



Dear Partners, Stakeholders, and Supporters,

Reflecting on the past year at Miracle Foundation India fills me with immense gratitude. Thank you for your unwavering support and collaboration. Together, we've achieved remarkable milestones, touching the lives of over 276,169 children and families, with the support of 5,744 dedicated social workers we trained last year.

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, our vision is clear: to fortify our efforts in ensuring the safety and well-being of every child we work with. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the governments and our dedicated social workforce for their extraordinary contributions. Their tireless efforts have been instrumental in implementing systemic changes that prioritize the safety and protection of children.

I am hopeful for a great year ahead, knowing that with each of you by our side and our strengthened partnerships with government bodies, we are poised to extend our reach and make an even greater difference.

Thank you again for your steadfast belief in our mission and your active engagement in our vision of "a family for every child in our lifetime". Here's to a new year filled with hope, achievement, and continued collaboration.

Warm regards,
Kusum Mohapatra
CEO, Miracle Foundation India

Our Impact April 2023 - March 2024



Advancing Family Strengthening & Family-Based Alternative Care | Cornerstone Paves the Way



Having grown up at an orphanage in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, for nearly 16 years amid several adversities, Isaac Arulappan had always been determined to do something for children like him to ensure they got the childhood they deserved. After completing his higher education, Isaac chose to become a teacher. However, driven by his strong resolve to establish an orphanage free from the sufferings that he had experienced and to enable education for children from underprivileged backgrounds, he decided to save money from his teaching profession, mobilized some additional funds and eventually founded *Deva Kirubai Social Help Association* (DKSHA) in Tiruchirappalli in 1993.

In 2004, Isaac set up a Child Care Institution (CCI) - Cornerstone Children's Home - under DKSHA. Cornerstone Children's Home partnered with Miracle Foundation India in 2013; this collaboration helped the CCI improve the standards of care for children living in institutional settings. Over time, as Miracle Foundation India shifted its focus from institutional care to family strengthening and Family-Based Alternative Care (F-BAC), Isaac was inspired to take the same journey. Cornerstone Children's Home subsequently evolved from its model of traditional residential care to F-BAC in 2019.

With focus of the strategy shifting to familial bonds and community integration, Cornerstone Children's Home, by 2023, successfully facilitated the transition of all 186 children back into family settings, including reintegration with birth families and kinship care.

Looking ahead, Cornerstone Children's Home envisions evolving itself into a *Centre for Excellence* championing family-based care and strengthening community partnerships. It aims to now become a beacon of knowledge and support for other CCIs with a view to ensuring every child has the opportunity to grow and thrive in a loving and supportive environment.

Celebrating Mahendra Kamble



At Miracle Foundation India, as we strive towards enabling children to stay with their families and reach their full potential, we honor the incredible social workforce that makes it all possible! This month, we are pleased to celebrate the efforts, achievements and dedication of Mahendra Kamble from Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

A distinguished social worker associated with the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Kolhapur, Mahendra has for long been working towards safeguarding the well-being of children from vulnerable backgrounds. His association with Miracle Foundation India as a Master Trainer in 2019 under our collaboration with the Department of Women & Child Development, Government of Maharashtra, and UNICEF India marked the beginning of a meaningful journey, leading to a positive transformation in the child protection landscape of the district.

Mahendra has played a pivotal role in significantly improving the lives of many children and families in Kolhapur. He engages closely with children and collaborates with teams at CCIs during case management processes. His efforts have in fact been recognized by the DCPU, particularly with regard to managing critical cases and fostering collaborations between DCPU, CCIs, Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and the families. Mahendra has also been actively supporting disadvantaged families to access social protection schemes and enabling them to get their due entitlements.

As a central figure at the DCPU, Mahendra, even at the age of 54, conducts training programs at district, block and village levels on the rights of children. Participating as a resource person in several of Miracle Foundation India's capacity-building sessions, Mahendra candidly shares his insights and knowledge, particularly on child protection, thereby helping build a stronger, more child-friendly ecosystem. He also contributes towards planning and shaping the orientation programs.

Mahendra's story is definitely one of passion and dedication towards advancing the rights and protection of all children. And it does inspire action! We, at Miracle Foundation India, are pleased to have contributed towards building his understanding on family strengthening and family-based alternative care, thereby expanding our collective impact.

A big shout-out today to Mahendra Kamble!

Today, we are working closely with 151 Master Trainers across states to advance our vision of "a family for every child in our lifetime."

Empowering Child Protection Personnel to Effectively Design & Implement Child-Centric Interventions

In collaboration with the *Department of Child Welfare & Special Services* (formerly known as the *Department of Social Defence*), Government of Tamil Nadu, Miracle Foundation India has launched an initiative to bolster family structures and promote family-based alternative care for children across five districts of the state since November 2022. This initiative includes capacity-building efforts for child protection personnel at both state and district levels, aimed at ensuring children remain within their families, and lead secure, purposeful and fulfilling lives.

