

# Let's celebrate together the 30 years of

1980



2010



## in India

### 2010 New ORTHOPAEDIC COOPERATIVE IN KOLAR DISTRICT



Here is a new project launched thanks to the support of MIBLOU, an orthopaedic cooperative in the rural district of Kolar, North-East of Bangalore, a very poor region where 45'000 disabled people live - the majority are women and children.

Among the disabled, 55 % are illiterate and 40 % of the children are not educated due to their disability. Because without orthopaedic appliances or wheel chairs, its impossible to go to school.

Three girls among the six disabled persons, working in this workshop were sponsored and trained as orthopaedic technicians at APD centre in Bangalore with MIBLOU support. These employees manufacture all kind of assistive devices, prosthesis, corsets, crutches, etc.

Owing the fact that certain employees are disabled, there is a larger empathy between the staff of the centre and the numerous patients.

This workshop offers, besides the production / repair of devices, services in physical rehabilitation, physiotherapy, occupational therapy. The staff also travels to the patient's home, when transport is impossible, to make home installations

MIBLOU is proud to announce that this programme received a financial support of the Rotary Club of Bangalore, as well as local private donations. More than welcome help.



## A FEW WORDS FROM MIBLOU DESK...

Dear Friends,

It is with pleasure that I take my pen to celebrate 30 years of MIBLOU with you.

Thirty years to meet challenges and to bring changes in the lives of thousands of children in India. Thirty years of support in favour of the disabled people, whatever the nature of their disability is. Every year was a step forward, with new projects. Some very innovative programmes were successfully realized. I think among others of the orthopaedic cooperative held by disabled women, with whom I had the joy to share in the celebration last year the 12th anniversary of their commercial workshop.

### **MIBLOU and CBR**

#### **(Community Base Rehabilitation)**

30 years ago, MIBLOU started to collaborate with a local NGO, and encouraged them to follow a very innovative method of work with the disabled children, which is called in India the CBR - Community Based Rehabilitation.

An approach that I like very much, which avoids the child to be placed in an institution, abandoned and forgotten. The CBR supports the child and all his family, the community up to a village level. Therefore MIBLOU does not have homes or orphanages, places of "forgetting". We rely on the responsibility of the parents, on their education by giving them confidence and by bringing them the necessary support so that they do not abandon their child.

### **W.H.O, MIBLOU and CBR**

Today, reference is made to CBR all the time, whether appropriate or not, this work method became common development without controlled. Therefore on October 27th, 2010, W.H.O (World Health Organization) launched at the world level new directives concerning CBR. The new strategy is a holistic approach conceived to fully assist the persons with disability by supporting their health, education, livelihood, social and their empowerment. It is crucial that the 5 criteria are combined to allow the disabled person to get out of the spiral of poverty and to enhance the quality of life of people with disabilities and their families;

MIBLOU is very honoured to have been referenced in this Community-based rehabilitation guideline published by W.H.O, with our project of latrines of Chamrajnagar. In that programme the disabled



1991: 1st official visit

people are more and more autonomous and can so find their dignity. The risks for them to catch diseases due to the lack of toilets facilities were considerably reduced thanks to our programme.

### **The small joys.**

I would like to share with you the joys and the emotion that I feel deeply during my travels in India. When I find a child who previously was left crawling in his hut, and who now stretches out his arms

and walks towards me... Or when I meet mothers who had lost all hope for the future of their child, who today have a smile and do not apprehend the future any more... They became stronger thanks to the mutual support and to the savings we taught them, which allows them to envisage the future more serenely. These events are repeated, day after day, during my visits in the villages or in the slums. It gives me such a happiness to witness all these changes that can be brought about....

**All this could not have been possible without YOU and the support you so generously give.**

**Thank you!**



2009 : distributing hearing-aids

Thirty years that MIBLOU is a part of my life and already 10 years since I took over the responsibility, supported effectively by the committee.

10 years I have seen India evolving, through the eyes of its disabled children.

10 years that you all believed in me and continued to support me in this work so dear to my heart.

Thanks to Brian and Jo, Philippe, Régine and Florence for their constant support and their trust.

I thank you all and I hope that we shall continue together this beautiful and great adventure over the next years...

With my sincere friendship.

Marika Millar



## SPASTIC SOCIETY AND MIBLOU WIDEN THEIR FIELD OF ACTION

After six years of effective work in 23 districts of the slums of Kolkata where hundreds of parents benefited from guidance and of care for their disabled children, it's time to spread our work to new zones.

Spastic Society weaved links with a local NGO working in the health field. Their collaboration consists in bringing knowledge in the disability field; subject which still frightens many and which makes the local staff run away!!!

Trainings is proposed to the teachers of the small local schools to help in disabled children's integration.

Screening is organized with the aim of getting in touch with the families of disabled persons across the slums, and gain their confidence. Then door to door visit are organised by the medical and social staff to follow the progress, as well as the implementation of personalized medical and educational program for each disabled person.

During these last months 144 persons have already been identified. They were taken care of by the Spastic Society.



