

**Let's
celebrate
together
the 25 years
of**



in India



Founded in 1980
by
Brian et Jo Millar

December 2005

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Reaching twenty-five years of any activity is generally cause to celebrate and to reminisce. And Miblou is no exception. Except as a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) that works in India, we are acutely aware that our massive job of aiding impoverished children, especially the disabled, is a continuing one, with little time or need to pause for celebrating our longevity!

That said; there are some definite milestones that our ever-faithful Miblou donors and friends can be justifiably proud. And it's these achievements that only became possible through your longstanding and unstinting generosity I want to emphasise now. You made Miblou strong so we could be strong too.



January 8, 1981 : Jo & Brian Millar laying foundation stone of the 1st «Day-Care Centre» Miblou.

So our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters, big and small, but especially the core of 150 donors who have been our guardian angels from the start in 1979.

You put your faith in our fledgling organisation and I'm sure we've not disappointed you.

Still today our major responsibility is to use our donors money wisely, sparingly and effectively.



1981 : Opening of the first Miblou centre, bamboo and thatched roof.

What has Miblou actually achieved then during its lifetime?

Despite very difficult beginnings, in our first 10 years we built and ran 15 Day-Care Centres from South to North of India.

In these centres, today all autonomous, hundreds of children were taken in for the day, nourished, educated and, received medical care. They were handed back to their parents in the evening.

In parallel and during the 90's, we forged and wove bonds throughout India with men and women who became faithful partners. We invested ourselves in their projects and took part in their actions in favour of destitute children.

Projects like the creation of training centres, where hundreds of young adults can

learn to be social, educational and orthopaedic workers To allow them the possibility of helping people with similar problems in their villages.

It's during this period, that to reduce the workload of my wife Jo Millar, Vice President, that Daisy Mottier, joined the committee as our Honorary Secretary. Together they guided Miblou towards more specific projects concerning disabled children.

Finally a special mention to someone who has been actively and tirelessly working with Miblou for all it's 25 years. Marika our daughter, full time Director, since 2000, she spends at least one month each year visiting new projects and reviewing ongoing ones. We are all in good hands.

Long live Miblou !



1980 : President of Miblou at a photo sitting for individual sponsorships...

Jai Hind !

Brian Millar
Founder President

MESSAGES OF OUR FRIENDS FROM HERE AND ABROAD

CONGRATULATIONS! What an achievement. 25 years of loving service to those less fortunate. It was not to be that I should take a greater part in Miblou but I have watched with interest and great admiration at its success.

I know the world is a better place and there are very many happier people in this world because of Miblou.

Despite all difficulties your determination, dedication and love won through and now you can look back with a just pride at all Miblou has achieved these last 25 years.

On behalf of all who have benefited from this wonderful work, THANK YOU to each one who has worked to make Miblou such a great success. Wish you a very HAPPY SILVER JUBILEE and God's Blessings on the next 25 years of loving dedicated Service.

Your loving friend.
Sister Sheila.

Ex Mother Superior in Chennai

THE CO-OPERATIVE OF LOCAL CRAFTS IS WELL ESTABLISHED IN KOLKATA



Proud young craftswomen/men in front of their new shop.

After having renovated the small arcade located in a district of Kolkata, the co-operative of local handicraft and tailoring had the joy of inaugurating its shop on July 27, 2005. It was a great day for the team of young disabled people, mainly hearing impaired, who manufactures items in an artisanal way.

These young people come from underprivileged environment. Working in this co-operative proves to them, as to their family, that it is possible for them to find an employment, which will ensure their independence.

Many customers already can appreciate the quality of their work: bags, handbags, cases, purses, shawl and blouses are embroidered with various techniques. For MIBLOU, it is a marvellous example of the integration of disabled persons into society. These articles are also sold in Switzerland by MIBLOU at the time of festivals or village fairs.

MOSQUITO NETS ACTION FOR POOR FAMILIES OF KOLKATA

Malaria is a disease, which each year kills 3 million people in the world including 1 million children aged less than 5 years. No vaccine is available to this date. This disease is transmitted to human beings by the sting of a female mosquito. It causes strong fevers and can have serious consequences for children and also for pregnant women. For those who do not have access to treatments, due to their expensive price, malaria is often mortal.

An easy way to prevent malaria is the use of mosquito nets. Unfortunately, they are still far too expensive for certain families. MIBLOU, concerned by this scourge, has already distributed 250 mosquito nets through various partner organisations. The beneficiaries are poor families, which have disabled children in the rural area of Kolkata. Miblou hopes to renew this action during the year 2006.



Mosquito nets for these villagers.

