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JOINT COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN
AND AFRICAN WOMEN

AND
BANTU CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY
FUND.

35

FIRST REPORT

1935 — 1937

JOHANNESBURG

JOINT COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN
AND AFRICAN WOMEN
AND
BANTU CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY FUND.

Executive:

Mrs. M. BALLINGER, M.P. President.
Mrs. C. D. BRIDGMAN Chairman.
Mrs. U. BARNETT POTTER Hon. Treasurer.
Mrs. M. GLYN THOMAS Hon. Secretary.

Sub-Committee for Bantu Children's Holiday Fund:

Mrs. E. HELLMAN. Mrs. M. NGAKANE.
Mrs. B. KOPS. Mrs. G. ORDMAN.
Mrs. E. M. PILISO.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN WOMEN AND BANTU CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY FUND.

REPORT

1935—1937

The Joint Committee of European and African Women was inaugurated in July, 1935, by Mrs. M. Ballinger, Mrs. J. D. Rheinallt Jones and others interested in the welfare of the African people and in racial relations. Its purpose is the betterment of conditions of life of the Native peoples of the Witwatersrand by means of the co-operative effort of European and African women, and its main concern is naturally the welfare of African women and children.

At the first meeting there were seven European and ten African women, and so great has been the interest in the work of the Committee that it now numbers 60 members of whom 23 are African.

Bantu Children's Holiday Fund.

A problem which was of great concern to the Committee from the beginning was the pathetic ill-health among the children in the Locations. Inspired by the example of the health-building work carried out among European children by the "Star" Seaside Fund organisation, the Committee decided to attempt the organisation of a Seaside Fund for convalescent Native children who could not otherwise afford a holiday.

The first obstacle—the difficulty of finding accommodation for Native children except in Locations—was overcome before the Committee had tackled the problem, for Miss Violet Makanya and Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Makanya offered to take the children into their homes in Imbumbulu, about thirty miles from Durban, amidst acres of play-space and within easy distance of the sea and of very beautiful picnic spots.

The sympathy of the "Star" management was gained and the appeal to the public for funds was launched through the correspondence columns of the "Star." The response to Mrs. Ballinger's letter in the "Star" was so speedy and generous that within a short time the Committee had obtained funds sufficient to send the first party to Imbumbulu.

The Bantu Children's Holiday Fund is now working under the aegis of the Children's Aid Society.

The First Trip.

In January, 1937, the first party of thirteen children left Johannesburg in the charge of an African teacher—a member of the Committee—and spent a dozen happy days in ideal surroundings. The sea air and wholesome, well-balanced food soon caused a great improvement in the children's condition, while the programme of picnics, organised games, sea-bathing, boating and sight-seeing trips made it a real holiday for them.

The Second Trip.

The success of the first modest venture and the continued generous response of the public of Johannesburg and the Reef to the Committee's appeal emboldened the Committee to send a much larger group for the July school holiday in 1937. Fifty convalescent children recommended by the doctors, health visitors and nurses working in the Locations, and drawn from Sophiatown, Roodepoort Location, Alexandra Township, Orlando, Pimville, Western Area, Benoni, Randfontein, Krugersdorp, Crown Mines and the Non-European Hospital, were sent off on July 5th for a fortnight's stay at Imbumbulu under the care of two African members of the Committee, well qualified to supervise the party from their experience as teachers in the Locations. The party returned very much improved in health and wildly enthusiastic. One little cripple boy, who had been taken straight from the Hospital ward to Park Station, cried bitterly when the time came to return to Johannesburg. He showed such marked improvement in health while at Imbumbulu, and lives in such distressing poverty here, that the Committee hopes to send him again with the third trip.

The Third Trip.

This is planned for December, 1937, when it is hoped to send another party of fifty for a fortnight's holiday at the coast. The cost of sending each child for one of these trips is approximately £3. This covers train fare, accommodation, food, trips to the sea, sight-seeing trips, a tour of Durban, etc., and also a proportionate share of the expense of sending two supervisors. The December trip will exhaust the funds of the Committee and early in 1938, therefore, the Committee will make another drive for funds to carry on this branch of its work. In spite of the endless deserving demands on the generosity of the public of Johannesburg and the Reef, we hope that they will feel that this is a cause that merits their continued support.

Although at first the Bantu mothers were reluctant to entrust their ailing children to the Committee's charge, fearing they would be drowned or would never come back, now, after the Fund has been in existence only one year, the doctors who give much of their time to work among the Native people are inundated with requests to recommend children for the holiday trip. Only a few days ago one of the doctors was approached by a deputation of twelve lads, headed by Michael who had been the naughtiest little boy on the July trip, each child maintaining eloquently that he

was weak and ill and needed a change, and imploring the doctor to send in his name for the next trip.

Unfortunately for Michael and his little fellow-conspirators, much as they would benefit from such a holiday, this will not be possible. The Committee, owing to limitation of funds, has to exercise a rigorous selection. The children sent to the coast must be recommended by a doctor as in need of such a convalescent holiday and also must be in such circumstances that, without the Committee's assistance, they could not be sent away from the squalor and dirt of the Locations.

Thanks.

Our thanks are due to the public of Johannesburg and the Reef for their support, to the doctors, welfare workers and nurses for their whole-hearted co-operation, to Miss Violet Makanya and Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Makanya who have made the scheme possible by offering the hospitality of their homes, to the staff of Adams College, Amanzimtoti, for their help, to the Railway Authorities for their unflinching assistance, to the "Star" for acknowledgement of donations in its columns and for extensive publicity, to the S.A. Institute of Race Relations for typing assistance, and to the "Rand Daily Mail," the "Natal Advertiser," "Umteteli" and the "Bantu World," for valuable publicity.

