

The Story of Blowlei Nursery School.

1. Some months ago a mother (Mrs. Bernadt) stood on the top of a sand dune overlooking the distressing area of Blowlei on the Cape Flats. Her own children having had the benefits of a good start in life and having attended a nursery school, she became determined to ^{try to} arouse the interest of a group of people to build a Nursery School for children in this vicinity.
2. A start was made by a grant of land by the City Council on the corner of Retreat Rd., and 1st Av., Retreat - next door to the Students Clinic.
3. A donation (~~of £1000~~) was given from the University Rag Fund. They had wanted a nursery school there as an extension to their clinic but were unable to do this through lack of funds. (This school with equipment is valued at about £4000) This was to be used specifically for running expenses of the Nursery School.
4. The scheme remained stationary for a while as no one seemed to have the necessary funds to build the school.
5. Finally Mrs. Bernadt and Mrs. Molteno - also very interested in the ~~the~~ project - approached the parents of the Barkly House Nursery School. Appreciative of the benefits which their children had received, and wishing to help other children in less happy and fortunate circumstances they decided to undertake the formidable task of the building and equipping of the school - and aware of the distressing floods in this Blowlei area last winter - felt that this was a positive way of helping toward the alleviation of suffering in this area.

How They Did It.

6. A building committee was formed, consisting of parents & teachers - one of these ^{parents} was the ^{architect} father who drew up the plans, another a builder who compiled a list of all the building materials required - and promised to supervise the erection of the building during his spare time. Indeed, had it not been for the enthusiasm and help of Mr. Gauthier the school would never have been built. The women on the committee undertook to approach various firms for donations of the building material - list enclosed.

7. A separate Fund Raising Committee was formed (The chairman Mrs. Wolman being most energetic.) undertook to raise money for the labour and costs of any building material not donated.

Some of the functions held have been: -

(a) Film & puppet shows for children during the school holidays - similar shows to be held these July holidays.

(b) One mother, a prof. photographer, took photos of the children at the Nursery School - ^{These photographs were} sold to parents.

(c) Street Collection - Rummage sales - Flower Demonstrations - Cake Sales - Hypnotist Shows.

8. At one stage we ran out of urgently needed funds and one of the parents lent us £500 free of interest for a year.

9. With the nearing of the completion of the building about £1000 of equipment had to be obtained - this now completed - and O. Day May 9th. when the school will start - official opening on Sat. June 11th at 10.30 a.m.

10. This not the end of the fairy story - but this school is the second to be built - this way through the efforts of a small group of parents - those at the Buxton Nursery School started a similar one at Athlone some years ago. This now has developed into a Training Centre for non-European Nursery school teachers. Three of the present Blawlei Committee being members of the original committee which started the Athlone Nursery School. Through the interest and co-operation of the parents of the Athlone Nursery School it is hoped to start building a second school there at the end of the year. So original goal of a Training Centre for non-European nursery school teachers with a chain of nursery schools has now been realised by the efforts of a few women who were tireless and dauntless workers and the generosity of Cape Town business firms. Two of the staff employed were trained at Athlone.

11. This school as well as being part of the Athlone Training Centre for Nursery School Education is to be run in conjunction with the University Students Clinic and C.A.F.D.A. as a family health centre - and to this end a Board of Management has been formed consisting of two members from C.A.F.D.A., two medical students from the clinic and two parents from the Barkly House Nursery School.

FUNDS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED.