



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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The monsoon rains have continued well after the anticipated ending which should have been the end of September. The One Day International cricket match between India & Australia, which I intended watching on October 24th, was cancelled due to the outfield being waterlogged & on 13th November Goa was still experiencing heavy rain, gales & lightening storms forcing the closure of Dabolim airport for a time. Apparently it is the second wettest monsoon for 100 years.

Damedem.

A new boy Vinod aged 12 yrs has arrived, the three babies found to be HIV negative have left and gone to a centre from where it is hoped they will be adopted leaving 26 children currently in the home.

Many of the children have been sick which is usual during the monsoons but in addition Conjunctivitis has been going the rounds affecting almost all of them.

Hazel & the children have two more babies – but this time kittens called Ginger & Snowy – they will have their work cut out keeping the rats down!

The children received a new Yamaha keyboard plus a sound system thanks to Paul & Jean.

The new building still needs quite a lot of work to be done including mosquito guards to the windows, controllers for the ceiling fans, the outside ground works and the water catchment structure to quote but a few!!

Starting point.

The school was closed for three weeks for Diwali at beginning of November but resumed on Monday 22nd November.

At the end of October we had a school reunion party for all the children who have gone on to secondary schools. We played games and had snacks and took photos for their individual sponsors in the UK. Most of these children would not have had any schooling at all if they hadn't come to Starting Point and subsequently had sponsors found for their further education. It is wonderful for the staff and sponsors to see how these kids have grown into young men and women now speaking up to 4 languages and with hopes, dreams and ambitions for their futures. They are all doing very well at school, getting good grades and reports every year. Their families are still very poor and it is a sacrifice for the parents to allow their children to stay on at school when they could be earning much needed money. Most of the boys would have followed their parents into manual daily labour work in construction and many of the girls would have been doing menial work as house maids etc. Now with education they have a chance to have a much better life for themselves and their families. While they were at Starting Point the children had opportunities to go on various sponsored beach trips etc. However once they move on to the next school, even though they have their school costs sponsored there are no special outings or excursions. The children really appreciated the reunion party at Starting Point.

Day Care Centre.

Registered Charity Number: 1100768 (U.K.)

Chirag celebrated his 8th birthday with a cake for him & other patients on October 21st. Aryan who was paralysed down his right hand side when he first came to the centre is now walking unaided and is managing to do detailed movements such as feeding coins into a money box slot.

Here is an example of the sort of problems faced by disabled children & their parents - Suraj aged 8yrs was crying when being massaged at the centre so was sent with his mother to the GMC hospital for an x-ray which showed a badly dislocated hip. No doctor was available to perform the hip relocation so he was sent home on the bus together with his notes and x-ray results & advised to phone the hospital in a few days time to find out when a doctor would be available and to make an appointment.

Dr Smisha is on maternity leave; we wish her well and thank Drs Reena & Laxmi for putting in additional hours to cover her duties.

Educational sponsorships

A party was held at St. Point for all the children who have graduated from Starting Point, so that I could get their photos for their sponsors. In addition I was able to obtain most of the school reports but unfortunately a number are in Hindi so I will not send those to the sponsors until my return from Goa in early February so that some translation into English can be achieved.

Volunteers.

We are pleased to welcome Stephanie Chayter as a volunteer. Stephanie will be with us until the end of March with a break over the Christmas period when her family will be holidaying in Goa. We hope Stephanie that you will thoroughly enjoy your time with us.

Sponsors / Fundraising.

Thank you to Evelyn & Bob who donated money for a children's party plus clothes. To Roger & Julia for holding fundraising car boot sales and organising the collection of school dresses from schools in the Bristol area. To Exmouth Probus for their donations. Tina for her sales to work colleagues and all of you who continue to support us in these difficult economic times. You really do make a difference to the children's lives & who knows where they might be without your generosity.

An example of 'law & order' as experienced in India

In India 'summary justice' still prevails with aggrieved persons taking the law into their own hands. If you hit an animal (chicken/pig/cow) in the road or bumped a car / scooter the owner would demand you pay an extortionate amount of compensation – if you don't they will beat you up to the value of the damage. The more valuable the animal / estimated cost of repair the greater the beating! I drive very carefully!!

The following is a report published in the Herald Goa newspaper:

'A 35 year old man from Kharaswado-Mapusa was beaten to death by an irate mob, after he was caught while allegedly attempting to burgle a house in the wee hours of Saturday. According to reports the incident took place at about 1 am when Rama Kalangutker was spotted suspiciously on the roof of the house owned by Chandrakant Harmalker at Kharaswada.

On hearing some noise the inmates woke up and alerted neighbours. Suspecting him to be attempting a burglary, a number of residents gathered at the site and caught hold of Kalangutker. They beat him up mercilessly and later notified the police. A police team went to the site and later shifted Kalangutker to the Asilo Hospital, but he passed away a few hours later.'

Although a case of murder was registered no-one has been arrested or charged and it is unlikely the police will follow the case up. This is by no means an isolated case of mob 'justice' ending in the death of the suspect.

In case you haven't noticed Christmas is only a month away and we would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy festive season with best wishes for 2011.