



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Another three months has passed and hopefully we are over the worst of the winter and can look forward to spring. The long dark nights are behind us and we have hopes of a warmer and dryer few months ahead. As India will soon be approaching the monsoon season and with some travel restrictions still in place I do not expect to be visiting Goa until October but thankfully the staff in Goa are very dedicated and I know that everything that needs to be done to help those in need is being done without my presence!

Day Care Centre.

In view of the alarming spread of the Covid virus the Day Care Centre was closed shortly after Christmas. The staff continued with their work via video link where possible and the centre was able to reopen on 15th February after the restrictions were lifted.

One event in the Indian calendar is Children's day which is celebrated on November 14th. Last November the staff of the Day Care Centre aided by Jane and many others treated a number of children along with their parents and siblings to a day of fun, games, dancing, snacks and a craft workshop. I understand it was a fun filled evening.



Some of the children who attended the Children's Day Celebrations.

Educational Sponsorship Scheme.

Following the closure of all schools due to the Covid pandemic in 2020 the government has now lifted the restrictions and the schools reopened on 21st February. The students no longer have to resort to online tutoring and they find attending lessons in school is much easier and better than learning on-line. I understand that they are all delighted to be able to meet their friends once again

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and to have those all-important face to face interactions. It is now two years since I was able to meet the students and I have no doubt that when I do get to see them I will have difficulty in recognising them as they will have grown up in that time.

Covid 19 Food distribution / Outreach work.

In December Jane and her helpers distributed food to 50 families. In addition, because it was Christmas, all the children received a present and sweets and the families additional items such as eggs and seasonal goodies.

In January 48 families were helped and 49 families in February. As well as families still requiring monthly food distribution due to the Covid situation we are including a number of families who have been identified as needing help due to the 'breadwinner' being disabled and unable to work.

It is worthy of note that the slum dwellers appear to be the least affected in catching the Corona virus. This is thought to be due to the fact that they live outdoors, do not mingle with the general population and because of their lifestyle (they live in poor conditions) their immune system is much stronger. The virus is affecting the 'middleclass', members of society who like westerners live differently and in a more sterile environment.

Starting Point School.

Due to the rapid spread of the Covid virus the government has decreed that all schools must close until further notice. Formal schools reopened in late February and it is hoped that the pre-schools such as Starting Point will reopen at the same time. In the meantime they are tutoring four children per day to keep them in learning mode! Jane would normally carry out 'outside' classes in the slums but unfortunately this was curtailed for a time when she and her family also contracted Covid.

We are sad to record the passing of Caroline's father William Petty on January 15th. He was a strong supporter of Starting Point and will be sadly missed.

Financial.

We continue to be blessed with very loyal sponsors and supporters which mean we are able to help those who have no income or are destitute due to disability by providing basic food rations each month. We anticipate this may be necessary for a few more months yet.

A big thank you to Mr David Gingell for again preparing our accounts for presentation to the Charity Commission free of charge saving us a few hundred pounds!

Sponsors & supporters.

I am disappointed to advise you that Mr Roger Worth has retired/resigned as a trustee of this charity. Roger has been very active over the past 11 years, fundraising, assisting at events and accompanying me on numerous occasions on my visits to Goa. He has gone far beyond that expected of a trustee and will greatly missed. He will however continue to support, sponsor and be an Ambassador for the charity. Thank you Roger for your hard work and support.

I am sad to report the passing of three of our sponsors Miss 'Etta' Steele, Mr John Briggs & Mr Gordon Thomas who had each supported us for more than ten years. We send our condolences to their families.

Best wishes to you all and thank you for your continued support.

Clive.