

# FREE Polio Operation Camp 2004 Report

By POLIO CHILD RELIEF MUMBAI, Project Manager Josef Suess

Last year, we at **POLIO CHILD RELIEF Mumbai** decided to organize a free Polio Operation Camp for many handicapped slum children who reside in our area. India still has 70% of the world's polio cases, so the need here is great. And their families, many of whom live in very crowded conditions with little food or money, could never afford the operations for their crippled children otherwise. We have helped over 500 children individually in the past six years, but now we felt it was time to organize a camp on a larger scale.

Some of our members had attended Polio Camps earlier, but this would be the first Camp organized by us, so it was a new challenge! Working together with the **Bombay Foundation for Polio & Disabled**, and with sponsorship from **Family Care Foundation USA**, we began the daunting task of preparing for the camp. We created banners and posters, other paperwork and registration cards, and worked with the media to publicize the event. Our volunteers labored alongside other helpers and the nurses of the hospital to set up the camp, register patients, and coordinate the every day running of various aspects of the camp.



The Camp was inaugurated by the Mayor of the area on the morning of January 10, 2004, and was attended by many local dignitaries. It was held at Vinayak Hi-Tech Hospital on Mira Road, Mumbai, run by renowned Surgeon and Polio specialist **Dr. Paresh M. Desai**. Nearly 150 patients from Mumbai and surrounding areas received free examinations, and over 30 patients received free cor-  
rectional surgery on their deformed limbs. This included about twenty-four patients with Post-Polio Paralysis and seven patients with limb deformities due to cerebral palsy and birth defects. Dr. Desai worked tirelessly for many hours, performing some very difficult and complex surgeries in this very short span of time.

During the camp, our volunteers cared for each patient individually, comforting them, and praying for those who were in anguish and pain after the operations. They provided counsel and personal assistance to those in need. Several members of our staff were able to assist in the operating room, while others helped

with transporting and situating the patients. **PCR-Mumbai** volunteers and their children formed a singing team that went from ward to ward, cheering up the patients and their families with uplifting songs, and creating cheerful animal balloon art. **POLIO CHILD RELIEF Mumbai** also distributed clothing, blankets and other needed items to the patients and their families during and after the Camp.

Thankfully, all the operations that were carried out during the two-day Camp were very successful, and many of the appreciative patients were discharged from the hospital within a few days. The smiles on the faces of these now hopeful youngsters was worth all the effort involved! They will receive follow-up care and further post-operative therapy by Dr. Desai and our volunteers. **Polio Child Relief Mumbai**, together with **Dr. Desai**, on behalf of the families of children who benefitted from the free treatment, greatly appreciate the help of each and every one, big and small. A big "Thank You" to **Family Care Foundation**, as the main sponsor of this mammoth project. We appreciate all your continued interest, and are considering a follow up Camp of the same kind in 2005.

As you may have realized, a considerable number of patients, many of whom have very severe deformities, were examined at the Camp but were not able to receive surgery yet. This is due to: 1) The time factor, 2) The need for further examinations, and 3) Requiring major surgery or a special set up or unavailability of material at the Camp. One example is Raju, 16 years old, who needs a difficult, correctional surgery in his hip to remove an obstructing piece of bone. This major surgery, along with therapy and post-operative treatment will be carried out at the private Shradha Clinic of Dr. Desai in Mumbai.

He and other patients are waiting to receive free treatment soon. Their operations are under consideration, thanks to the sponsorship of **FCF**, as well as others sources. But there is more to be done! We would like to request the kind help of anyone interested. Your contribution can truly change the life of one, or several, of these needy children. Please forward your donation via **Polio Child Relief Mumbai**.

For further information please contact us at:

[pcr\\_mumbai@hotmail.com](mailto:pcr_mumbai@hotmail.com)

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**FAMILY CARE FOUNDATION**

**FREE POLIO OPERATION CAMP**

10 - 11 Jan. 2004

**POLIO CHILD RELIEF - Mumbai**  
CHILD & FAMILY CARE

**VINAYAK HI-TECH HOSPITAL**

Dr. Paresh M. Desai  
M. S. ORTHO (Bom)  
(Orthopedic Surgeon)

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Venue: VINAYAK HI-TECH Hospital Golden Nest Phase III, Building 1 & 2, Near Old Petrol Pump Mira-Bhayander Road, Bhayander (E). Tel.: 28122552 / 28123952 / 28884829 / 9820250154

Patients must register their names prior to the camp & receive free examination at the above location

Organised and sponsored by  
BOMBAY FOUNDATION FOR POLIO & DISABLED / FAMILY CARE FOUNDATION / POLIO CHILD RELIEF Mumbai / CHILD & FAMILY CARE

**Correctional Surgery Camp for Polio-afflicted & Handicapped Children**



- 1) Our banner for the Camp.
- 2) Volunteer Savio is climbing on top of our jeep to mount a banner in the city.
- 3) Patients on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Polio-camp waiting for admission.
- 4) Jyothi (right) with nurses of the Hospital, registering the patients.







1) Polio Child Relief volunteers with Dr. Desai and local political leader Mrs. Priyanka Kulkarni at the opening ceremony.



2) PCR Manager Josef Suess addressing the attendants and explaining our project.



3) Peter (PCR volunteer) preparing a patient for operation.



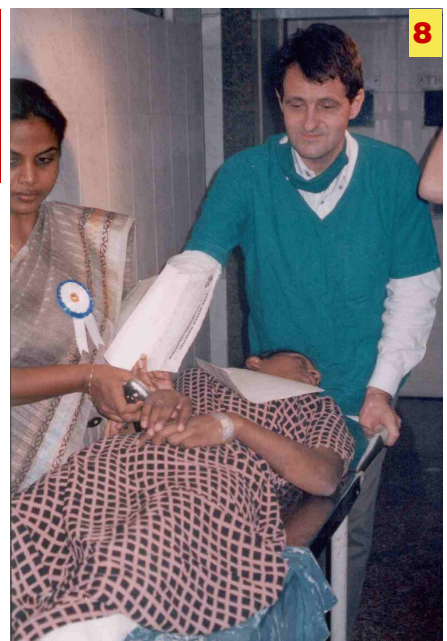
5) Dr. Desai with his assistants performing a difficult bone-block transfer surgery.



7) PCR volunteer Jyothi with Business man and helper Ashok comforting a patient before her operation.

4) Dr. Desai performing an operation with volunteer Swati in the back.

6) Helper Ashok with both hands full, Dr. Desai on the right.



8) Josef and Jyothi bringing a patient from the OT to the ward.



Left: Young volunteers of Polio Child Relief Mumbai are singing for the patients. Right: Michelle and Claire cheering up a girl after her operation.