



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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September is upon us, the children are returning to school (not soon enough do I hear you say?) and many shops have Christmas cards, calendars and decorations on sale – just where has this year gone? Although we started off with a promising summer we seem to have had more than hoped for rain which will have spoilt many people's holidays. It has however been a bumper year for fruit and vegetable growing but annoyingly has encouraged the lawn and weeds to grow!

Roger and I will be going to Goa at the end of October where, amongst other things, we will hope to meet with all the sponsored children and obtain up to date photos and school reports to be passed on to their respective sponsors.

Day Care Centre.

We are experiencing severe problems with staffing at the present. Dr Ashika's husband will be taking up a post in America at the end of September and naturally Ashika will be accompanying him. Cheryl Ann has now obtained her Canadian visa and will be taking up an appointment in Canada in December and Smisha is unwell and has been advised to take three months off work. This leaves just Sharleen who is also seeking posts in either the UK or USA.

Richard is a 9yr old boy who walked for the first time in his life on Tuesday in the clinic; the therapists are overjoyed and so is he. He has been attending the clinic for the past six months and was born with spina bifida. He is now attending school and will need to work hard to catch up with his lost years. His IQ is normal but he had been neglected by his parents up till now. Even now it is an NGO, neighbours and the DCC staff who have made this transformation possible, and even now his parents are not showing signs of being bothered about his welfare.

Starting Point.

The reopening of all schools was delayed by nearly a week on government instructions due to the exceptionally hot and dry weather conditions in early June which killed thousands of people who suffered heatstroke or dehydration. Thankfully the rains came about the 8th June and the schools were able to reopen.

We have a new intake of 32 children to add to the 11 who have remained from last term. This is as many as we can cater for.

A big thank you to Jane who together with her husband Xavier have gone to a lot of trouble to ensure we have had enough of the right goods to sell at our market stall.

Jane sends me information on the children attending Starting Point and the following is one of them:

'Nisrat Nadaf, K. G. II student, she is 4 years old. Her dad Dastagir works in a hotel. Nisrat has 2 elder siblings. Her mom also goes house to house, cleaning houses (a casual maid finding work whenever she can). Both her parents are working hard so that they can feed and take proper care of their kids & provide them the basic necessities.

Nisrat, is not only a good student, neatly dressed; but she is a girl with good heart. She is a soft speaking girl & more concerned about others, especially the younger ones. She will wear her

uniform and then help the others to dress up and then take them to the kitchen to eat food & also feed them if necessary.

She is also a good helper to her mom, sometimes she has to stay back home to clean the house if mom falls sick. I feel really pity for this child and concerned for her. But after all these hurdles, she tries to cope with her studies & wants to achieve her goal, i.e. to become a Police inspector & become a successful girl'.

Educational Sponsorship scheme.

I am pleased to let you know that Apika has passed her final exam and will now commence her profession as a doctor. She will have to do three years internship working for the Goa Government based at the Goa Medical College Hospital and then will be able to follow her choice to become a General Practitioner.

This must be a great encouragement to all the other children and show them that with hard work anything is possible despite their poor beginnings.

Community aid.

Jane has for some time been visiting the migrant slums and taking them fruit, clothing and toys (that her son no longer needs) plus other items when finances has permitted with a weekly budget of £4 - £5. Thanks to a donation from Braintree College we have been able to extend this which will enable her to also supply a limited amount of basic food items plus flip-flops for those who do not have footwear.

In one of her emails to me she said 'I met one old beggar lady yesterday at Siolim. She was hungry & barefoot so I gave her a carton of milk, snacks and a pair of rainy sandals. She was very happy'. This act of kindness probably cost between £1.00 and £1.20.

To give you an idea of the financial hardships some people go through I am listing the average daily wage unskilled workers can expect. Bearing in mind that most will only find casual work and many only seasonal work for six months of the year. The cost of living is about one fifth of ours and these daily wage rates are far less than one fifth of those in the UK.

DAILY WAGE RATES ARE: Motor mechanic £1.80, Fish seller £2.20, Taxi driver £2.00, waiters £2.25, Maid 30p per hour, school assistant £1.00, Painter £2.50, Veg seller£1.80, Labourer (male) £4.00, (female) £3.50.

Sponsors / Supporters.

Thank you to Anne for all the lovely soft toys you sent for us to sell and raise money for our work in Goa. This comes at a time when her daughter is hospitalised for a transplant operation. We hope all went well and wish her a speedy recovery.

Information.

You may have read in the press about some people being overwhelmed by the number of 'begging letters' received from charities with which they have never previously made contact. This is because most charities 'sell on' their data bases of donors to other charities and commercial companies. I would like to reassure everyone that we neither send out begging letters nor do we sell or pass on any donor / supporters names or address to anyone. Although it is apparently quite lucrative the trustees of Novi Survat do not consider the practise morally acceptable.

My thanks to you all for your continued support.
Clive.

P.S If you have received this newsletter in the post and have the use of email please let us have the email address to forward future newsletters to and thereby save us the postage and envelope costs.