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MiracleFeet Signs Agreement with Uttar Pradesh Ministry of Health as it Expands Presence in India

MiracleFeet has entered into a tri-party agreement with the Uttar Pradesh Department of Family Welfare and the National Health Mission, Uttar Pradesh. As of July 1st, MiracleFeet India will support and manage 8 clubfoot treatment clinics across Uttar Pradesh (India's most populous state), with plans to expand to 18 clinics in the first year.

The clubfoot program will be run in partnership with the National Health Mission, the Department of Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh and the Department of Medical Education, Uttar Pradesh. Under the agreement, children will receive free treatment at select district hospitals and medical colleges and will soon be provided MiracleFeet foot abduction braces through a partnership with Tata International's Bachi Shoes. The government will help provide medical supplies, assist with identification and referral of children with clubfoot, provide orthopedic surgeons and healthcare professionals, and support clubfoot clinic operations. MiracleFeet will fund and manage support staff to educate and follow-up with families, and will provide training, technical and organizational guidance, and innovative monitoring and evaluation tools. MiracleFeet's goal is to ensure that every child born with clubfoot in Uttar Pradesh has access to quality treatment. An estimated 7,000 children are born with clubfoot in Uttar Pradesh every year, making it a leading cause of disability in the state.

This agreement follows the hiring of two key leadership positions in the organization to support further expansion in India. **Suresh Subramanian** joins MiracleFeet as its Executive Director, bringing over 25 years of experience in developing and scaling programs to address critical social issues. Most recently, as the Chief Operating Officer of Educate Girls, Suresh oversaw dramatic expansion of the program to reach 1.8 million children in 21,000 schools. **Dr. Alaric Aroojis** will join MiracleFeet India as Medical Director, playing a role in India and globally. Dr. Aroojis is one of the leading authorities in India on the treatment of clubfoot. Previously, he was Consultant Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital and has held several leadership positions within the Pediatric Orthopedic Society of India.

"We are thrilled that Suresh and Alaric have joined our team to strengthen and expand MiracleFeet's presence in India. Our goal is to ensure that no child born in India with clubfoot has to suffer the pain and stigma of living without the simple, low cost treatment that he or she needs in order to run, walk, and play," said Kunal Premnarayan, Founder and Board member of MiracleFeet India.

Every year, approximately 35,000 children in India are born with clubfoot, a debilitating birth defect that



causes one or both feet to point inward and upward, making it difficult and painful to walk. MiracleFeet is working globally to support the Global Clubfoot Initiative's RunFree2030 plan, which envisions a world free of clubfoot disability in the next 15 years. Solving the problem in India is a critical part of the plan. MiracleFeet estimates that less than 20% of children born with clubfoot in India are currently receiving proper treatment. This partnership with the largest state in India is a first step to making sure that 70% of **all** children in India have access to treatment in the next 5-10 years. With support from MiracleFeet India's strong Board of Directors and growing team, MiracleFeet plans to raise a majority of the funds through corporate partnerships, grants, and individual donations in India to create an entirely Indian solution which will ensure long-term sustainability. MiracleFeet India is pleased that it has been awarded its FCRA certification from the Ministry of Home Affairs which will enable greater fundraising in India to support its growing presence.

MiracleFeet's work in India started in 2011. MiracleFeet has provided over US\$2 million (Rs. 13 Crore) to support the treatment of over 13,000 children and the development of clubfoot programs in 14 states through a partnership with CURE International India Trust (CIIT). This partnership terminated in July 2017 following the emergence of key differences in priorities and management style, including irregularities in the use of MiracleFeet funds.

About MiracleFeet

Founded in 2010, MiracleFeet is an international nonprofit dedicated to providing proper treatment for children born with clubfoot in low- and middle-income countries. MiracleFeet partners with orthopedic surgeons working in public hospitals to establish and support clubfoot clinics. MiracleFeet has helped over 30,000 access treatment in 27 countries. A child born with clubfoot in a low- or middle-income county can be fully treated for about \$250 USD, transforming his or her life forever. MiracleFeet is proud to be supported by Oak Foundation, Google.org, Clarks Shoes, Suncast, USAID-DIV, as well as many very generous individual donors and clubfoot families.

MiracleFeet India, headquartered in Mumbai, was established in 2014 by Kunal Premnarayan. Group CEO of the ICS Group and board member of MiracleFeet, Kunal was born with clubfoot himself and successfully underwent treatment in the 1980s. Officially known as the MiracleFeet Foundation for Eliminating Clubfoot, MiracleFeet India is a registered Indian charity (CIN #: U85191MH2014NPL257833) and tax-exempt 80G organization.

To learn more, please visit <https://www.miraclefeet.org/our-work/partners/india/>.

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