



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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I am sure that all of you have been affected in some way or another by this terrible virus that is causing much suffering throughout the world but we hope that you and your families have been spared contracting coronavirus. We are fortunate to live in a country where our National Health Service is extremely good but despite this the UK has seen a terrible loss of life. India was not badly affected in the early months but the virus appears to be gaining strength recently and even in Goa which had very few cases the situation is getting serious. In view of this it is almost certain that Roger & I will not be able to visit Goa this year when we would have expected to meet all the graduates and obtain their photos and copies of their school reports. Hopefully Jane will be able to take their photos and email them to me so that I can in turn let their sponsors have an up to date photo but this year not copies of their school reports.

Covid 19 Food Fund.

A very BIG THANK YOU to all of those who responded so generously to our Covid 19 Food Fund raising just over £5000 which should ensure we can feed the families we look after for 5 – 6 months by which time it is hoped these families may be able to find casual work and once again be able to cope themselves.

In June we supplied 33 families with one month's supplies of groceries and in July 53 families benefited followed by 50 in August with each parcel costing £24.00. Some of these were families of our graduates the others being from the Sangolda slum and the amount of goods were so great it required Jane to hire transport and helpers to distribute the parcels.

This is an extract from one of Jane's emails which demonstrates just what a difference your donations make.



I hope you remember this lady. Her hubby died due to Covid 19. She was so pleased to see me coming with goodies. Her neighbours were saying she smiled today after a long time. The last she smiled was during my first visit last month with food to her family. All parents have said biggest ever thank you to you. They even folded their hands and said to say thank you to you. Some parents bowed down with tears in their eyes . You should have been here to experience it yourself. All fruits of your hard work I am taking it . I consider myself blessed to see their eyes sparkle with happiness. Nothing possible without your help. You are an angel in these people's lives.

Educational Sponsorship Scheme.

The schools should be reopening this month following the lockdown. In an attempt to keep education alive the government decided that all tuition would be via the internet but they did not take into account the fact that so many, especially those living in the slums, do not possess computers or smart phones and if they did there is often no connectivity! Furthermore the on line based tuition was to be accompanied by text books, but these are produced in Maharashtra State and the border between there and Goa was sealed to all traffic so no books were available!

We are proud that two of our students passed their 12th standard exams (equivalent to 'A' levels). Lorina and Altaf who both passed first class and who both have elected to go to Xavier's College in Mapusa to study for their first year B.Com

Congratulations also go to Afisa and Sushil who both passed their 10th standard exams.

Day Care Centre.

Due to the Covid 19 the Day Care Centre was on government instructions closed to help prevent the spread of the virus. Unfortunately the progress of the patients who attend depends very much on regular and continued physiotherapy, without which they will regress.

To overcome this problem the staff started taking one patient per day with each patient and parent observing strict rules of wearing masks, sanitising and having their temperature checked before entering the therapy room. One physio would then commence the exercises whilst a second made a video. The parents were then asked to perform the therapy until the doctors were satisfied they were doing it correctly. The parents are then sent the video and are asked to video themselves carrying out the exercises at home which they then send to the Centre to ensure that all is well.

This at least ensures that the patients are getting some exercises and this will continue until such time as the Day Care Centre is able to reopen and a full programme of treatment can resume.

Starting Point School.

Sadly the school has also been closed due to the coronavirus and we must wait until the government says it is deemed ok to reopen. However Jane keeps in close contact with the children and their families to make sure they are all ok.

Sadly Caroline's mother passed away on 16th June but on 7th June her son Jono was married to 'B' (who we wish a long and happy life together) and she became a grandmother for the first time on 29th August – congratulations!

Sponsors & supporters.

We are sad to record the passing of Muriel Holding at the age of 88 yrs on Mother's Day 22/03/2020 who has been a sponsor since 2008. We offer our condolences to John her partner and to all her family.

Thank you to the Retiring President Peter Vernon of Bradley Stoke Rotary who donated £300 from his charity fund.

Unfortunately all our fundraising events for this year have naturally been cancelled and as with all charities this has left a reduction in our income. We are very grateful to those who recognising this have sent us additional donations over the past few months – thank you.

The children of the UK are due back in school shortly and if they are like our grandchildren they are looking forward to, and in need of, seeing their friends again. We wish them luck and to all of you please KEEP SAFE and let us hope that the problems created by Covid 19 will soon be a thing of the past.