The implementation of Individual Care Plans (ICPs) is pivotal, as mandated by the *Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Amendment Rules, 2022*, to comprehensively address the unique circumstances and needs of each child. We urged for the inclusion of specific 'Areas of concern,' 'Proposed interventions,' and a progress assessment scale in the ICP Form, facilitating social workers and case workers in effectively documenting children's overall well-being data.

Acknowledging the significance of these enhancements, the *Department of Child Welfare & Special Services*, Government of Tamil Nadu, has recently integrated all proposed additions into the amendments to the *Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2017*, as amended in 2022. In a letter dated March 3, 2024, Mr. Amar Kushawha, Director of the *Department of Child Welfare & Special Services*, Tamil Nadu, commended the "valuable suggestions for enhancing the Individual Care Plan for children [within] the Juvenile Justice System." He further affirmed that "the [recommendations from] Miracle Foundation [have] been [duly acknowledged] and incorporated in the Individual Care Plan Format."

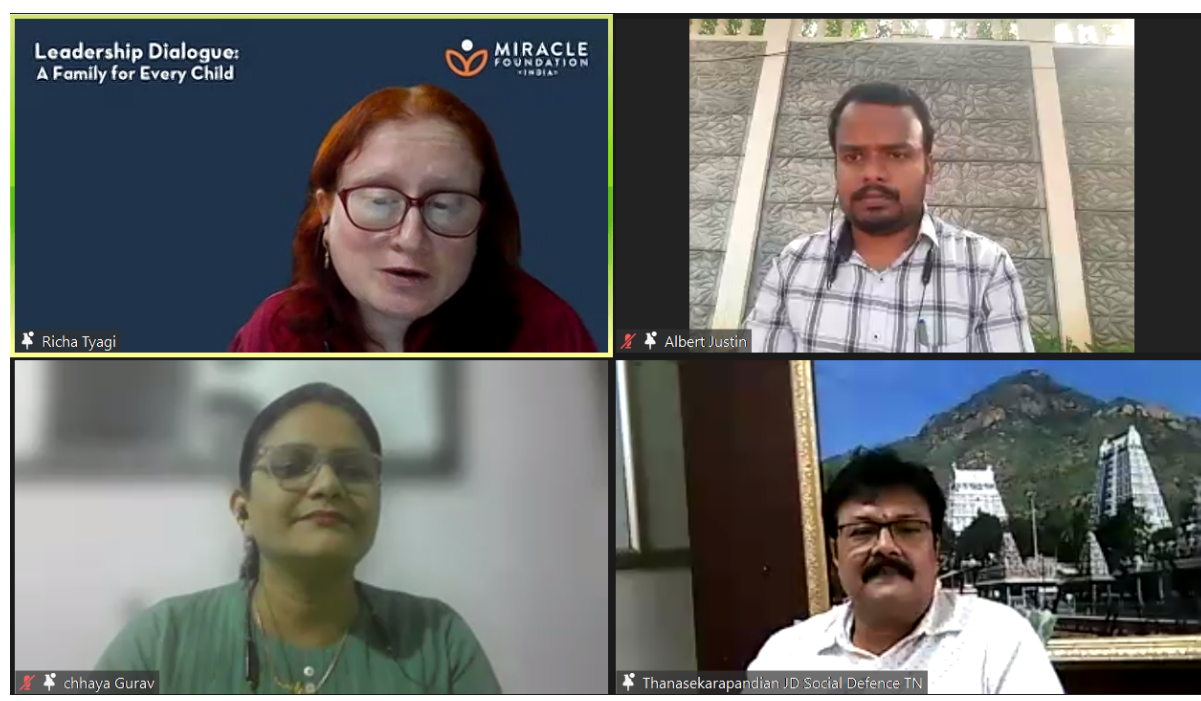
Care Collective Initiated | Towards a Family for Every Child in Our Lifetime

Miracle Foundation India's endeavors are focused on devising a long-term, scalable, sustainable model of change owned by the state governments, dedicated towards keeping children safe, preventing unnecessary separation of children from their families, and facilitating their safe and permanent reintegration with families, to empower children and youth to realize their fullest potential and lead fulfilling lives.

An innovative idea to make that happen is to have seasoned local organizations (Care Collective: Centers for Excellence - identified in consultation with the state government departments and capacitated by Miracle Foundation India - play the distinctive role of Family Strengthening (FS) and F-BAC know-how, training and mentoring hub to be locally available for scaling and sustainably supporting the districts' child protection systems towards operationalizing Government of India's Mission Vatsalya guidelines.

