



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 081 December 2023

Firstly I must apologise for the lateness of this newsletter but I only returned from Goa last Wednesday and have been playing 'catch up'. The temperatures in Goa were 34 degrees in the daytime and 25 degrees at night so returning to this wet, windy & cold weather is a bit of a shock to the system!

Day Care Centre.

I am always amazed at the progress some of the children have made since my last visit, all due to the expertise and hard work of the physiotherapists etc.

I was privileged to accompany one of the home care teams on their weekly visits to families who for one reason or another are unable to attend the centre and meet some of the children.

On my first Saturday in Goa, the centre had organised a 'Father's Day'. This proved a great success where whole families were able to attend for respite and enjoy games, dancing and singing by the children. Usually we only see the mothers accompanying the children for their therapy but on this day the fathers also came.

Educational Sponsorship Scheme.

One of the students who also attends the Day Care Centre, Krutika, is due to have operations on both her knee and thumb to improve her walking and hand manipulation next week and we wish her a speedy recovery.

It is rewarding to realise the potential of the students who have attended Starting Point School since the age of 4 years and progressed through the educational system to reach university or similar. We have three who have gained internships with three different 5* Hotels, others who are apprentices or attend practical courses such as dressmaking/tailoring.

We have been able to obtain photos of all but one sponsored student so I hope to get these in the post later this week.

Starting Point School.

The children of Starting Point enjoyed a day out at the Porvorim Mall where they played in the soft play area until exhausted, were treated to a McDonalds chicken burger & chips and chocolate drink. This was followed by rides on the land train and radio-controlled cars. For half of the children this is their first experience of anything like this.

Earlier in the year we introduced a new menu which ensured the children had more substantial nourishing meals than could previously be afforded. Since the introduction of the revised menu it is noticeable that illness has been dramatically reduced.

The school is looking spick and span after having been completely repainted inside and all the windows and doors re-varnished.

Outreach work.

I managed to visit some of the families who live in the slums or those who cannot work due to health problems and take fruit to the children. It is sad to note that despite all the fruit that grows abundantly in India these families and children rarely enjoy them. Most of the money they can generate from working goes in the rent that they have to pay for the privilege of living in the slums! Some of the children who start at Starting Point have never eaten anything but rice & gravy in their entire life so you can imagine their delight at being given an apple, orange and banana each.

Sponsors & supporters.

A very big thank you to all of you who continue to support our work with a special thank you to those who have sponsored students who now no longer need our financial support. You have made an unimaginable difference to them and their families and when I meet them they are always full of sincere gratitude.

We are saddened to hear of the passing of John Lewis who was for some time an educational sponsor & take this opportunity of thanking his widow Caroline for nominating this charity to benefit from a collection at his funeral.

We are also sorry to hear that Colleen Longwill who has been an educational sponsor since 2008 is now in a home suffering from dementia. This cruel disease is having a profound effect on her husband Bill to whom we offer our best wishes.



A message from the children of Starting Point to which I add my own very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.