



A Family for Every Child in our Lifetime

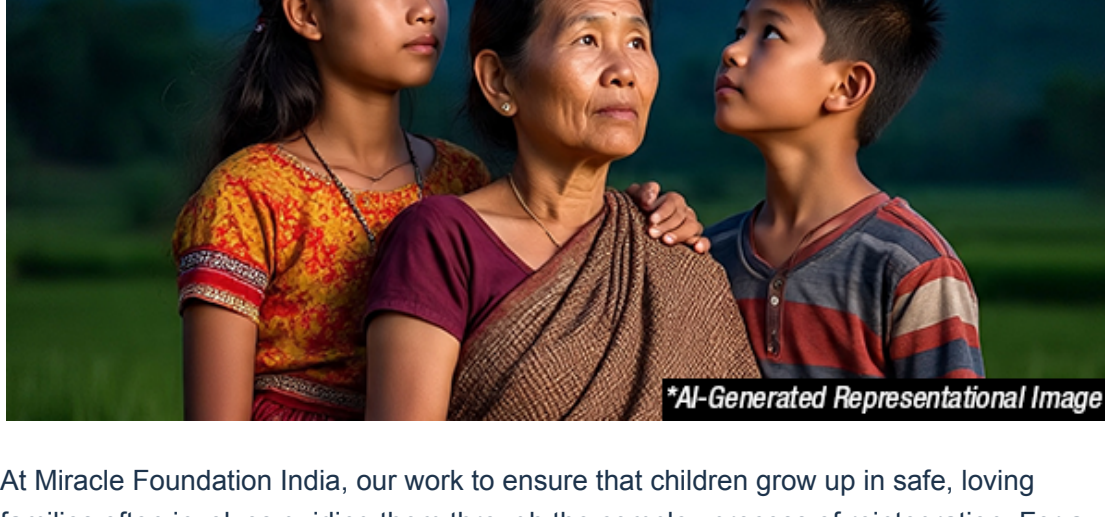
Dear Lalit,

As we wrap up this month—and the first quarter—I'm excited to share our latest update with you. It's always energizing to look back and see the real change we're building together, step by step. None of this work happens alone, and I'm especially grateful for the spirit of partnership that keeps us going.

What inspires us most is the spirit of collaboration that underpins all our work. On that note, I'm delighted to share with you our recently released [Annual Update 2024-25](#). Thank you for being part of this journey to help every child grow up safe, loved, and at home.

Warm regards,
Kusum Mohapatra
CEO & Regional Director
Miracle Foundation India

Transforming Children's Lives through Family Strengthening



**AI-Generated Representational Image*

At Miracle Foundation India, our work to ensure that children grow up in safe, loving families often involves guiding them through the complex process of reunitegration. For a child who has spent years in institutional care, reunitegration is rarely easy. It is a sensitive journey of reconnecting, adjusting, and slowly rebuilding a life that was once disrupted, and can be emotionally and physically demanding.

The story of Soma Mishra (*name changed*) from Tripura reflects this reality. She was not placed in a Child Care Institution (CCI) because she lacked a family, but because her mother, grieving the sudden loss of her husband and struggling with poverty, could no longer take care of her two young children. At just four years old, Soma entered a CCI, while her mother continued working as a domestic help.

Life in the CCI was not easy. The pain of separation weighed heavily on Soma, who longed for her mother's presence and the comfort of home. Despite this, she slowly adapted to her new environment, where she received consistent care, education, and emotional support. However, as she grew, visits home were difficult. Soma was troubled by the poor living conditions in her slum, the unhygienic surroundings, and a cultural environment she struggled to relate to. Soma's mother, now more involved and willing to support her daughter's growth, expressed a strong desire to rebuild their relationship. Reuniting with her mother offered the prospect of long-term stability and emotional healing, making it a necessary path forward despite the discomfort.

After completing her Class 10, the process of reunitegration began. While the team worked with her mother to improve housing and income opportunities, Soma received support through counseling to rebuild her relationships. Soma's mother was supported to apply for assistance under the *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)*. To help her regain financial independence, she was supported in securing cleaning work at a local nursing home.

Soma's journey of reunitegration was far from easy. After spending ten years in institutional care, returning home brought emotional discomfort and a sense of disconnection, prompting her to temporarily move into a short-stay home. However, with consistent counseling and support, she began to rebuild her relationship with her mother and brother. She also found motivation to pursue higher education and develop skills, such as computer literacy and tailoring, which are helping her build confidence and independence. Now in the fourth semester of her graduation, she aspires to pursue a Master of Social Work and a Diploma in Elementary Education to support children like herself. Her mother, too, received parental guidance to create a more supportive home, while the team is assisting with better living conditions to ensure stability.