We greatly appreciate the gifts of stationery from Mr. H. W. Vorenberg and towels from Messrs. Ackermans, and also blankets at greatly reduced prices from Mr. C. H. Leon of the Elephant Trading Co.

We are very grateful to Messrs. Pearse & Ryan who audited our accounts.

Finally, but for Mrs. Ballinger's effort and enthusiasm the Bantu Children's Holiday Fund would still be a dream unrealised.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE.

In addition to the holiday trips, the Joint Committee is working for:

1. Nursery health classes for children of pre-school age in the Locations.
2. A convalescent home not far from Johannesburg for Native women and children discharged from hospital.
3. Increased and improved hostel accommodation for Native girls working in town.
4. Improved municipal transport facilities for Native women.
5. Rest-room accommodation in town for Native women.
6. Care of children of Native female prisoners.
7. Cultivation of a more humane and courteous attitude towards Natives.

M. GLYN THOMAS,

Hon. Secretary.

4th November, 1937.

THE BANTU CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY FUND.

Receipts and Payments Account for the Eleven Months ended 31st October, 1937.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
To Donations Received	£371 13 3	By Railway and Bus Fares	£101 15 9
		„ Maintenance of Children	94 8 4
		„ Blankets Purchased	5 0 0
		„ Stationery, Stamps and Sun- dries	3 19 6
		„ Bank Charges	8 4
			<u>£205 11 11</u>
			£205 11 11
		„ Deposit made with St. Andrew's Building Society	150 0 0
		„ Balance on hand with Barclay's Bank (D.C. & O.), Troye Street, Johannesburg	16 1 4
	<u>£371 13 3</u>		<u>£371 13 3</u>

We certify that the above Receipts and Payments Account is a true and correct summary of the Cash Book submitted to us by the Honorary Treasurer of the Fund. We have verified the Balances of Cash on hand at St. Andrew's Building Society and at Barclay's Bank (D.C. & O.), only.

Johannesburg,
3rd November, 1937.

PEARSE & RYAN,
Incorporated Accountants.

DONATIONS.

LIST OF DONATIONS TO THE BANTU CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY FUND.

£50.	£2/10/0.
Central Mining, Rand Mines Group. Native Recruiting Corporation, Ltd.	Lady Gertrude Albu. G. L. Bateman. E. B. Farrow. Anon. Union Corporation Group. The Board of Directors, Rand Daily Mail, Ltd. Stuttards.
£20.	£2/2/3.
Anon.	Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Gordon.
£10/10/0.	£2/2/0.
The "Star."	Mr. I. W. Schlesinger. L. Abrahams. Children's Aid Society. Herbert Evans & Co. Ladies' Guild of the Rosebank Union Church. Geo. Mackenzie. Sive Bros. & Karnovsky, Ltd. South African Bookmakers' Association.
£10.	£2.
Anglo-American Corporation, Ltd. The Benoni Mayoress' Charity Ball Fund. Hillman Bros., Ltd. General Mining and Finance Corporation, Ltd. New Consolidated Gold Fields, Ltd. Mrs. Whitehead.	Van Hulsteyn, Feltham & Ford. A. D. Viney. W. H. Ramsbottom. Walter Webber.
£5/5/0.	£1/10/0.
E. Jacobson. Z. Friedlander. M. B. Kaumheimer. Allan Roberts. South African Townships Mining & Finance Corporation, Ltd.	Mrs. Lucas.
£5/0/6.	£1/1/0.
Anon.	Dr. and Mrs. Anning. Barclays Bank. H. Britten. Mrs. E. M. Binyon. Central News Agency, Ltd. Rosebank Branch Church Women's Association. Church Women's Association. Mrs. D. M. Evans. Mrs. Festenstein. Linda Finger. Mrs. S. Gratus. Dr. David. Hayman, Godfrey & Sanderson.
£5.	
Sir William Dalrymple. Sidney J. Evans. Geen & Richards. Heymann, Gordon (Pty.), Ltd. A. S. Hersov. The Bishop of Pretoria and Mrs. Parker. Rand Mining Timber Co., Ltd. A. W. Reid.	
£3/3/0.	
Bernard Elkin. Anon.	
£3/2/0.	
Mr. and Mrs. Hellmann.	
£3/1/6.	
The Boarders of the Preparatory School, St. John's College.	

£1/1/-.

Hume Pipe Co. (S.A.), Ltd.
 "Princess Elizabeth."
 Lennon, Ltd.
 Lever Bros., Ltd.
 Randles Bros. & Hudson, Ltd.
 Fritz Rosenberg.
 Violet Rowland.
 Standard Woollen Mills, Ltd.,
 Harrismith.
 Vacuum Oil Co.
 Frank A. Stokes.
 Standard Bank of South Africa,
 Ltd.
 White's South African Portland
 Cement Co., Ltd.

£1.

Mrs. M. Hamilton.
 Mrs. Mullooly.
 Mrs. Hoernle.
 Mrs. Helms Helm.
 A.B.F.
 Miss McKittrick.
 Anon. (3).

Donations will be gladly received by the Hon. Treasurer,
 Mrs. U. Barnett Potter, "The Halt," Otto Beit Road, Parktown,
 Johannesburg, and will be acknowledged in the columns of the
 "Star."

16/-.

Anon.

10/6.

J. K. Martin.
 A. J. Limebeer.

10/-.

Anon. (2).
 Ernest and Elizabeth.
 Mrs. Routh.
 Frida Hartley.
 L. Towne.

6/-.

Anon.

5/-.

Mrs. Monala.
 Anon.

2/-.

Anon.

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