



CHIEF MINISTER'S RELIEF FUND



CMs Relief Fund & Fortis Foundation supports treatment of children with Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) at Fortis Hospital, Mulund

*~ Children from underprivileged sections of society to be treated by Dr Vijay Agarwal under the project~
~ Twenty children from Palghar and Malegaon are the first batch to receive treatment under this project that is supported by Fortis Foundation ~*

Mulund, Mumbai, February 08th, 2017: In a heartwarming move, the **Maharashtra Chief Minister's Relief Fund** has extended financial aid to **Project Aasha** today for treatment of children with Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) from underprivileged sections of the society at the **Fortis Hospital, Mulund**. The initiative by Chief Ministers Relief Fund, Fortis Hospital, Mulund and Fortis Foundation's UMEED-Dhadkan aims at treating hundreds of children suffering from CHD. The children will be treated by **Dr Vijay Agarwal, Chief Paediatric Cardiac Surgery, Fortis Hospital, Mulund**.

Twenty children accompanied by their parents from Palghar and Malegaon in Maharashtra are going to be the first batch to be treated under this initiative. The noble ingenuity drew strong support from **Shri Praveen Pardeshi IAS, Principal Secretary, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Abhijeet Bangar IAS, Collector, Palghar District, Dr Mohan Jadhav, Director of State Health Services, Maharashtra, Shri Omprakash Shete, Chief, Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Cell, Maharashtra, Dr Kanchan Vanera, Civil Surgeon, Palghar, Dr S Narayani, Zonal Director, Fortis Healthcare** along with **Dr Vijay Agarwal, Chief of Paediatric Cardiac Surgery, Fortis Hospital, Mulund**.

The Chief Minister's Relief Fund provides financial assistance to the people of the state who are affected by the major natural calamities like flood, drought, fire accident etc. and to the economically weaker sections for treatment of some of the major diseases. Fortis Foundation which works towards providing healthcare service for children from underprivileged section of the society suffering from CHD and who may not have access to quality healthcare, have extended financial and medical aid to Project Aasha.

Shri Praveen Pardeshi IAS, Principal Secretary, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, said, *"Chief Minister's Relief Fund aims at providing immediate relief to the people in distress due to natural calamities and treatment of major illness. 'Project Aasha' does just that by providing financial aid to children from disempowered backgrounds, who suffer from Congenital Cardiac Diseases, which would be corrected by Cardiac Surgeons from Fortis Hospital, Mulund. This brings us one step closer in ensuring a healthy future for the children of the state."*

It is to be noted that Dr Vijay Agarwal along with his team successfully conducted Maharashtra's first Paediatric heart transplant in 2016. So far, the team has done six Paediatric heart transplants and all of them are leading a normal healthy life and has successfully operated on over 2000 children suffering from CHD.



CHIEF MINISTER'S RELIEF FUND



Speaking on this compassionate deed, Dr Vijay Agarwal, Head of Paediatric Cardiac Surgery, Fortis Hospital, Mulund, said, “Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) is an important health issue among children. However, with timely action and treatment, this condition can be corrected and the child can live a normal life. However, many a time, either due to lack of awareness or due to resource crunch, many families fail to get their children treated with sad consequences. Project Aasha is a noble initiative to provide treatment to children from the underprivileged section of our society.”

Dr S. Narayani, Zonal Director, Fortis Hospital, Mulund, said, “With support from Chief Minister’s Relief Fund, Project Aasha has become a reality today. We are humbled that our team of world renowned doctors will be treating these deserving children suffering from CHD. We, at Fortis, always strive towards world class medical care with best patient care. These children will not only be treated by the best but they will also receive best possible care at our hospital before they are discharged to lead a normal life. Let Project Aasha become ray of hope for all those children with CHD towards a brighter future.”

Mr Jasbir Grewal, Head, Fortis Foundation said, “Under the UMEED program at Fortis Foundation, our objective is to provide need-based healthcare programmes for children from marginalized sections of the society who don’t have access to quality healthcare. The surgeries required to treat children suffering from Congenital Heart Defect are unaffordable for those with limited financial resources. UMEED- Dhadkan ensures that through timely medical interventions and post-operative care, children can lead a functional, healthy and unfilling life”.

--

About Fortis Healthcare Limited:

Fortis Healthcare Limited is a leading integrated healthcare delivery service provider in India. The healthcare verticals of the company primarily comprise hospitals, diagnostics and day care specialty facilities. Currently, the company operates its healthcare delivery services in India, Dubai, Mauritius and Sri Lanka with 45 healthcare facilities (including projects under development), approximately 10,000 potential beds and 329 diagnostic centres.

About Fortis Foundation:

The work of the Foundation is supported and executed by two entities. The Fortis Charitable Foundation (FCF) - a Trust set up in 2005 and The Fortis Foundation (FF) - a Section 8 Company set up in 2013.

Working through a dedicated team of employees and volunteers the Foundations work focuses on 3 areas:

- AANCHAL :The Health and Well-Being of the Mother and Child which works with partners to support:
- Surgeries for children with congenital heart disease
- Treatment for children with cleft and lip palate deformities
- SEWA providing medical support in the event of a disaster and enabling Charitable Medical Infrastructure. The program also supports Free Charitable Dispensaries and organizes Health camps
- SAVERA : A program that provides access to preventive and remedial healthcare Information through different channels of communication. This includes specific interventions in the areas of Raising awareness against use of Tobacco and Imparting Training for First Aid Response & Basic Life Support

For information and details please visit our web-site at www.fortisfoundation.in



Government of
Maharashtra

CHIEF MINISTER'S RELIEF FUND



About Fortis Healthcare Limited:

Fortis Healthcare Limited is a leading integrated healthcare delivery service provider in India. The healthcare verticals of the company primarily comprise hospitals, diagnostics and day care specialty facilities. Currently, the company operates its healthcare delivery services in India, Dubai, Mauritius and Sri Lanka with 45 healthcare facilities (including projects under development), approximately 10,000 potential beds and over 330 diagnostic centres.

For more information, please contact:

Fortis Healthcare: Priya Bendre: 077385 70894 (priya.bendre@fortishealthcare.com)