

## KOLKATA - SANCHAR

This name has appeared for the last 20 years in the MIBLOU-Info! Their programme of "Appropriate rehabilitation for disabled children in rural areas" from which benefit the population of 38 villages in the South of

Kolkata has intensified over the years. Used a model by different organisations at national level, it has become a very famous place of training. The lack of space in Sanchar's previous location became chronic. MIBLOU wished to help remedy this problem: in April 2001, Brian and Jo Millar, the founders of MIBLOU, had the honour to inaugurate Sanchar's brand new building well deserved for the marvellous work they do.



Tulika (left) & Gautam (right), Sanchar Founders with Brian & Jo Millar at opening ceremony.

## MIBLOU - WHO IS IT ?

At the beginning, a couple: Brian and Jo MILLAR, from Geneva, and an immense love and respect for all children. From 1960 to 1970: they had four children, "home made": Marika, Michel, Martin and Melany. From 1976 to 1984: six children without parents, come from India: Mina, Bablou, Mouni, Mitsi, Joseph and Savita. Altogether, today 10 children plus 8 grandchildren. The name Miblou came from the names of their two first adopted children, Mina and Bablou, and the association was founded in 1980 after Jo & Brian's first visit to India.

First 50, then 500, and since now over 20 years, tens of thousands of children have been nourished, helped and educated on the spot. They are tribal or rural, always destitute, as their parents. Several day care centres were opened over the years in different locations of India, welcoming children, to avoid abandon and often death. Each centre with its own director and local staff. Over the years, more and more local Indian organisations taking care of disabled children obtained MIBLOU's help, and today thanks to modern communications, they are in

permanent contact with the committee in Geneva. MIBLOU is a recognised public charity in India and in Switzerland. In 1994, after 15 years of voluntary activity in favour of destitute children, Brian and Jo found very able successors. Daisy Mottier and Marika, the eldest of the Millar's family, both with the same love and respect for the child, have carried the torch with enthusiasm in the service of MIBLOU. From 2000, Marika assumed total responsibility for MIBLOU's future. The wheel of life turns...

## MIBLOU is :

... A future for disabled children. .  
...The support to work on a co-operative basis.  
... A sensitising of Indian public opinion.

## THANK YOU

To you, generous donors who allow MIBLOU to help so many children to live a little more decently...

## YOUR DONATIONS

For economic reasons we have stopped pre-printing our "postal checks" with fixed sums, but here are for example, what is done with:

- 100 SF: you can offer an orthopaedic appliance to a child
- 200 SF: you can offer a wheel chair or an artificial limb
- 365 SF: you can sponsor part of a vocational training of a disabled person.
- 500 SF : you could sponsor part of the installation of an orthopaedic repair shop.

For the same reasons, we now only send you a few "postal checks". Please do not hesitate to tick the suitable box on the "postal checks" if you wish to receive more.

## CONTACT US

**MIBLOU**  
Case Postale 697  
CH 1214 VERNIER (GE)  
SWITZERLAND

Tel & Fax : 0033 450 422 603

Fonded in 1980  
by  
Brian et Jo  
Millar



INFO No 21  
December  
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2001 : 641 children equipped with appliances.

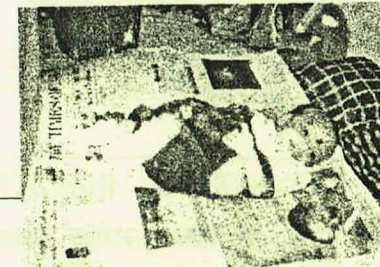
## Miblou continues the fight

A big "THANK YOU" to all of you for supporting this campaign. To date 641 children have been supplied with a mobility aids and have been taken care of, like Sashiq and Nandita, who finally could learn how to walk, play ball, sit up to eat plus benefit from the joys of everyday life, unknown to them before... Their integration in school is facilitated by the newer independence acquired. These brand-new type of appliances, made out of plastic are lighter (any foot wear can be used) and much more wear resistant to the tough Indian rural life. They are offered free by Miblou, thanks to our donors, to the children, who wear them with great pleasure.

SASHIQ, is an 11-year-old boy having polio and contractures at ankle since the age of 12 months. He lives in a small hut in the slum with his parents and three brothers and sister. When he was young he received a very heavy calliper, which his parents put aside because it was more harmful than useful! With time, his contracture became



worse and his movements more difficult in spite of using a walking stick. Finally, his parents accepted the trial of a new light calliper, and almost immediately Sashiq has become an example for the other parents of polio children of the slum.



NANDITA was born with clubfeet (congenital deformity too often neglected for lack of money). At one year, it is high time to begin the correction. She will undergo several plaster casting phases in order to rectify the position of her feet. Then a small splint will be made and physiotherapy exercises will be taught to her mother. Her parents are happy for the assistance of MIBLOU, because this father of three children earns only a few rupees a day and could never have paid for this treatment.

