

ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MARGARET

OPENS NEW SUNSHINE HOME FOR BLIND BABIES.

Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, who is President of the Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies, which are administered by the Royal National Institute for the Blind, will open a new Home at Southerndown, near Bridgend, Glamorgan, on Thursday, 8th July.

Since graciously accepting the Presidency of the Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies in October, 1949, Princess Margaret has shown a keen and practical interest in the work they do for the blind children of Britain, and has previously visited the Home at East Grinstead.

The new Home has been made possible by the sympathetic interest of a group of Cardiff business men who, preserving their anonymity behind the title 'Tenovus', under the Presidency of Sir Robert Webber, J.P., D.L., and the Chairmanship of Mr. D.R. Edwards, J.P., have collected in donations sufficient to purchase, adapt and equip the premises. Among the many generous gifts to the fund was the sum of £10,000 from the Variety Club of Great Britain.

With the opening of these premises the total of Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies, catering for children up to seven years of age, is brought to nine, the average number of children at each being approximately twenty-five. The aim of all these homes is to instil confidence and self-sufficiency and to help the children to develop the ability to live a normal and useful life despite their handicap of blindness.

Though the homes aim at the creation of a family atmosphere, their object is not to take the place of the parental home. The best place for a young blind child, especially in infancy, is undoubtedly with its mother. Not all parents, however, are in the position to give their blind child the necessary amount of care and training. In such cases the Sunshine Homes give the children all that the fondest parental affection would give them were it able to do so. It is, however, most important that the children should not lose touch with their own homes. Parents are encouraged to visit them as often as they can, to write to them and to have them in the family circle for school holidays.

After opening the Home, the Princess will inspect the premises and meet some of the children. It is anticipated that she will leave Southerndown at approximately 4.0 p.m., and will leave for London from Llandow Airport.