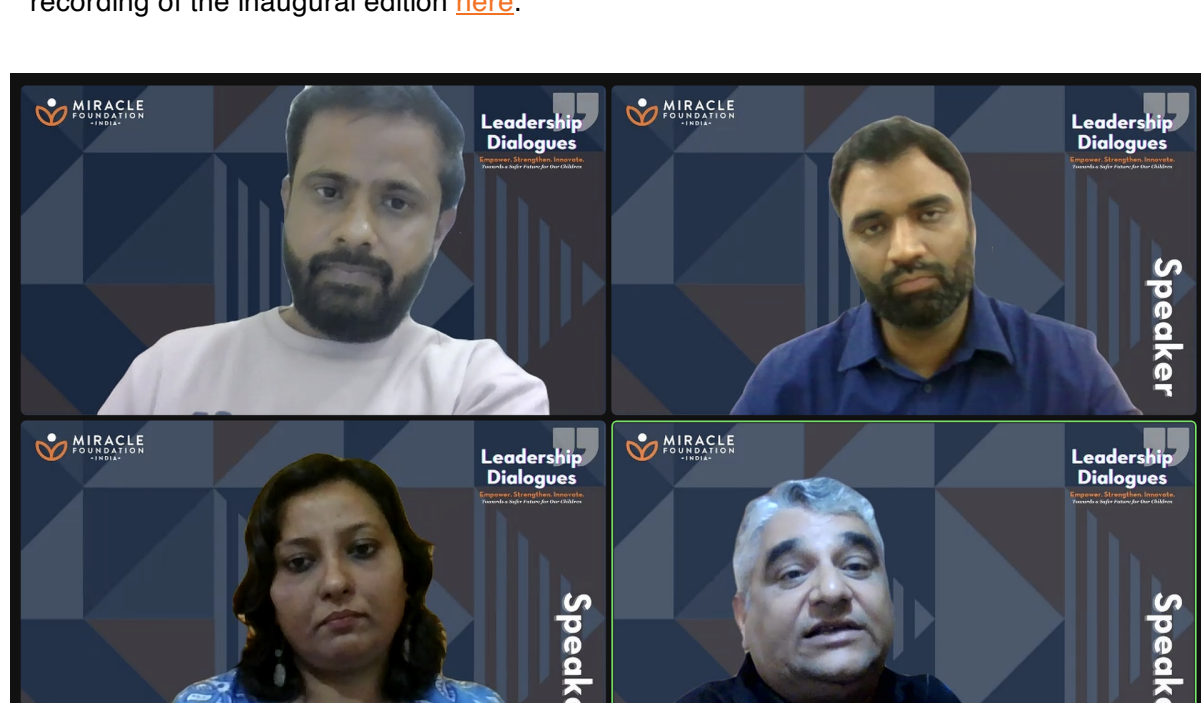
In January 2024, Miracle Foundation India launched the Care Collective: Centers for Excellence with five partner organizations, namely Asrambh in Madhya Pradesh; Cornerstone Children's Home in Tamil Nadu; and Amhi Amchya Arogyasathi, New Vision and Vrija Foundation in Maharashtra. Through comprehensive training, mentoring and strategic interventions, the Care Collective: Centers for Excellence will be facilitated to gear up to become the champion of family-based care.

Launch of Leadership Dialogues



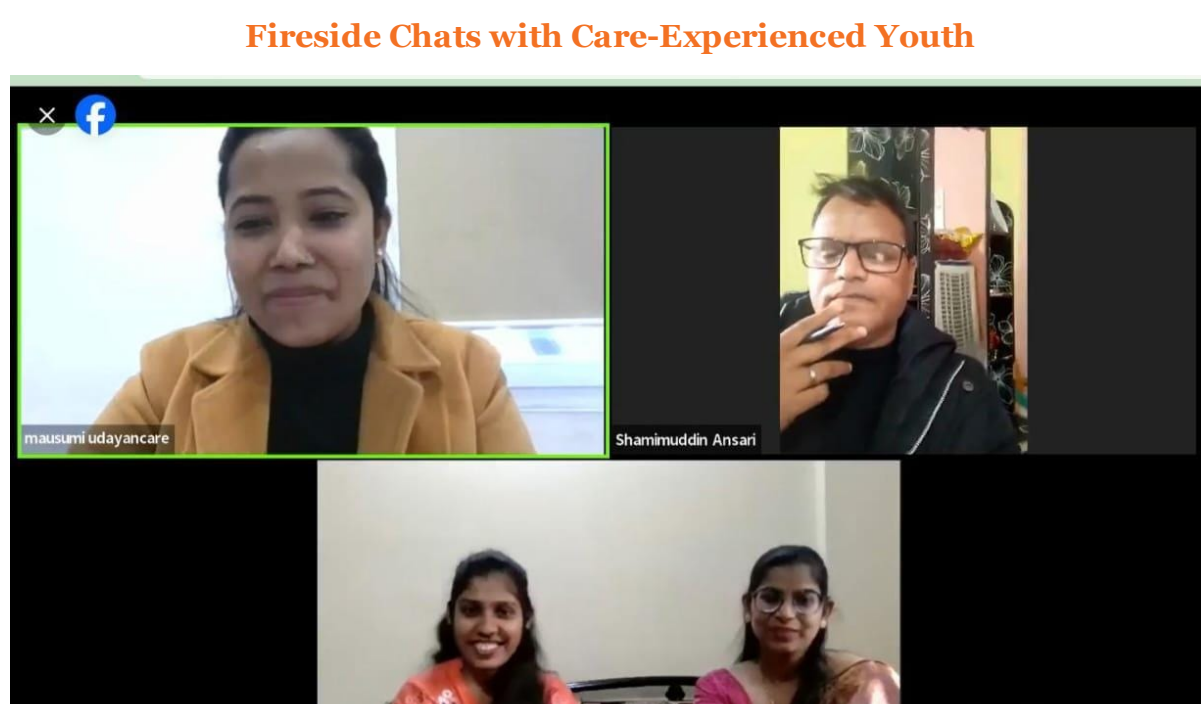
Miracle Foundation India recently initiated holding 'Leadership Dialogues' aimed towards shaping conversations around Family Strengthening (FS) and F-BAC, while acknowledging, recognizing and celebrating the invaluable contributions of the child protection workforce in the realm of child care and protection. We have successfully organized two such impactful dialogues so far!

