

Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 045 December 2014.

It is now December 2nd and Christmas is fast approaching. No doubt you all will have been prepared for the festive season long ago with no last minute rush to send out cards, buy presents etc. etc!

Roger & I have just returned from Goa not knowing how the two weeks went by so quickly. We were able to meet all the sponsored children, with two exceptions, so most of you should be receiving an up to date photo in the post very shortly and in many cases copies of the students school reports.

Goa has a new airport terminal which is a vast improvement on the old one – however the administration has not changed and arrival and departure is still very time consuming and frustrating.

A large proportion of our time was spent on purchasing goods to be sold on our stall in the Exmouth Indoor Market. This can be very wearing, bartering for the right items at the right price in the hot and humid conditions which is then often followed up by having parcels stitched in calico and taken to the post office which alone can take over an hour each time.

We were however rewarded with some fine dining (in local eateries not tourist restaurants) and the odd ice cold beverage!

Day Care Centre.

There are still 30+ children attending the centre but we are without one of the physiotherapists who is currently on maternity leave. It is hoped to have a replacement very shortly.

We have been very fortunate to have occupied the present premises for the past seven years free of charge, but the gentleman who owns the property has asked us to seek

alternative premises due to personal reasons. We are in the process of looking for a suitable property that would be large enough to accommodate both the Day Care Centre and the school in the hope that it will be cheaper than renting two separate properties.

Starting Point School.

As usual the school is running like clockwork due entirely to the hard work of Jane the head teacher. Currently there are 40 children registered of which 35 are in regular attendance. We are also fortunate to have excellent support staff, Maria & Welly as teachers with Gracie & Divalbi looking after the cooking, cleaning and the many other day to day duties.

As mentioned in the Day Care Centre spot it is hoped that we can find premises that will house both the school and the Day Care Centre mainly because the rent on the school has doubled in the last twelve months and is likely to rise sharply again in the near future as well as the statutory 10% annual increase.

Educational Sponsorship Scheme

Apika, who appears to have fully recovered from her life threatening illness, will be taking her final degree examinations in early January and we are all looking forward to our first student to complete a university degree. She seems confident that she has managed to catch up on the studies she missed whilst ill and I am sure we all wish her the very best in her final exams which will result in her qualifying as a doctor (General Practitioner).

Some of the older students are making preparations for their futures: one is attending catering college whilst another is working in an accountants practise as well as attending college.

Two of the children who were due to take their school leaving examinations in June have elected to study for another year as they are not confident of passing this time.

Unfortunately two of the children who have been sponsored have, it appears, returned to their native villages in Karnataka and I will be in touch with their sponsors during the next few days. This is unfortunately bound to happen on occasions and we can only hope that they will continue with their studies wherever they now live.

The parents of another child have now both found employment and have elected to be responsible for her education. This is good news as it is great to see a family better themselves and means we can give another child the education they deserve.

Sponsors / supporters.

Zoe Price ran the 13 mile Great West Run on October 19th 2014 completing it in 2h 17 mins. and raising over £160. Zoe had been helping a friend train for the run and at the last moment decided to enter the run herself and kindly chose us to benefit from her efforts. Well done Zoe & thank you.

Thank you to Michelle and Rebecca who have looked after our stall in the Exmouth Indoor Market during my visit to India.

Thanks to all of you who make regular donations sponsoring children's education, without which there would be no educational future for these children. I hope you realise that you are offering these children a fantastic opportunity to find worthwhile employment when they leave school and so beat the poverty trap.

Thanks to all of you who make regular donations to the general funds of the charity. Without these we would not be able to run the Day Care Centre, contribute to the running of Starting point or make the ad hoc payments for all those unforeseen necessities. Grateful thanks also go to all those who make spontaneous donations, those who bring to me bags of coins they have collected, those who raise funds by holding car boot sales and those who donate goods to go to India. To Pat who is currently knitting dolls clothes for what must be the 25th doll all which are sold to raise funds.

To all of you, a heartfelt THANK YOU for your continued support – we could not function without you and we are aware that there are so many charities after your money, but the Tesco slogan 'every little helps' is so true when it comes to helping children of third world countries.

So to all of you from all the children, staff and trustees of Novi Survat, have a very Happy Christmas and may 2015 be peaceful and prosperous.

Clive.

