

Founded in 1980

by  
Brian et Jo  
Millar

~  
Décembre 2006



...a brighter  
tomorrow for  
disabled children  
...support to  
become self-  
supporting and  
autonomous.  
...informing  
the Indian public  
about disability  
rights.

## 2006: MIBLOU CONTINUES TO GIVE A BRIGHTER FUTURE TO SO MANY CHILDREN...

### KOIKATA

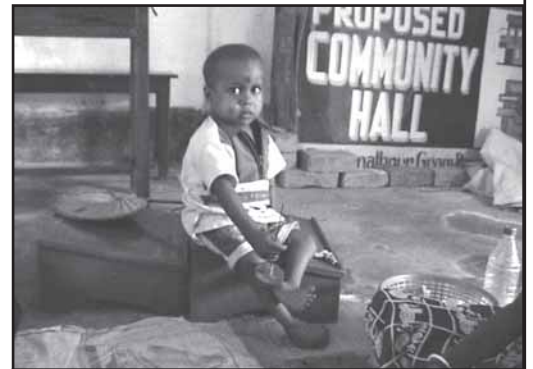


### JUST ONE AMONG MANY OTHERS

**Amaresh, what would you have become if your path had not crossed MIBLOU ?**

You would surely still be sitting in front of your hut by the railway tracks, watching life go by. For a 3 year old your look was dark, deep and anxious. People in charge of the NGO's Mukhadara and

Mobility India understood your case was much more serious than first imagined. The articular stiffness of one of your arms and your legs was worrying; it had quite a complicated name, arthrogryposis. Your parents wondered what they had done wrong at your birth, but were unaware that by giving you therapy and mobilizing your articulations, they could have prevented any deformity.



*First time we meet...*



*Happy to be standing!*

Today, it's no use crying over spilt milk, but look to a bright new future for you, so a smile would at last light up your face.

To brighten your days, you were sent to the village school, where the other children looked at you with curiosity. But you quickly knew how to conquer their hearts. During this time, all was getting organized for the surgical operation to allow you, to walk one day.

The surgeon operated you free of charge, and MIBLOU has financed the side costs of the operation, as well as a very impressive post-surgical apparatus which you had to wear for many long months. But, in spite of your pain, a spark of joy shined in your eyes. It will still take you a year of physiotherapy, carried out by your mum, before the word «walking» really meant something to you.

Today you have orthopaedic appliances, you dropped your crutches and found the necessary balance to move forward, happy and smiling, on the new road to life...

**ALONG WITH MIBLOU, LET'S GIVE THEM A CHANCE  
TO CHANGE THEIR LIFE FOR 1-SFR PER DAY...**



*On the new road of life!*

## KOLKATA



## INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CEREBRAL PALSY (IICP)

### Working in the slums of the city.

Kolkata, city of 15 million residents, of which 1/3 survive in shantytowns, according to the U.N. it's the city where one finds the most NGO's working in the field of health & education. Three large local NGO's, with years of experience, requested a technical and material assistance

from the Spastic Society of Kolkata.

The purpose of the project, financed by MIBLOU, is to bring services to urban slum families, vulnerable and economically disadvantaged who have disabled children. It is only today, with the assistance of Spastic Society, that the people working in these three NGO's became entirely aware of the problems a disability generates, and have come into contact with the families of these children somewhat different.

The majority of the parents have spent years taking their children, from one hospital to another, to dispensaries, and even to healers to find a solution. They have spent their small savings without ever obtaining any answers to their questions, nor a diagnosis of the «disease» of their child. The time spent in one day of consultation made them lose a part of their small daily income. So in the end they stopped



*Integration of disabled children in local schools.*

giving the necessary care. Today a few hundreds families are followed and benefit from various types of support. With its 30 years of experience, the Spastic Society is there to teach other NGO's, what daily care and education can be given to cerebral palsy children (CP). More than 300 teachers and social workers participate in training courses that enables them to approach, with confidence, these «different» children. They learn how to facilitate the integration of these children in the small schools of the district. The parents are also shown how to obtain official documents, as «disability card» and get a small governmental pension.



*Small local school.*

### Manisha, mother of Bhavani, CP child

«When I met some of the staff of IICP, I felt that my life would change. I had visited many hospitals to obtain a proper diagnosis and treatment for my daughter Bhavani. But nothing could be done. When the staff of IICP came over, I felt my child would get well. I decided to follow whatever they would say and demonstrate. Bhavani at that stage could not eat anything. She could only drink milk

so I started soaking biscuits with her milk. I follow the instructions given by the «didi's» of IICP for Bhavani's feeding and bathing. I place her in a tub with a doll, so that she can play while bathing by the water pump. Now I feed her with cooked mashed rice. Meeting the IICP staff has helped me immensely. Bhavani has improved a lot. Today I do not hesitate to take my daughter out the slum. I am ready to help other parents that have a child like Bhavani.»