Visiting the slum

### Ranjita walks today towards independence

Ranjita is 18 years old; she studies in a college and lives in a village of the district of Kolar with her parents and her two brothers. Her father is a daily worker and generally brings a few rupees home.

At the age of 8, an abscess appeared on her leg. As it was not looked after in time due to lack of money,

the infection spread. To save her life it was necessary to urgently amputate the leg. Since, she could not move around without her crutches. Last May she heard about the new orthopaedic centre and went to it. Everything was set up to make her prosthesis to replace her leg.

Today, she walked 2 km to go to college and is happy of her new life.



Ranjita yesterday

Ranjita today



## A DREAM FOR 2011:

### 30 YEARS OF MIBLOU-300 LATRINES...

The MIBLOU project for construction of latrines in Chamrajnager became a program referred in the CBR guidelines published this year by the W.H.O.

This project of community health in favour of the disabled is growing to the extend that the non disabled local population are also picking up the idea of them, and want in !

What a difficult task it is fight against the weight of traditions, beliefs and poverty. But finally the villagers have become aware that using toilets greatly improves their health.

**To date, 140 latrines have been built with MIBLOU help; which means 800 people have a new toilet.**



Pointing out unhygienic habits of the Indian population, The Mahatma Gandhi strongly emphasized always observing cleanliness by using lavatories, and wrote in Navajivan on May 24th, 1925.

« ....The cause of many of our diseases is the condition of our lavatories and our bad habit of disposing of excreta anywhere and everywhere. I, therefore, believe in the absolute necessity of a clean place for answering the call of nature and clean articles for use at the time, have accustomed myself to them and wish that all others should do the same. The habit has become so firm in me that even if I wished to change it I would not be able to do so. Nor do I wish to change it»

**MIBLOU like Gandhi has a dreams to change India's habits and to have built the symbolic number of 300 latrines to celebrate its 30 years. We count on your support for this enormous challenge.**



A happy family

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING

MIBLOU sponsored several students in orthopaedic training in the Mobility India - Bangalore training centre. After three years working in the orthopaedic field with an NGO, two of our students, who had brilliantly finished their studies are back for 18 months further training and so are eligible to receive a diploma from Mobility India & International Society of Prosthetics & Orthotics. This thanks to MIBLOU.



## MIBLOU...30 YEARS OF HISTORY



Jo, Marika & Brian celebrating the 30' of MIBLOU.

**At the start of it, a young anglo-swiss couple: Brian & Jo Millar.**

**Unlimited love and respect for children everywhere.**

They had four «home made» children :

Marika, Michel, Martin and Melany.

Then decided to adopt 6 more.

All orphans, all from India. Mina. Bablou, Mouni, Mitsi, Joseph and †Savita.

Now they have 9 grand children too!

Immediately on return of their first trip to India Jo & Brian decided they must try to help its children. MIBLOU was born out of the name of their first adopted **MI**na and **Ba**BLOU.

First 50 then 500 and now for 30 years tens of thousands of children have been looked after, nourished, had medical care, orthotics, physiotherapie, education and vocational training.

These children are destitute, untouchables, from rural or urbain slum areas living with their downtrodden families.

In 1994, when Brian & Jo retired, their eldest daughter Marika became Executive Director supervising a small committee of voluntary workers.

MIBLOU is a Non Governmental Organisation and assists many local organisations all over India with expertise and financial support. All fighting for the respect of the physical and mentally disabled children, to avoid parents abandoning their offspring. Worse, a child dying due to lack of assistance.

Each partner organisation uses locally employed Indian directors and personal, and is constantly in touch with MIBLOU Geneva, thanks to today's communication systems.

MIBLOU is an officially recognised charity in Switzerland and India.

## GRAMINA — PARTHO - HOME

During four years we shared all the research calls with you (Swiss donors) and the hope to find Partho, a young disabled man who disappeared in 2005. It is only on October 2009 that the police put an end to this tragic story following the discovery of his skeleton.

With the donations received during the funeral ceremony and various sports events, it was possible to offer to 15 young disabled adults a one year vocational training in the APD Training Centre of Bangalore.

Today, the foster parents of Partho, have created «Partho association» and decided to put their energy into a project in India.



MIBLOU suggested supporting the house for disabled children opened in 2007 by Gramina in North of Bangalore. Henceforth the home is called «Partho Home»; MIBLOU has handed over the project to this new organisation which is going to continue to support financially the home. A great thanks to them.

## BATIK WORKSHOP - KOLKATA

**In the heart of a very poor district of Kolkata there is a small workshop with two activities : a sewing class and the manufacturing of batik.**

These are two sisters that MIBLOU had sponsored 25 years ago who are responsible for it. For various reasons the workshop was closed during 2 years.

MIBLOU decided to grant a financial support to restart the workshop. Three women take care of teenage girls coming from poor families. They teach them basics of stitching, which will allow them to work and to earn some rupees. Batiks made on the spot are sold locally to passing tourists. MIBLOU also helps by selling some items on various occasions.



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