

## **Six children undergo Heart Valve Replacement Surgery under Fortis Foundation and Being Human Foundation joint initiative**

*Heart Valves donated by Dr Vibhu Kshetry, internationally renowned cardiac surgeon*

**Gurgaon, April 21, 2016:** Aimed at improving the quality of life of underprivileged children, Fortis Foundation in association with Being Human Foundation is conducting six heart valve replacement surgeries between April 20<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 at **Fortis Memorial Research Institute (FMRI)**, Gurgaon. The surgeries will be performed by **Dr. Sandeep Attawar** and his team, together with **Dr. Vibhu Kshetry**, internationally renowned cardiac surgeon, who is known for his numerous philanthropic efforts.

The valves have been donated by Dr Kshetry. The surgeries will be free of cost under the Fortis Foundation's **UMEED** programme, which has facilitated as many as **5,188** paediatric cardiac surgeries across the country in the past decade.

**Dr. Kshetry is the founder of International Cardiac Outreach and Education at the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation, USA.** He has been donating heart valves of the latest technology and operating on patients in many developing countries for close to two decades.

“We are trying to make a difference in the lives of the common man and the best part of this is saving lives. That’s always the best part. More importantly, we are also focusing on creating international hubs for the training of medical professionals from those parts of the world that don’t have that facility,” **shared Dr. Kshetry.**

“This is an exemplary example of a philanthropic initiative which can act as a vital guiding force for multinationals in their CSR activities for underprivileged children. A large part of India’s population is young, and there are many children from less fortunate backgrounds with heart diseases. We need to, therefore, take necessary action to ensure a healthy future for them.” explained **Dr. Sandeep Attawar, Director, Cardio Thoracic and Vascular Surgery, FMRI.**

**Mr. Jasbir Grewal, Head, Fortis Foundation said,** “UMEED started in 2006 with the objective of providing need-based healthcare for children from marginalised sections of the society. Our areas of focus include children suffering from congenital heart defects, cleft lip and cleft palate. It gives us immense satisfaction to see that through timely medical interventions, expertise and post-operative care, these children can lead healthy, fulfilling lives.”

**About Fortis Charitable Foundation**

Set up in 2005, The Fortis Charitable Foundation (FCF) was constituted as a trust with Malvinder Mohan Singh & Shivinder Mohan Singh (The Singh Group), Japna Singh and Aditi Singh as its founder trustees. The Foundation works in an inclusive manner not only to align and synergise the social enterprise work of the group companies but to expand its circle of partnerships with Government, Non-Government Organisations (NGO's) and other Corporates .Fortis Charitable Foundation, through its dedicated team of employees and volunteers focuses on five committed programmes that work towards the health and wellbeing of Women; Children; Disaster Relief (Preparedness and Operations); Enabling and Sustaining Charitable Healthcare Infrastructure; Creating and Supporting Open Platforms for Health Information. For information and details please visit our web-site at [www.fortisfoundation.in](http://www.fortisfoundation.in)

**About Fortis Memorial Research Institute**

Fortis Memorial Research Institute is the flagship hospital of Fortis Healthcare Limited. It is a multi-super speciality, quaternary care hospital with a comprehensive team of clinicians and patient care programmes, supported by advanced technology and medical research solutions. Set on a spacious campus with a potential bed capacity of 1,000 beds, this ultra-modern facility utilises and showcases some of the latest technologies in use in world class health care. Some of the milestone technologies at the hospital include amongst the first pilot project for precision Radio-surgery in the world, integrated operating and procedure rooms, digitized critical care cubicles, advanced Cath-labs, transplant rooms, endoscopy suites, private birthing centres, a state-of-the-art radiation wing and a stem cell lab to name a few facilities. A range of thoughtful services and health facilities for patients and their attending family include several Art 'n' Health programmes to recuperate, a mini theatre to de-stress, retail therapy outlets for immediate needs and a food court providing a choice of dining options to replenish energies.

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