



## From the Chair

I hope you all have had an enjoyable Christmas and have started the New Year enthusiastically.

A major phase of the GVC is taking place; one that promises to bring greater assistance through extended programs and employment to the underprivileged in the village of Tivim, Goa. The building of new premises for the GVC is well underway and, we will continue to keep you up-to-date through our Newsletters. As this major event unfolds I hope you will get an understanding and appreciation of the challenges and rewards we face every step of the way. You can read more about the project in an article in this newsletter.

In addition to the dedicated individuals who serve as Trustees on the GVC Board, it is you, every day Australians who have been vital in bringing our efforts forward.

I give you a brief on the three families in the pictures to the right to show you the profound impact your donations make to the lives of the underprivileged.

In the first picture, about four months ago, Anand's parents had not means to buy food for the family for close to a week due to the father having been cheated out of his wages. Anand attended school daily having 'water' for breakfast. When this was brought to the attention of the GVC, the family was immediately provided with food supplies.

In the second picture, Sudha is an eight year old girl who lived in a village with her grandmother (her mother was unable to care and feed her) and was being groomed for marriage at age 10. The GVC intervened, and with the help of her mother brought Sudha to live with her mum and brother (Sudeep, GVC student) and attend the GVC Learning Centre. Sudha's letter has been reproduced in this Newsletter.

The third picture is of Kirti who was the first student at the GVC. Kirti is the little girl who played most days on the streets and helped her mother wash clothes and clean and cook. She too was being groomed until she was ready for a child marriage.

Under the GVC program, Kirti is now studying in Standard II at St. Ann's High School in Tivim and is an 'A student' in her class. She is also her class prefect and hopes to study medicine.

*Evelyn Pereira é Robertson*  
*Chairperson*



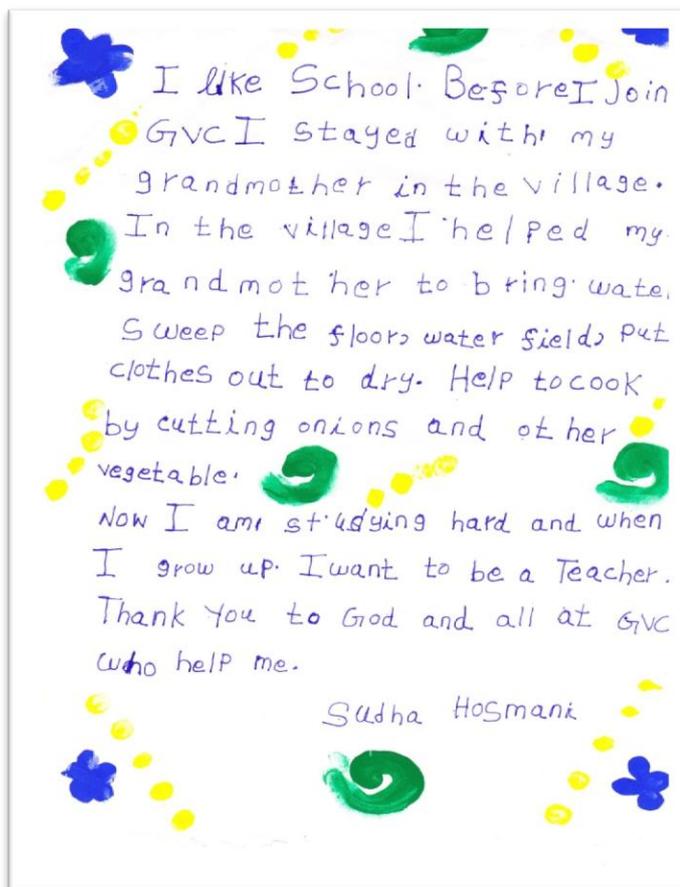
*GVC students  
Anil & Anand  
at home with  
their mum*



*GVC students  
Sudeep & Sudha  
at home with  
their mum*



*Kirti, the first  
GVC student at  
home with her  
mum.*



*A letter from a new student at the GVC Early Learning Centre - Sudha Hosmani*

Sudha is a very happy, enthusiastic and hardworking student. Sudha joined the GVC in July 2011. As she states in her letter, prior to joining the GVC she lived with her grandmother in a village where she was being groomed for marriage which occurs at the age of approximately 10 years. Since joining the GVC Sudha has been able to do things that all eight years old girls do. She loves making friends, playing, singing, attending school and having a normal life with her family. In a very short time, Sudha has almost completed the Lower and Upper KG Syllabus and looking forward to join St. Ann's School in June 2012.