MESSAGES OF OUR FRIENDS FROM HERE AND ABROAD INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CEREBRAL PALSY

As we approach 18th November I look back on 31 years of Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy's (IICP) work with a feeling of pride and joy. It reminds me about the innumerable people who have helped us to achieve and expand our work. One of the first that come to my mind is MIBLOU, or rather the people who represent it...the Millar family and Daisy Mottier. MIBLOU helped us expand our horizons by supporting our training and community work both in rural and urban slums. It gave us a platform for spreading awareness about disability and augmented our work in trying to make ours a more inclusive society. The hydrotherapy pool has given fun and joy to so many young people with cerebral palsy. Thank you Miblou, Marika and all the people supporting MIBLOU, for all that you have done for IICP. We cherish this relationship and look forward to it continuing.

Sudha Kaul PhD

Vice Chair

Executive Director.

15 YEARS OF CBR ACROSS INDIA (COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION)

In 1990 MIBLOU was the forerunner in CBR, giving appropriate rehabilitation to the disabled children within the villages, within the community, throughout India. MIBLOU innovated in this field, giving care to these children and support to their families, all this within the village... and today, this way of proceeding is always of actuality!

During the past fifteen years, thousands of children have benefited of these methods, which improved, with time, and have been adapted to today's way of living. In the areas where MIBLOU works, the children are not hidden in their huts any more; on the contrary they are now integrated in the local schools according to their capacities. They do not crawl around on the ground any more, because, thanks to the orthopaedic appliances, the physiotherapy and the medical care they have learned how to live upright!

Groups are formed among the parents and the young disabled adults. They gather their energy together in order to fight for their rights to benefit of various supports. Meetings are organized where advice is given to learn how to do saving, and then these unions play the part of the bank. With the collected money, micro-loans are allocated to certain disabled young adults, in order to finance micro-projects to launch them out in life. All is done so that the disabled person can become financially independent of his/her parents.



Physiotherapy session
in the village

With micro-credits it becomes possible to open a shop to sell biscuits, candies, spices and rice, or to install the necessary tools to manufacture wire brushes or incense sticks. It gives also the possibility to buy a sewing machine, do tailoring, or make special embroidery with pearls on sari, etc...



Special chair adapted
to the life in the village

ONCE UPON A TIME...4 BOYS



1983: the four boys and their mom in front of
the first brick house sponsored by MIBLOU

Once upon a time, in 1980, in a small bamboo hut in the North of India, a poor woman was alone raising her four sons. She had a small employment in a poor rural hospital and with her small income could hardly manage to feed her children more than a bowl of rice. One day, her road crossed the one of MIBLOU and at this point it changed her life. A better future was in view for her children. The four boys were sponsored during numerous years. Education was provided; all finished their studies successfully, and entered in the professional life.

25 years later, MIBLOU is still in contact with the elder son. He lives in Bengal and has a good government job. All are employed in various sectors, married and have become fathers. A few years ago, they together obtained a loan, which enabled them to rebuild the small house for their mother. The previous brick one, financed by MIBLOU in 1983, did not resist an extra strong monsoon, after nearly 20 years of monsoons... Thanks to MIBLOU, they now all live happy with their families!

MESSAGES OF OUR FRIENDS FROM HERE AND ABROAD

Dear Friends of Miblou
All our congratulations for this beautiful birthday.
25 YEARS, THAT COUNTS!
What beautiful work achieved in India and what happy results!
You have managed to «creates happiness» as Raoul Follereau used to advise.
I've had the proof of this several times.
Our team sends her friendliest wishes for the years to come to you all.
Francoise Brunnschweiler
President Ass. Raoul Follereau
«Fight againt Leprosy»

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MIBLOU OPENS IT'S TENTH ORTHOPAEDIC WORKSHOP IN ULUBERIA

These last ten years, MIBLOU has been collaborating with Mobility India, an organization working in the disability field. With their assistance, Miblou has financed the installations of ten orthopaedic workshops that manufacture or repairs appliances or any other mobility aids. The people in charge of these workshops were trained by Mobility India, in their training centre in Bangalore, with the financial support



The technician trained thanks to Miblou, working in the new workshop.

of MIBLOU. The appliances are of a new kind, made out of light and resistant plastic, totally adapted to the rural Indian life. MIBLOU has already sponsored almost 2000 orthopaedic appliances thanks to our "action".

THANK YOU, TO YOU ALL OF YOU!

In 2005, the opening of the new orthopaedic workshop in the home for polio children in Uluberia was a joy for all. The children of the home will not have to travel hours by bus to go to Kolkata, in order to repair their appliances or to take possession of the new ones. This workshop is also opened to outside patients, a good way to use it at the maximum of its capacity.



Last trial for new appliances.

MESSAGES OF OUR FRIENDS FROM HERE AND ABROAD

Miblou is 25 years old, Bravo!