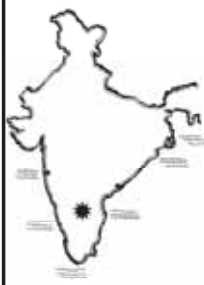
### Sudipta, volunteer for an NGO working in the slum

« I am Sudipta, I am a resident in one slum of Kolkata. I work as a volunteer with a big Indian NGO. I have been trained in the areas of family planning, recommending mother's milk, child vaccination and health care. I have visited home after home in my locality, explaining these issues to them. Slowly they have realised my visit has been of some benefit to them. I meet IICP members in the slum. Training and guidance from them has helped me to assess a child with cerebral palsy. I have been trained in how to care, feed and looked after these children. IICP workers are always here to respond to my questions. Their advice has recently helped me to identify a nine-month old child with cerebral palsy. With the guidance of IICP I have been able to explain to the family how to take care of their child. I have been inspired to do this work and shall continue doing so as long as I can.»



*Walking across the slum.*

## KARNATAKA



## ASSOCIATION GRAMINA

### Therapy for all

To the north of Bangalore, in a very poor rural area, far from the lights and the hubbub of the megacity, the Gramina programme continues to support the families of disabled children. In the small building, unfortunately not yet finished, two rooms were

inaugurated, presently used for administration and various medical consultations and social meetings. In collaboration with Mobility-India orthopaedic camps were organized and approximately 200



*Therapy session*

*Young mother and child supported by Miblou.*



children received orthopaedic appliances as well as crutches or wheelchairs. Repairs are done in the small repair shop of Gramina.

MIBLOU would like to particularly thank the few donors who have

allowed us, since 2 years, to cover the expenses of anti-epileptic medicine for 26 very poor disabled children, looked after by Gramina. Their life has changed, their epileptic fits became less frequent and some could go to school. Others, more disabled, received rehabilitation and care at home for daily activities in order to acquire a certain autonomy. The parents of these children regularly go to governmental authorities to plead for free anti-epileptic drugs. **One day, they will surely succeed ... it's just a question of time.**

### S.O.S for Women and Children "Women's Help Line"

**Gramina, three years ago, in collaboration with the local police, created a unit with the purpose to get legal aid for**

**women in distress.** Considering the great number of mothers of disabled children who need this help, MIBLOU decided to support Gramina in this programme. Women are very often afraid to present themselves at the police station to deposit a complaint. They are not treated with enough respect, because they are from disadvantaged social classes and can neither read or write. This state of inferiority means that they don't dare raise their voices and be heard. Their complaints are varied subjects like: complications after the marriage, harassing, dowries, tortures, sexual

abuse, violent or alcoholic husbands are the most frequent. But it can also concern problems of neighbourhood, or land expropriation.

Social training was given to the police officers. Then a lady volunteer opened a grievance desk, one day per week, in the police station. This initiative was such a success that now two people take turns and keep open all the week, with some financial support from MIBLOU. «Women's Help Line» functions as following: a speaking time is given to the two parties separately, then a conciliatory meeting is held, with or without success. Since the creation of this unit, 193 cases were solved without having to deposit a complaint in court and only 12 cases ended up in the courts. Among these files, several concerned physically or mentally disabled women.

## FOR CHRISTMAS... AND FOR ALL THE YEAR.



Order our beautiful MIBLOU cards...  
Thousands of children and young disabled adults in India get medical care, orthopaedic appliances, education and vocational trainings thanks to MIBLOU.

Each card sold is a step towards a happier life for them.

Thank you!



## BANGAIORE

## THE LIBRARY OF MOBILITY INDIA



**In the Training and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Centre of Mobility India**, the reference library, used by Indian and foreign students, had grown to the point where it needed a more professional reorganization. To do it, MIBLOU was able to send a Swiss voluntary librarian to Bangalore. The task was to teach the people responsible the use of a library software for cataloguing the books on an international

basis, this in order to facilitate accessibility of the documents by the students. Thanks to this new system of classification, all the students from India or from abroad can easily find in their city library, the specialized books used at the time of their training.

Also necessary, was the construction of closed shelving, in order to protect the books from the ever-present Indian dust. All these improvements were carried out with MIBLOU's financial support.



*The happy librarians.*

## WHAT YOUR DONATION CAN DO...

- \* Cover the cost of an appliance
  - \* Buy a wheelchair
  - \* Sponsor a disabled child for one year (education and medical)
  - \* Sponsor the vocational training for a young disabled adult
- ...and give support in so many other ways...

## THANKS...

... to our generous sponsors who allow MIBLOU since 25 years to assist so many children to lead a better life day after day with dignity.

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## CONTACT US

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## Switzerland

## 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 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 Mlna 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.

## ALL INDIA

## MIBLOU SPONSORSHIP & OTHER PROGRAMMES



**MIBLOU continues to propose individual sponsorships of disabled children.** Our desire is to increase assistance in this field. Currently 200 disabled children are sponsored. They receive care, therapy and education adapted to their disability. The results obtained thanks to the programme in the slums of Bangalore are very positive. All the families are happy with their children progress.

Today they can now face the future with serenity. **The program «Help to study»** has shows this year some pretty good results. 13 apprentices finished their training and found an employment.

**The action «Offer an Orthopaedic appliance»** continues and it is more than 500 children who benefited from appliances this year through our various programmes.

**A MIGHTY «THANK YOU» to all of you who gave the support, which makes dreams, become reality.**