



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MiracleFeet Enters into Partnership with Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children to Support Clubfoot Program**

MiracleFeet India has entered into a new agreement with B.J. Wadia Hospital for Children, in the heart of Mumbai, to fund and manage the hospital's clubfoot clinic. Under the agreement, children will receive low-cost clubfoot treatment and MiracleFeet foot abduction braces at Wadia Hospital. MiracleFeet India 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. Known nationally as a center of excellence in paediatric orthopaedics, B.J. Wadia Hospital for Children was the first hospital in Western India to offer a comprehensive clubfoot program, recognizing the importance of ensuring that children born with this common birth defect get the simple treatment they need to run, walk and play for the rest of their lives. Clubfoot affects one in every 800 children born and is the cause of lifelong disability when left untreated.

MiracleFeet has been involved with Wadia Hospital's clubfoot program since its inception in 2011. The program has enrolled over 1100 children since it started, changing the trajectory of these children's lives forever. The hospital provides clubfoot treatment at very low cost to families who need it, using the Ponseti method - the gold standard treatment for clubfoot. Consistent with Wadia Hospital's reputation for cutting-edge research, the partnership expanded in 2016 when MiracleFeet partnered with Wadia Hospital and the Indian Institute of Technology – Bombay (IIT-B) to conduct a brace sensor study that would provide data to help improve treatment outcomes. Sensors were inserted into clubfoot braces of Wadia patients and collected data on how often the brace is worn and for how long. Results from this prospective clinical trial are expected to be available by 2019.

The clinic has been featured on PBS NewsHour and BBC World for its exemplary services and the innovative Miraclefeet brace. Dr. Alaric Aroojis, Honorary Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon at BJ Wadia hospital for Children and a leading paediatric orthopaedic surgeon in the country, who was deeply involved in conceptualizing and starting the program at Wadia Hospital, has joined the MiracleFeet team as Medical Director and will continue to oversee the program along with the expert orthopaedic team at Wadia Children's Hospital led by Dr. Rujuta Mehta.

"MiracleFeet has been a long-time supporter of our work. We are very happy that this renewed agreement will allow us to reach more children in a larger, more impactful and structured way enabling early treatment of clubfoot and a productive future free from disability," said Dr. Rujuta Mehta, HOD Dept. of Paediatric Orthopaedics at Wadia Hospital.

"As it is rightly said that 'the littlest feet make the biggest impressions in our heart', the work done by our Orthopaedic team at BJWHC in partnership with MiracleFeet is indeed a great example of long-



lasting impressions by positively impacting the lives of children who are affected with clubfoot. We have achieved many milestones since 2011 and look forward to continue our strong partnership with MiracleFeet and help tackle the problem of clubfoot disability in India to a great extent in the near future as well. We are focusing on innovation in both preventive and curative aspects for tackling this problem and are very positive of long-lasting outcomes from our partnership with MiracleFeet,” said Dr. Minnie Bodhanwala, CEO Wadia Hospitals.

This agreement follows the announcement of MiracleFeet India’s management of eight clubfoot clinics in public hospitals across the state of Uttar Pradesh through an agreement with the Uttar Pradesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the National Health Mission, Uttar Pradesh signed in July 2018.

MiracleFeet India’s goal is to ensure that every child born with clubfoot in India has access to quality treatment. An estimated 35,000 children are born with clubfoot in India every year, making it a leading cause of disability in the country. MiracleFeet India is working 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 India estimates that less than 20% of children born with clubfoot in India are currently receiving proper treatment.

#### **About Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children**

The Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children in Mumbai was established in 1929 as India’s first independent specialized Paediatric hospital, dedicated exclusively to healthcare for children, as recognized by the Indian Academy of Paediatrics. A teaching hospital of world-wide repute, this 300 bed hospital is propelled by a highly accomplished team of over 60 paediatric specialists devoting themselves to the care of over 100,000 children on an outpatient basis, and approximately 10,000 children as inpatients annually. BJWHC also has the largest Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in the West Zone. The Department of Paediatric Orthopaedics was the first department in the country to establish this unique super-specialty, even in the days when Orthopaedics as a branch was in its infancy. Since 1929, it has served multitudes of disabled and needy children suffering from complicated birth defects and neuromuscular disorders. The Department of Paediatric Orthopaedics is staffed by dedicated, eminent and well-qualified faculty and runs an established postdoctoral fellowship training in Paediatric Orthopaedics. In the last 15 years the department of Paediatric Orthopaedics has steadily catered to a case load of over 3000-4000 OPD patients per year and performs over 1000-1500 major & supra-major Orthopaedic surgeries and minor procedures annually. In its effort to provide universal healthcare, BJWHC also acts as a tertiary level referral center, is a nodal center for clubfoot in Maharashtra, and is the only center for Neonatal/Paediatric Dialysis in Western India. Located in the heart of Mumbai, the Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children pledges to extend its services to people, regardless of their socio-economic status. Believing strongly in the fact that quality healthcare should not be restricted to only certain sections of society, the BJWHC offers state of the art services for neonatal and paediatric care at affordable costs.

#### **About MiracleFeet India**

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/>.