I met Miblou almost at its birth, because in these days, I met Jo Millar in Bagdogra/Siliguri (West Bengal-India). I was returning from a visit to Kalimpong, where I met with my fellow-members, Fathers E.Gex-Collet, E. Gressot, J. Hofstetter, who in turn also became friends of Miblou.

Later I met Brian and the large Millar tribe!

A cordial friendship was born, with on my side a very great admiration: in Miblou, no speeches, only acts.

I write these words of affection and good wishes on the Sunday when the Gospel brings these words to us: «what you did to one of these small children who are my brothers, it is to me that you did it.»

Hurrah for Miblou!

Henri Salina,
Bishop of St. Maurice
November 20, 2005.

MESSAGES OF OUR FRIENDS FROM HERE AND ABROAD MOBILITY INDIA-BANGALORE

What has to happen it happens. When I was young volunteer in RCFC Calcutta, I used to hear about MIBLOU from Jane and Gautam and used to hear how great is Millar Family and how MIBLOU helps small organization to stand on their feet. So, when I moved to Bangalore to set up Mobility India, obvious name came «Miblou». Approached Marika and rest all is miracle - the growth of Mobility India is more colourful than Bollywood movie. In every new initiative, MIBLOU stood behind and supported new ideas - result is Rehabilitation Aids Workshop by Women with Disabilities, support to grassroot organizations in remote parts of India, changing the life of thousands of children with disabilities and then, Mobility India's Research and Training centre - a historical milestone in the field of disability and rehabilitation for developing world. When people used to ignore us as we were small and unknown, MIBLOU trusted us, supported us which resulted in eternal relationship between Mobility India and Miblou. Organizations like MIBLOU are very rare and unique, 25 years is not enough - already promised to make a bigger write up for 50th Year.....

Long live MIBLOU and its supporters....

Sir Chapal
Founder of Mobility India
Bangalore

MESSAGES OF OUR FRIENDS FROM HERE AND ABROAD.

When one thinks of MIBLOU the first thoughts are those of Jo and Brian Millar. I met Jo in 1985 when I was a volunteer in an organisation in Kolkata. Jo was helping some Swiss families to adopt disabled children from Mother Teresa's place. Thus began a long relationship based on mutual respect.

Jo, Brian and the family fascinated me. The Millars, among others, helped me to study further. MIBLOU was in its early days. We did have long discussions about our dreams of a process, which will sow seeds of a change in the lives of poor disabled people in India especially, that of children with a people centred and controlled developmental perspective.

MIBLOU encouraged and supported me to pursue my dreams in my country. SANCHAR started working with disabled children, their families and the community in which they lived with a community based approach in rural Bengal. We started working at the level of the home and community where disabled people lived.

Persons With Disabilities have generally been an object of charity both from the perspective of the non-disabled and disabled themselves. SANCHAR's work enhances the process of bringing about a change in this perspective and institutionalise the process of inclusion in mainstream life. The work aimed at creating opportunity, confidence and capability of disabled persons to exercise their freedom to participate in mainstream life as equals. Today SANCHAR has grown many folds under new leadership and the principles and strategy of it's learning is now being practised by many in this country. MIBLOU continues to encourage and support this whole process.

The learning also resulted in MIBLOU playing a more focused proactive role in the development process of thousands of children with disabilities in India. In the process a lot of organisations and people like me have also grown. One of the uniqueness of MIBLOU is it continues to support new initiatives. Many support organisations hesitate to support new initiatives. MIBLOU continues to be an exception.

Miblou's especially that of Jo and Brian's support, encouragement, love and faith had helped me to grow as an individual. Like me, Jo and Brian have also retired. Later Daisy, who took up as honorary secretary, also retired. It was very heartening to see that Marika did agree to pursue Miblou's work.

Under her able leadership MIBLOU continues to be one of the sensitive, support organisations in our country.

I know that there are many people who were and are behind Jo, Brian and now Marika in MIBLOU. Congratulations to all of you for the 25 years of support to thousands of disabled people especially children who are poor in India.

Today in our country many changes are taking place - disabled children are included in all schools and a process have been initiated where more and more disabled people are on the way to become respected citizens with equal rights. You all in MIBLOU should feel proud that you also had played and continue to play a key role in this whole process of change. This is just the beginning. There is a long way to go. I am sure MIBLOU will continue to strengthen this process. Then there will be 50 years of MIBLOU and then 100...

Dr. Sri Gautam

Founder of Sanchar - Kolkata

MIBLOU...25 YEARS OF HISTORY

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 there are 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 Mina and BaBLOU.

First 50 then 500 and now for 25 years tens of thousands of children have been looked after, nourished, had medical care, orthotics, education and vocational training.

These children are destitute, untouchables, from rural or 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.