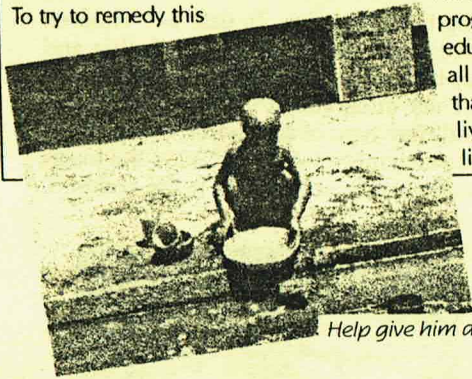
**Our campaign must continue because so many other children are waiting to be treated!**

## KOLKATA " Right to Education"

### ART. 28 - RIGHTS OF THE CHILD CONVENTION

Here is a well-known topic, but still today in India, millions of children are not provided education. An ONG of Kolkata revealed that in this city alone, 50 thousand children from age 5 to 9 do not go to school. Reasons given? Lack of schools in their district. To help keep the family, by being sent to beg. To take care of the young ones of the family. To work...

To try to remedy this



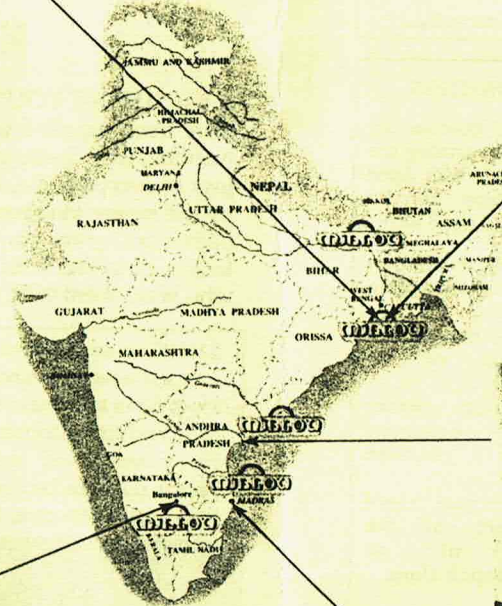
Help give him a chance to go to school...

problem, 1200 persons are going to benefit from a training to become a "barefoot teacher" and to create 668 small schools in various places of the underprivileged districts of Kolkata. MIBLOU is sponsoring the training of about approximately 150 of these teachers. This new program is over and above work already accomplished by this organisation; food, health and housing programmes, a shelter and education for street children, all this for the very poorest, so that they can improve their living conditions and start to live in dignity.

# THE PRESENCE OF



## IN INDIA



## KOLKATA

### SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN

In the heart of Kolkata, there is a very small simple school for deaf children and others suffering from a mental handicap. To encourage these children and especially to give them the desire for learning an easy job, MIBLOU offered sewing and knitting machines to their 40 pupils. Benches and tables were also built for the classrooms. To provide education for the deaf children, a new amplifier enables them to work better with their therapist,



individually or in groups. Great progress was noticed in the children following all these installations.

## BANGALORE - MOBILITY INDIA

### RESEARCH REHABILITATION TRAINING CENTRE

Despite the 2000 monsoon causing enormous problems during the digging of the building foundations, Brian and Jo Millar had, last April, the immense



Jo Millar cuts the ribbon!



pleasure of inaugurating the administrative part of the building financed by MIBLOU. Even if total construction is not completed, (our picture) the Centre will house, from 2002, the first thirty young disabled people registered for a one year training course in orthopaedics or physiotherapy.

## ONGOLE

### MIBLOU'S SECOND DISABLED WOMEN ORTHOPAEDIC CO-OPERATIVE



Marika Millar, Executive Director, with four future Orthopaedic Technicians

Here are four of the five young disabled women, who live on the East Coast of India, 250 km north of Chennai. Their lives radically changed since last year. They initially were looked after, operated, educated then sent for training courses in the field before being finally ready to leave their region for Bangalore. There MIBLOU offers them training as "technicians in orthopaedics", in the brand new Training Centre of Mobility India. The first appliance that they will learn to make during this training will be theirs! A marvellous example for their future customers, as on their return to the village in 2003 they will open their orthopaedic co-operative-workshop, and if all goes according to plan, they should be completely financially independent two years later.

## CHENNAI - HOME FOR MENTALLY ILL YOUNG WOMEN

This home takes in girls and young women found wandering in the streets, suffering from mental disorders. Some arrive in this large city by train, without knowing where they come from or where to go. They find in this organisation, help, support, care, and readjustment to the daily gestures of life and finally, get assistance to try to find their family if possible. In 1998,

MIBLOU had helped towards the construction of their new building. Since this summer, the 130 patients have been able to leave the small rented house, for their own spacious, friendly and accessible buildings. So that these women also benefit from adapted care, MIBLOU financially supported the salary of the medical staff to ensure stability in employment.