



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 19 June 2008.

Hello to you all from a very sunny Devon. Very different to Goa which is experiencing very heavy rains at the start of the monsoons. Between June 1st and 6th 168 mm of rain fell and the high winds have caused many trees to fall resulting in loss of life and damage to numerous homes.

Project Reports.

Day Care Centre.

Drs Ashika & Reena continue to work their ‘magic’ on the children who I understand are responding well to their treatment.

Improvements to the premises continue to be made and mosquito netting has been installed over the windows and doors. Mirrors have been framed and fixed to the lower parts of the treatment room walls so that the children who are at ground level can see themselves which stimulates them during treatment. Additional mattresses are covering the stone floor to provide comfort to the children and avoid painful knocks.

Starting Point School.

Jane the senior teacher was married to Xavier on 12th June and we wish them a very happy life together.

The school has now reopened following the summer break and 30 children, many of them new, are attending. Konkani has been added to the curriculum as this is now a requirement in the English medium schools and the girls are being taught simple needlework by Rosie. It is hoped to commence computer studies later this year.

Nine children graduated to either St Teresa’s or Little Flower Schools and we wish them well.

Educational Sponsorships.

A big thank you to all of you who sponsor a child’s education and welcome to those of you who have taken up educational sponsorships this year.

Apika who was attending Little Flower School has now passed her 10th Standard exams (equivalent to our GCSE’s) with distinction gaining an overall pass rate of 78.3%. Congratulations to Apika who is now attending St. Xavier College in Mapusa studying for her ‘A’ level exams.

Damedem Care Home.

Two new children arrived in April a girl of 8 years and a baby girl aged just 3 weeks bringing the total to eighteen children.

Matthew continues with his chemotherapy but as expected he finds the treatment stressful.

The monsoons have brought added problems as the dormitory where the girls and babies sleep has become flooded with water seeping through the floor. It has become so bad that the girls and babies have had to be moved to another house in the next village some distance away. The house was completely empty and has to be furnished and new appliances such as a fridge made available. In

addition it means that two members of the staff have had to move as well resulting in everyone working almost round the clock.

Supporters.

Thank you to all of you who continue to support us in our work with as usual a mention of just a few:

Best wishes to Phil Scott who recently underwent a hip replacement operation. I am pleased to report that he is progressing well and will no doubt soon be undertaking the task of 'dodgy auctioneer'.

Thank you to Richard who completed five kilometres in a Swimathon on our behalf.

To Anne Lloyd who donated a 'six foot from head to tail' tiger which has so far raised over £70. The winner of the 'Free Draw' will be selected once the £100 has been reached.

The students and staff of Braintree College who on their return from Goa donated £150 towards the provision of a computer for Starting Point.

Helen who baked cakes and sold slices at £1 each to her Town Hall colleagues.

Newton Abbot Spiritualist Church who once again came up trumps at their 'Curry Night' raising over £600 requesting that some of it be used to purchase a lap top for the Day Care Centre.

The students of e2e college for baking and selling cakes in the Guildhall Centre, Exeter.

Volunteers.

Regrettably we are unable to offer those wishing to volunteer their services, short term, positions that would justify their financial outlay. This is because the projects we are involved with require permanent full-time staff, teachers, doctors etc. and there is insufficient work for those who cannot make this commitment.

Our grateful thanks to Anne, Paul, Alex and especially Jo for all their efforts. I am sure the children will love to see you should you travel to Goa in the future.

Hazel will be continuing at Damedem but will need to return to the UK in September to renew her visa.

General.

The price of food globally is, we are told, rising very fast and this is very evident in India where a sack of rice three years ago cost £3.50 now costs £6.30. Everyday fruit such as mangos has increased so much that local people can no longer afford them. Fish is becoming scarcer, with certain fishing bans in place, which in turn is pushing the price up. Those living in the slums for who there is little work are being hit very hard. The children who attend Starting Point school are given a two course meal every day and we are finding that on Mondays they are eating three times the normal amount as their parents have been unable to provide food over the weekend.

Case histories.

One five year old girl who recently joined Starting Point had previously been spending her time begging and sometimes worked as a fish seller in the local fish market. Unfortunately she had picked up some pretty bad language from the fisherman's wives and used it freely with her new classmates. The teachers have had to gradually teach her how to speak more politely.

Minakshi a twelve-year-old girl, whose mother works as a labourer and has to leave for work at dawn, has to do all the cooking, cleaning and laundry for her 5 brothers and sisters before she can go to school but each day she has completed her tasks and is ready for school at 9.00 am.

Trustees.

Alan Hickman has resigned as a trustee of Novi Survat, a decision he regrets having to take but he needs to devote time to other activities. Thank you Alan and Roz for your inspired efforts over the last couple of years and we wish you well in the future.

Also congratulations Alan & Roz on the birth of your grandson – I expect you will be off to Canada in the near future to meet the new arrival.