



Global Vaddo Charity

Providing hope and inspiration for the children of Goa, India

Newsletter....

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www.gvc.org.au

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GVC Learning Centre Progress

I am delighted to report on my visit to the GVC Learning Centre in Goa in November 2009. The Centre opened officially in March 2009 with four children. Within a period of nine months the numbers have grown and we are currently educating and feeding a total of 18 children between the ages of 3 and 10 years. It was an absolute pleasure to witness such happy and motivated children.

The children have done us all proud by applying themselves diligently in the last nine months. We now have three children; who have progressed to a stage where they will be able to sit a test for admission to St. Ann's High School in 2010. The GVC will continue to financially support these children through their education at St. Ann's.

Prior to their admission to the Centre, Kirti (6 yrs old) and Manjava (10 yrs old) were spending the majority of their time on the street. Parents of Farzana (6 yrs old), Kirti and Manjava were not able to send their children to school due to financial difficulties. None of the children spoke English or knew of Arithmetic.



Christmas at GVC's learning centre

From the number of admissions to the Centre, the need to help children and their community in Tivim has grown three folds in a short span of nine months.

The current premises are small and consequently we are limited in providing educational programs such as environmental studies, health and fitness and outdoor activities. Additionally, based on the rate of admissions thus far, the need for further education for many more underprivileged children is evident. We are urgently seeking new premises.

Our building project has been delayed due to onerous government building regulations in Goa and the lack of much needed funds. If you can support us please, visit our website at www.gvc.org.au where you can sponsor a child or make a one-off donation.

Evelyn Pereira é Robertson, Chairperson

Wine Cheese and Laughter

Wine, Cheese and Laughter certainly lived up to its name. Held at the Republic Bar on Sunday 8 November, major sponsor Bream Creek supplied tastes of their superb merlots, sauvignons and cab savs.

As the crowd of over 100 people mingled and taste tested various cheeses from Manassen Foods, James Parry's wistful tunes played in the background. Local comedian Tim Logan MC'd the event ensuring laughs were had by all. Auction time saw some keen bidders and one not so keen when he realised he had the winning bid for a somewhat feminine quilt. Two other eager guests walked away with a rare bottle of Bream Creek champagne each while raffle winners received gift vouchers from the Grand Chancellor and Young Nails.



Wine, Cheese and Laughter at the Republic

Wine, Cheese and Laughter was a great success, raising \$3 000. Although the thank you list reaches far and wide, the following people were imperative to the success of the event; Fred Peacock from Bream Creek Winery who was enthusiastic and generous in his support, Tim Logan (who has since seen the wisdom in combining comedy with wine drinking, now has a free show called ImproVine - see Facebook for *(cont.)*)

details), James Parry, Heath 'the sound guy' and Manassen Foods Australia.

GVC extends a huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event. The funds raised will help cover the costs of the additional students who joined the school late last year.

If you are interesting in running a fundraising event on our behalf please contact us at contact@gvc.com.au

Dianne Lloyd, Fundraising Committee Member

An Australian Volunteer visits the GVC Centre

"The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence" *Rabandrinath Tagore – Indian poet*

In December 2009 I, along with my parents, travelled to India – we were lucky enough to finish our trip with a few days at the Global Vaddo Charity Learning Centre. I had been to India before but it was the first visit for my parents. Nonetheless, we all arrived in Goa overwhelmed by weeks of constant confrontation of poverty and terrible living conditions. It was draining, and the worst thing was, it felt like there was nothing we could do - with a population of more than 1.1 billion and over a quarter living under the poverty line, the problem was just too big!

However, we left Goa a few days later, rejuvenated and inspired. The children of GVC showed us the best of India. Many children attending the GVC school come from rural families with a long history of illiteracy; their parents only speaking the local dialect.



Craft time - Erin with Rohit

For many, it seemed there was no way of ever *truly* escaping the poverty cycle. Now, after just a few months of schooling, the children can read, write, listen to and speak English (many surpassing their Australian peers). Furthermore, GVC has assisted families in finding appropriate health care, housing and employment, embracing a holistic view on children's education. GVC appreciate the role a supportive family

plays in a child's education, and the waiting list to enrol in the GVC Learning Centre continues to grow. The Learning Centre is a source of hope and inspiration for the local community. It is the children of GVC who will fulfil their dreams to become doctors, entrepreneurs, teachers, actors and anything else they put their mind to. *They* will create a new cycle - one of success and prosperity.

Needless to say, we had a wonderful experience and were impressed by the children's eagerness and capacity to learn and the amazing progress they are making. The children have left indelible memories for my parents and I: sharing reading time and learning new words; teaching them to catch a ball; the joy of watching them sing and dance; and Farzana trying to change the colour of my very fair skin by rubbing my leg with a leaf! My Mum boasts about the children's achievements and proudly shows photos as if they were her own.



Gareth Lloyd with Khusbu and Sudeep

We are very grateful to Evelyn Robertson the Founder of GVC, the teachers, the parents and especially the children for welcoming us into their school. We are all planning to go back...and I can't wait to hear the giggles when I walk in with my pale legs showing again – hopefully not an unfamiliar sight in the future.

Erin Lloyd, Fundraising Committee Member

Get involved!

GVC has established a number of sub-committees, including education and training, fundraising, and audit and risk.

If you have the skills and interest in assisting in the above areas, please register your interest by sending your details to contact@gvc.org.au or call Evelyn on 0438 334 841.