



# *Novi Survat Charitable Organisation*

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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## **Newsletter 082 March 2024**

Once again, my apologies for the lateness of this edition of our newsletter but I did not return from Goa until Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Having been used to wall to wall sunshine and 32 degrees for the past three weeks I am finding this much cooler and damp weather hard to adjust to!

During my time in India, I took the opportunity of visiting Chennai (formerly known as Madras) an Indian city on the east coast, in the state of Tamil Nadu for a few days. A very different experience to Goa, where English is widely spoken, so I had to rely on ‘sign language’ most of the time.

### **Day Care Centre.**

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March a comprehensive orthopaedic screening event was organised by our Day Care Centre team where sixty-six children with varying disabilities and accompanied by their parents were seen and assessed by specialists from Mumbai and Pune who advised on the best way forward and whether surgical interventions were considered necessary. Amongst those seen was Krutika who was due to have an operation in December but which was postponed due to breathing complications.

### **Educational Sponsorship Scheme.**

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March we held the annual get together of the students who have graduated from Starting Point and attend formal education. Some forty-eight attended with some unable to come because they have part-time jobs and were unable to get time off. It was lovely to see some of the older graduates who are no longer sponsored, and now in full-time employment, also attend. They all enjoyed meeting each other, playing games and having a meal at one of the beach shacks.

### **Starting Point School.**

The school continues to thrive under Jane’s leadership, and it is always a pleasure to see how well the children are doing. Gracie was performing her magic in the kitchen and the children get very excited every day when the smell of dinner wafts around the school. In addition to the mid-day meal the children now have a mid-morning ‘snack’ such as cereals or soup as many will not have had breakfast.

New regulations in India mean that children cannot start formal school until they are 6 years old so Starting Point will now have them for longer.

Claire, who has been visiting and volunteering every year for the past 20 odd years was also there and I was delighted to hear that she is getting married on 3<sup>rd</sup> May to Mark her long-term partner. Our very best wishes to you both.

One day the children were visited by a professional troupe of puppeteers from Rajasthan who gave some remarkable performances using various puppets which included a snake that caused mayhem! (See photo below).

**Registered Charity Number: 1100768 (U.K.)**

I am often asked by sponsors why I ask for small sizes of clothing. The photo below shows a European girl and a boy from Starting Point who are both the same age (3½ years) the difference being probably due to their diets but in general Indian children are a lot smaller than their western counterparts. (see photo below).



### **Outreach work.**

We continue to provide monthly rations to usually 30 families who are unable to provide for themselves due to illness or disability. Whilst in Goa I had the dubious pleasure of helping Jane and Gracie divide and weigh out from bulk sacks the many ingredients that are supplied which include rice, flour, sugar, semolina, tea, long life milk, oil, dhal, soap and I can assure you it is hard back breaking work for a few hours, I only hope those receiving the parcels appreciate what is entailed.

### **Sponsors & supporters.**

A very big thank you to those sponsors who, whilst on holiday in Goa, took the time and trouble to meet their respective children and to those who asked me to organise presents for those with birthdays due soon.

You can all be very proud of the input you have given to the children, and I wish you could experience, as I do, their profound gratitude for the opportunities you have given them.

Thank you all for your continued support, I only wish you could all see the vast difference you make to the lives of the children and their families.

My very best wishes to you all and I hope you all have an enjoyable summer.

Clive.

16/03/24