



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 069 December 2020

It seems a long time since this dreadful virus, Covid 19, struck and sadly many lives have been lost during the last ten months worldwide. There will be many of you in the retail and hospitality sectors who are wondering just what the future holds. We must hope that with the emergence of the vaccines that are being trialled there may be some light at the end of the tunnel and that life may return to some semblance of 'normal'. Due to my age it looks as if I will be one of the first to be offered a vaccine and I am looking forward to hopefully being able to return to Goa sometime before next summer and meeting the children and staff who I miss very much. The situation in India is not good both from the virus spreading point of view and the plight of those many thousands who find themselves in dire straits. Sadly some 130000 people have succumbed to the virus and this number is rising steadily. Those living in crowded slums have no chance of maintaining social distancing and avoiding contact with people affected by the virus.

Covid 19 Food Fund.

In September 2020 we supplied 52 families with food parcels which should last them for one month. In October the number was 53 and another 53 in November. Until such time as India opens its airspace and allows foreign tourists to visit Goa which will facilitate the opening of the hotels, cafes, bars and restaurants we envisage we will need to continue feeding these families for a few months more. The cost of these monthly food drops is in the region of £1300 and we extend our thanks to all who continue to donate to this fund which is in addition to our normal activities. It is difficult for us to imagine what it must be like to have no food, no money and no way of obtaining money but Jane has had people say how grateful they are for our help as without it they would have the option of dying from starvation or committing suicide. Sadly there are many thousands in this predicament and we are limited to how many we can help.

Educational Sponsorship.

This continues to be a difficult time for the students as the schools have not yet reopened. Some of the senior students are able to attend college but the younger ones are still having to cope with internet learning which is difficult when you do not own a smart phone or computer and live in an area where there is no connectivity. To overcome this these students are having to visit more affluent friends who have internet access and 'borrow' on-line time to complete their studies.

Jane has managed to obtain photographs of nearly all of the sponsored students except those who have returned to their native villages in other states to seek help from relatives. These will be sent to the sponsors in the next couple of weeks but they will not be accompanied by copies of the student's school reports which it has not been possible to send.

Day Care Centre.

The Day Care Centre is, like the schools, still unable to reopen for normal treatment of the children. However the staff are able to remain in contact with the children and their parents who are, under the direction of our staff, carrying out basic physiotherapy.

Registered Charity Number: 1100768 (U.K.)

Megha has sent me a report on all the children and it would appear that they are all progressing though perhaps not as well as they would if they were in regular attendance at the Centre. As from December 1st one child per day will attend the centre to keep in line with the government guidelines on social distancing and this will continue until we are allowed to fully reopen.

Starting Point.

The government of India has still not allowed schools to reopen which will seriously affect the children's learning. To offset this Jane has introduced weekly work sheets which the children are given each Monday. The following week Jane and her team will mark the sheets and hand out new sheets thus ensuring some academic continuity.

Financial.

We are very grateful for all donations received no matter how they come BUT I would prefer that if possible you avoid using PayPal. This is because they often take a commission (which I believe they should not do so for a charity) and even if you tick the box saying you wish us to know your name they refuse to notify us of the donor. They say we have to register for a PayPal account which we do not wish to do. One reason is if the account is not used for a twelve month period they make a charge of £12.00.

In September we received a donation via PayPal of £50.81 and in November £8.75 but we do not know who sent them to us. These figures may be made up of one or more donations so if you have recently made a donation to us via PayPal please let us know so that we can properly thank you.

Sponsors & supporters.

A lady called Margaret was visiting her local Sainsbury's supermarket and having completed her shopping and put it through the till discovered she had left her purse at home. She was asking the supervisor to store it in the chiller to give her time to go home and collect her purse when a lady customer on the adjoining till said "I will pay for that". Margaret assured her that it was not necessary but the lady insisted and passed her debit card for payment. Margaret followed the lady out of the store and taking out her diary asked for the lady's name and address so that she could reimburse her but the lady was adamant she did not require repayment. Margaret then promised the lady that she would donate the value of her groceries (£106) to our Charity which she very kindly did and donated a further £50 herself. This just goes to show just how generous and kind some people are.

Margaret belongs to Bradly Stoke Rotary who have also kindly sent us a donation of £110 to mirror the cost of Margaret's groceries.

Thank you Mike for donating your winter fuel payment to our Covid 19 Food Distribution Fund and very many thanks to all of our sponsors who are maintaining their donations despite the difficulties so many are finding themselves in and to those of you who continue to hand me bags of coins which you have saved - as the saying goes Every Little Helps!

Thank you to David Gingell for once again preparing our accounts for submission, to the Charity Commission, free of charge thereby saving us many hundreds of pounds.

We do not yet know what the UK's government's guidelines will be for Christmas this year, but I am sure it will be very different to what we are used to. In any event may I, on behalf of the trustees and all at Novi Survat wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful 2021.

Please keep safe and look after yourselves.