



# *Novi Survat Charitable Organisation*

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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## **Newsletter 21 December 2008.**

Outside the garden is white with frost – something we are not used to in Devon at this time of the year, does it spell a hard winter or just an early one?

Some of you will have already been to Goa others will still have the pleasure to look forward to. Unfortunately the terrible terrorist attack on Mumbai may have put some holidaymakers off from going and I understand that the visitor numbers are down but they anticipate and hope many more tourists will spend Christmas and New Year period there.

News from the projects:

### **Damedem.**

Hazel returned to Goa on November 29<sup>th</sup> shortly after the terrorist attack and said that security at Mumbai airport was very strict.

Although she had only been away for two months she arrived back to meet three new children that had arrived during that time taking the number of children residing at Damedem to twenty-one. They are still being housed in two separate buildings but good news: Caritas has commenced building the new home which should be completed within twelve months.

Matthew is still very poorly and needs daily injections and regular blood transfusions. He is confined to the sick bay but despite all this he remains cheerful and was pleased to see ‘Hazel Auntie’ return.

### **Day Care Centre.**

During the monsoon season a number of the children were sick and attendance for some was irregular but thankfully they are all now managing to keep their appointments.

The doctors report continued progress with some children responding quicker than others but that is to be expected given that they have varying degrees of disability.

Both doctors attended an informal course at the disability centre at the Mangalore Teaching Hospital in Karnataka which they found interesting and informative and enjoyed exchanging views with doctors who have had years of experience.

### **Starting Point.**

Of the 29 children in regular attendance three are siblings who are doing very well and as they each have birth certificates it is expected that they will be going to St. Teresa’s in June. Altogether we anticipate there will be fourteen children who will be ready to go to a main stream school although so far only seven have produced birth certificates.

Last year Jane (the head teacher) visited Aradi settlement to visit some of the children at home and enlisted the help of a boy to guide her. He was unaware of who she was and led her on a merry chase. He is reportedly very naughty at home but imagine his surprise when he started school in July this year to find Jane as head teacher! They say that since starting the school he has changed

***Registered Charity Number: 1100768***

dramatically and not only is he very polite but goes around each morning gathering the children who live near him to ensure they attend each day.

Sometimes it takes a long time to get the children used to going to school each day and one new girl was very naughty in school, was slow in class, and attended irregularly because she did not like homework but with the teachers perseverance is now a good pupil and goes to school every day.

### **Candolim Boys Home.**

Graham tells me that at last the work on the sink unit in the kitchen, which has taken over a year, has been completed and also the installation of a toilet block in the house.

We continue to provide recreational items such as cricket bats & balls and footballs which, with nearly forty boys, are always in great demand.

The next items needed are individual secure lockers where the boys will be able to keep their personal belongings. These have to be specially made and will cost in the region of £500.00.

### **Educational sponsorships.**

Photos of the sponsored children are in the process of being taken and it is hoped that their sponsors will receive them by Christmas. However with the schools being closed over the Christmas & New Year period any that we do not obtain now will have to be taken in the New Year and will be sent out as soon as possible.

The falling pound has resulted in the exchange rate falling to Rs 71 (so far). Coupled with this many costs are going up including school fees, exam fees and dinner costs which together have increased the costs per child by £24 per year.

### **Sponsors & Supporters.**

Our thanks go to:

Roger Staker a member of Exmouth Raleigh Rotary Club who has kindly been preparing our accounts for submission to the Charity Commission free of charge for the past three years saving us in excess of £400 per year.

Jim & Mo Brennan for donating a digital camera to Starting Point School.

Sheila Scott who raised £550 during her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.

Ann Varah & friends who donated over 100 cuddly toys which we have sold on our market stall.

Gill Pritchard & everyone who has donated books & bric-a-brac for our stall.

Patsy Trott & friends for bringing back goodies from Goa.

Elaine Chapman & everyone else who has taken clothes out to Goa for us.

To the late Miss Gane and Mr Morris who kindly remembered us in their wills and between them bequeathing £3500.

To the management of the Exmouth Indoor Market who continue to let us have a stall free of charge which is a great boost to our funds.

And to every one of you who continue to support us in so many ways – without you we would not be able to continue helping so many children who really need us.

Space does not allow us to mention everyone we would like to but I am sure you realise how much we appreciate your support

### **Finally**

To those of you who will be going to Goa, have a lovely time. To those who will be there during February I look forward to meeting you but to everyone of our friends, sponsors and supporters we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful Christmas and offer our best wishes for 2009.