Sudha is only one example of so many children who do not have the opportunity of a childhood due to their family's financial circumstances.

## Fundraising Committee

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The Victorian Fundraising Committee has held its first meeting in January. Phil Golmizel who heads the Committee brings a wealth of experience in the area of fundraising and we are delighted to have him on board. Phil is organising the first fundraiser in April with a Trivia Night - and it promises to be a lot of fun. Details will shortly be posted on our website and tickets are limited, so get in quickly.

If you are interested in joining Phil or would like to come along to future events, please email us at [contacts@gvc.org.au](mailto:contacts@gvc.org.au).

## Education Committee

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Since the new academic year June 2011, 20 children have been studying in nursery, Lower KG and Upper KG. Five of these children will sit an entrance exam for admission into Grade 1 at St Anne's school. Reports from St Ann's indicate that children who begin their basic schooling at the GVC Learning Centre continue to obtain results at the top end of the school average.

The children at the Centre also had dental check-ups and general medicals to address nutritional deficiencies and other medical conditions.

Currently, the GVC waitlist has twelve children awaiting admission to the centre. The opening of the new learning centre sometime during this year will see the development of more educational programs, including community education for adults. We also hope to commence computer education classes later this year. The opening of the new learning centre will mean an increased need for stationary and general educational supplies. If you are able to donate educational items, such as pencils, notebooks, art & craft supplies, etc, please write to us at [contact@gvc.org.au](mailto:contact@gvc.org.au).

**Ginelle Jones**  
GVC Board Member

## Key Documents

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### Annual Report

GVC has finalised its annual report for 2010/11. GVC produces an annual report to promote transparency and accountability of its activities. We encourage you to take a look at the annual report, which is available on our website at [www.gvc.org.au](http://www.gvc.org.au).

### Strategic Plan

GVC has reviewed and updated its strategic plan following a workshop attended by Board members in July last year. GVC's key strategic focus over the next 12 months is to consolidate existing operations in Goa and prepare for the transition to the new learning centre facility. Specific short-term initiatives include:

- Complete the construction of a new learning centre;
- Complete an organisational and resourcing review of GVC's operations in Goa with a particular focus on future resourcing requirements;

- Implement operational improvements in Goa, including communication, reporting and other service delivery activities;
- Update and expand the learning curriculum in preparation for transition to the new learning centre; and
- Further develop our fundraising capabilities in Australia, including establishing a committee in Melbourne, developing a marketing plan and increasing our focus on attracting corporate funding.

A copy of the strategic plan is available on our website at [www.gvc.org.au](http://www.gvc.org.au).

## Building Project Update

Substantial progress in the construction of the new learning centre has been made since site works commenced in March last year.



The building construction will be completed over the next few months and will be then fitted out ready for opening in the second half of the calendar year.

We require your continued support over the coming months to raise the funds for the fit out of the learning centre. Items that we will require include desks, chairs, electrical goods (fans, fridge and computer equipment), cooking appliances, a resource library, whiteboard and other miscellaneous items.

Please visit our website at [www.gvc.org.au](http://www.gvc.org.au) and donate to any of the items in the list. We would be very grateful for every dollar donated.

**Rod Jones**  
GVC, Board Member



## Volunteering with the GVC

At the GVC we are always looking for fun, positive, passionate and motivated people to join our team. We have plenty of openings in Hobart and Melbourne. If you think you have what it takes to make a difference in the lives of the underprivileged, drop us a line at [contact@gvc.org.au](mailto:contact@gvc.org.au) with a few details of where you would like to volunteer!

### Current Openings .....

- **Fundraising Committee Member (2)** (Hobart) - assist in setup operations of fundraising events to meet annual targets
- **Fundraising Committee Member (2)** (Melbourne) - assist in setup operations of fundraising events to meet annual targets
- **Website Administrator** (Melbourne) - maintain and update website as required (Wordpress based)
- **Public Relations Lead** (Melbourne) - raise the profile and awareness of GVC in Australia

**Horatio Cardoz**  
GVC, Board Member

## How you can help ...

We need your continued help to raise funds to support our early learning centre operations in Goa. By supporting us, you will help bring around long-term benefits that will transform the lives of the local children in Tivim and give them a chance for a better future. You can help us by making a donation via direct deposit to the following account:

Account name	Global Vaddo Charitable Trust - India Relief Fund
Bank	National Australia Bank
BSB	087 007
Account number	170394196