



# Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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## Newsletter 066 March 2020

After some wild and rough weather with gales and heavy rain during February which caused flooding and disruption to travel over many parts of the country we should have spring to look forward to.

Roger, Julia & I returned from Goa in early February where we had a lovely two weeks especially interacting with the children from Starting Point, the Day Care Centre and the graduates.

### Day Care Centre.

Visiting only twice a year gives us the opportunity of seeing the improvements in the children who attend the centre and the valuable work the staff do and the results they achieve.

One example is a little girl called Brenda who is Downs Syndrome. She first came to the Centre on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at the age of 9 months and was unable to do anything but lie on the floor. She attends the Day Care Centre three times a week which entails a one hour journey via two busses for physiotherapy. Her mother Cecilia has to carry her.

Now in January 2020 and at the age of 18 months she is able to sit, stand, turn around, creep across the floor and walk with support.

She is a twin and when born weighed just 1.4 kg (just over 3 lbs); her twin brother, who thankfully is fully able, weighed just 1.5 kg.



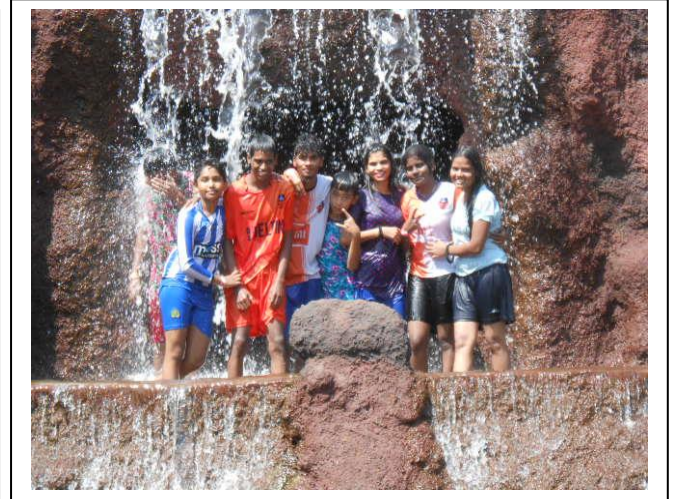
Brenda & her mum Cecilia

The staff organised a day out at a water park for many of the children and their parents and what a fantastic time they had. As well as being able to go in the water (which the disabled children loved) they also had party games such as musical chairs, pass the parcel, tossing a ball into a bucket, dancing and bingo all of which are therapeutic as well as being a time of enjoyment. Lunch and tea was also included and many happy but tired people travelled home on the coach.

## **Educational Sponsorship.**

One of the highlights of our visits to Goa is the meetings we have with the children who have graduated from Starting Point and now attend formal schools/college/university.

This time we managed to get 40 of them together for a visit to a water park, something none of them had ever seen or been to before. They had a wonderful time and it was a real pleasure to see them enjoying themselves so much. Grace (the school cook) had prepared a delicious lunch of Biryani following which some of them moved on to the adventure park before having tea and boarding the coach home when they asked “when can we go again”.



Scenes from the Water Park.

## **Starting Point School.**

The day out for the younger children consisted of a visit to the Mall de Goa in Porvorim which is a large shopping complex housing a soft play area, roundabouts and train rides. As last year one of the highlights for the children was the visit to MacDonald’s for lunch where the staff gave them all balloons – many of which did not last long. The children were fascinated by the lifts and escalators which they had not seen before. It was lovely to see so many local people interact with the children and one very nice store donated a number of good quality ‘T’ shirts for the children.

## **Outreach Project.**

We managed to make a visit to one of the local slums taking bags of apples, oranges and bananas for the inhabitants. It is difficult to believe that these people through no fault of their own have to live in such conditions and have done so all their lives (this particular slum has been there for the past fifteen years!). It is however very rewarding to see the children who attended Starting Point pre-school now coming home from formal schools and to realise that without your help they would be living as beggars or street children collecting rubbish.

## **Sponsors & supporters.**

Those of you who asked us to take or buy gifts for the children or gave money to purchase fruit/ eggs/ chicken etc for the school should by now have received photos of them being delivered and in some cases have received thank you cards or letters from the children.

Thank you all for your continued support, I only wish you could all see first-hand the difference your contributions make to these underprivileged children.

Best wishes  
Clive

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