



# *Novi Survat Charitable Organisation*

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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## **Newsletter 022 March 2009**

I have recently returned from Goa where I had the pleasure of meeting so many sponsors / supporters and of course the children who we are there to help. Thank you to all who gave up valuable 'holiday time' to visit the projects and see for themselves where and how we spend your money. The 'credit crunch' that has resulted in huge price increases is causing problems in India especially for those who have very little to start with. The tourist industry is also feeling the effects of the economic downturn and the aftermath of the Mumbai terrorist attacks with some charter flights are going out with as many as 80 vacant seats.

### Starting Point

This continues to be extremely successful and this year 14 children will graduate to mainstream schools. Praise must go to Jane, Rozie & Monica, the teachers, who these days are assisted by 12 year old Parbin who has been at Starting Point since day one but who does not have a birth certificate and is therefore not eligible to progress. Thanks also to Gracie & Davalbi who between them look after the 'housekeeping' i.e. cooking, cleaning, washing uniforms etc.

Twenty two children plus the staff had a day out on Baga beach with lunch in one of the beach shacks - a once in a lifetime experience for some - our thanks to Pat & John Pemberton for sponsoring this and to John & Judith Alderson who treated the children to ice creams, and to everyone who contributed their time and money towards this day.

Jane who married Xavier last June is expecting a baby in July and we wish her well and look forward to news of the birth.

Thank you Jim & Mo for donating a digital camera so that we will be able to receive more up to date photos from the school.

### Damedem.

There are now 24 children here and some of them are very poorly. Hazel & the sisters work so hard working round the clock to make their lives as comfortable as possible and I don't know how they manage. There are four adults looking after 23 children whose ages range from 1 month to 13 years living in two separate houses half a mile apart, some needing 24 hour care and attention. Sadly I have to report that Matthew lost his fight for life on January 13<sup>th</sup> at the age of 8 years. Fortunately the new drugs now being given to the children are in the main being successful and there are a number of children who would have not be alive today if they were not being treated with them.

Those that were able to go had a great day out at Miramar beach & playground sponsored by Jim & Mo Brennan.

Sister Jessie is not enjoying the best of health at present and we wish her a speedy recovery. Sister Elizabeth will be moving to another posting shortly and we look forward to her replacement arriving.

Hazel will be returning to the UK in May to renew her visa but will only be staying for two weeks before returning to 'her' children. She is truly an 'unsung hero' and few can imagine the dedication

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she shows and the long hours she works often in very difficult conditions. Thank you Hazel from all of us.

### Day Care Centre.

I am unable to adequately describe the fantastic success the doctors are having with the disabled children who attend the clinic. To see children, who could only lay on the floor, unable to control any of their limbs, raise their heads or do anything for themselves, within a few months being able to walk is so rewarding and to the parents nothing short of a miracle. All credit must go to the Drs Ashika & Reena who are so dedicated to their work and who have infinite patience with the children.

Thanks to Newton Abbot Spiritualist Church and Jack's Patch, Teignmouth we now own a 'taxi van' that will be used mainly for transporting the children from their homes to & from the clinic. It has bench seats so the children can travel in a prone position and room to carry wheelchairs. After paying our driver and for fuel this will save us about Rs 2000 per month (£27), which is a considerable sum in Goa.

### Educational Sponsorships.

As from June 1<sup>st</sup> we will have 44 children at mainstream schools fourteen of which will be new to Little Flower / St. Teresa's schools and require sponsors.

Costs are spiralling e.g. luncheon vouchers have gone from 5/- Feb 08, 7/- Dec 08 to 10/- Feb 09. School fees, rent & uniforms have also gone up making the cost of keeping a child in school nearly £20 per month.

A number of you have been sponsoring a child's education since we started the scheme in 2003 when the cost was just £5 per month. Over the years we have tried to absorb the additional costs but find that this is getting increasingly impossible. We would therefore ask you to please consider increasing your monthly standing orders *to what ever you can afford* but as near to the actual costs as possible which is now £15 per month. If you would like a breakdown of the costs please do not hesitate to ask for a copy.

### Sponsors.

Grateful thanks to all of you who support us especially in these economically difficult times. Without your donations we would not be able to continue.

Paul & Jean who donated a fridge freezer & netting for Starting Point plus items for the Day Care Centre & sponsored a party for the past & present children of Starting Point.

Congratulations to Vivienne & Len Solley on their December 20<sup>th</sup> marriage and many thanks for their unselfish wish that donations be made to Novi Survat in lieu of wedding presents.

Jack's Patch garden centre in Teignmouth & Sheila & Phil who once again came up trumps with the 'meet Mr & Mrs Christmas' raising in excess of £3000.00.

Thank you to everyone who has helped by bringing back from Goa items for us to sell on our market stall.

In addition to those already mentioned a special thank you to Baron, Pat & Ian who have looked after our stall in the Exmouth Indoor Market whilst I have been away.

### General Information.

Following a question received from a potential sponsor I would like to assure everyone that we do not divulge any information held by us relating to sponsors & supporters to 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.

I mentioned in last June's newsletter how the price of rice had increased; another ingredient used extensively is onions which have risen in cost from Rs 12 per kilo to Rs 28 per kilo.

Let me end on a positive note and hope that you are all enjoying this lovely spring weather, that the recession will soon be over & that we will have a good summer!  
Best wishes to you all.  
Clive.