close most of the volunteers will be leaving Goa. A very big thank you to Jo, Anne, Paul and Alex for their contribution, with special thanks to Jo for all her hard work and for enduring the frustrations that working in Goa attracts.

Hazel will be staying at Damedem until mid – august when she will need to return to the UK to renew her visa, she has been very busy working “round the clock” especially with Matthew being in hospital. Whilst we will not have any volunteers to keep an eye on the projects, Graham and Tricia have kindly agreed to keep an eye on them, visit on a regular basis and deal with any day to day problems that may occur.

Sponsors/Donors

A very big thank you to all our sponsors and donors. Every donation is gratefully received and really does make a difference. It has been suggested that we should list everyone who makes a donation but unfortunately space does not permit, however we endeavour to send a personal letter of thanks to everyone if we have their postal/email address, we will continue to mention a selection of donors in each newsletter.

Sheila and Phil - who played Father and Mother Christmas at a local garden centre which resulted in a magnificent £1800 being given to us.

Eunice – who knitted 56 “chickens” to cover Cream Eggs for Easter.

Sam – who made pancakes at the office on Shrove Tuesday and sold them to her colleagues.

Pat – for selling cards, made from her wonderful photographs.

Paul and Jean – for items on the Day Care Centre needs list.

Tinah and her party from Norwich – for the “goodies” taken to Goa, the hairbrushes were a great hit.

Michelle and her ‘gang of 21’ child care students from Braintree College – for giving the children a wonderful day out.

Exeter College (E 2 E department) – for baking Valentines Day biscuits and selling them in the Guildhall centre for us.

Bearnes Primary School, Newton Abbot whose children had a ‘fashion & dance show’ and donated £100 to us from the proceeds.

To everyone who sent money for “treats” for the children.

To those who keep up the supply of books for our market stall.

Educational Sponsorship Scheme

We now have 48 sponsored children in the state schools

Apika has completed her 10th standard and will be taking her GCSE equivalent in April, if results are successful she will go to college to take her A level equivalent. She hopes to go to university and eventually train as a doctor.

It has been decided that all of our children attending the state schools should be issued with a 5 rupee voucher to be exchanged for lunch in the school canteen each day, as it had become apparent that some children were not having lunch. Jane at Starting Point has organising this and will settle the food bill with the schools monthly.

Other news.

Dr Mina following her fall and broken ankles is now able to walk and is back at work, but as yet is unable to negotiate stairs with ease. We wish her continued progress.

Our Trustee Alan Hickman has been unwell during this winter but hopefully will soon be on top form - if he keeps taking the tablets!