Our inaugural dialogue, held on October 26, 2023, focused on best practices in the realm of prevention and gatekeeping at the level of CWGs, besides deliberating on the role of community in ensuring children stay with families. Speakers on the panel included S. Thanasekaran, Joint Director of Social Defence, Regional Office of Social Defence, Chennai; Chhaya Gurav Raut, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Nagpur, Maharashtra; Manoranjan Das, Development Practitioner, Catholic Relief Services, Odisha; and Albert Justin, Miracle Foundation India's Youth Ambassador. You can watch the recording of the inaugural edition [here](#).



The second Leadership Dialogue, organized on February 15, 2024, centered on the role of local governance bodies in prevention and gatekeeping. The panel comprised Pankaj Pandey, National Program Officer, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India; Smita Sen, Founder and Executive Director, Rupantar Foundation; and N. Riyaz Ahamed Basha, District Child Protection Officer, Social Defence Department, Tamil Nadu Government. The recording of the second edition can be found [here](#).

Fireside Chats with Care-Experienced Youth



Miracle Foundation India has been facilitating a series of weekly fireside chats with care-experienced youth, in collaboration with Udayan Care. The first leg of the series successfully took place in February 2024. Make A Difference joined as a co-facilitator in April 2024.

These conversations are aimed towards providing a platform for care-experienced youth to cultivate meaningful dialogues centered on their distinct experiences, obstacles and journeys. To participate in the upcoming chats, do keep an eye out on our social media pages!

Awards & Recognitions



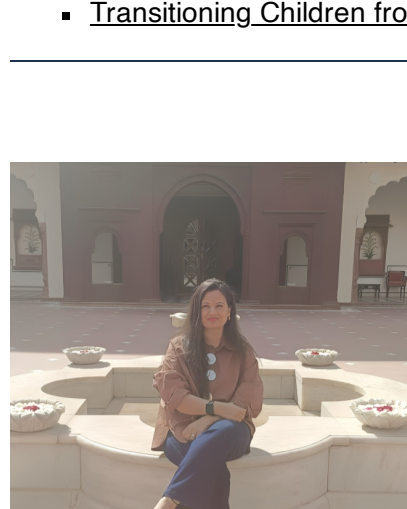
Miracle Foundation India was awarded the prestigious **Nexus of Good Award 2023** by *Nexus of Good Foundation* for contribution in the field of 'Community Service'.

Miracle Foundation India was acknowledged as one of the **Top 20 Best NGOs of the Year 2023** by *Brand Honchos*.

Publications & Journals

- [Deinstitutionalisation: Twitter Chat Report Decoding The 'What' And The 'Why'](#)
- [Gatekeeping as a Systematic Process: Preventing Child's Separation](#)
- [Kinship Care In India](#)
- [Tracing the Evolution of Alternative Care for Children in India in the Last Decade and the Way Forward](#)
- [Transitioning Children from Institutional Care towards Family-Based Care](#)

Donor Testimonial



"Over [the] years, I've been proudly backing the efforts of Miracle Foundation India, and it's been an incredibly fulfilling journey. Their proactive approach in updating me about upcoming initiatives and their tangible impact on children's lives is truly commendable. What sets Miracle [Foundation India] apart is their commitment to nurturing children not just during their formative years but guiding them towards independence and societal contribution. It's this holistic approach that truly resonates with me and keeps me dedicated to their cause."

- Bharti Kapoor

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