Soma's journey is a powerful reminder that reunitegration is more than a logistical shift—it's an emotional and psychological transition. While it often comes with challenges, Soma's story shows that, with the right preparation, supportive follow-up, and consistent care, reunitegration can spark healing, build resilience, and lead to meaningful, lasting change.

Celebrating Sujata Deshmukh



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 commitment and impact of Sujata Deshmukh, Social Worker and District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) from Satara, Maharashtra.

Since 2020, Sujata has worked as a Social Worker with additional charge as DCPO. Pursuing her orientation has deepened her understanding of child protection, especially in gatekeeping, prevention, family strengthening, and rehabilitation, and has strengthened her case management skills.

One of the most visible outcomes of her work has been the systematic use of *Social Investigation Reports* and *Individual Care Plans* at the level of the Child Welfare Committee and across Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in her district. Her consistent efforts have contributed to improved documentation, planning, and decision-making for children in need of care and protection. Every CCI in Satara now has a Child Safeguarding Policy in place and has formed a Children's Committee, ensuring children's voices are heard in matters that affect them.

As a champion of family-based care, Sujata has built the capacities of CCI staff by conducting engaging and practical training sessions using role-plays, and other communication techniques. These sessions have boosted the confidence and competence of house parents, supervisors, and caretakers, strengthening the overall care environment within institutions. Sujata has also made significant strides in strengthening families and enabling reunitegration. With support from another NGO partner, she helped rehabilitate children from nomadic tribes who were living on the streets, through counseling and follow-up. In Saidapur village, she mobilized parents and community members to facilitate the formation of a *Bal Panchayat*, introducing children to democratic participation and leadership. The *Panchayat* has already conducted four meetings, creating a platform for children to express themselves.

Sujata's work in adoption has also yielded noteworthy results. She and her team identified four older children, aged 10-15, who were ready for adoption—a rare achievement. These children were counseled and matched with families who were also prepared through guided counseling sessions. Similarly, when four orphaned children were rescued from a coal mine in Phaltan *tehsil*, she ensured their admission into a CCI, medical care, and publication of their details to trace any relatives. Two of these children have now expressed interest in adoption and are being supported through the process.

Looking ahead, Sujata aims to continue strengthening the case management processes in Satara and regularly update the capacity of child protection teams through regular training sessions. She is also committed to deepening community-level engagement and ensuring that children from vulnerable backgrounds are identified early, supported, and reunited with safe and nurturing families.

Through her leadership, clarity of purpose, and dedication to children's rights, Sujata Deshmukh is helping create a more responsive and resilient child protection system in Satara.

From Care to Leadership: Youth Ambassadors Making an Impact



Miracle Foundation India's Youth Ambassadors, drawn from Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and local communities, play a vital role in raising awareness about the importance of a family for every child and driving meaningful impact. This month, we celebrate Merlin Sofiya from Tamil Nadu, who became a Youth Ambassador in 2022.

Born into financial hardship and with a mother battling chronic illness, Merlin was placed in multiple CCIs before finding stability at an institution in Erode. There, she began to thrive, excelling in academics, participating in co-curricular activities, and growing into a confident young woman. With consistent support from her CCI and Miracle Foundation India, Merlin actively participated in Life Skills Education, which helped her build emotional resilience and develop essential decision-making, communication, and relationship skills. After completing Grade 12, she followed her dream of pursuing justice and was admitted to a Government Law College, Katpadi. She is now enrolled in a five-year BA LLB (Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Legislative Law) program, and regularly visits courts with her seniors to gain hands-on legal exposure.

But Merlin's impact goes beyond the classroom. As a proud Youth Ambassador with Miracle Foundation India, she now supports other young people transitioning out of care and often speaks at youth group meetings. She shares her journey to inspire hope, facilitates life skills sessions, and provides peer support to children during their reunitegration into families or independent living. She was also one of the panel members at a national seminar held in Kochi, Kerala, in October 2024, organized by *Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk*.

Living near her college with friends and supported by a guardian, Merlin's journey reflects how the right support, care, and determination can help a child rise above adversity and build a brighter future.

Care Collective Accelerator Workshop: Shaping the Future of Family-Based Care



'Care Collective – Centers for Excellence' is a growing alliance of committed organizations working with government systems to ensure children grow up in safe and nurturing families. From May 14 to May 17 in Delhi, Care Collective members, including Miracle Foundation India and seven Centers for Excellence, namely *New Vision*, *Amhi Amchya Arogyasathi*, *Parivartan Mahila Sanstha* and *Vipla Foundation* from Maharashtra; *Cornestone* and *Mariyalaya* from Tamil Nadu; and *Anmol* from Karnataka came together for a four-day Care Collective Impact Accelerator Workshop, facilitated by Start-Up India.

The gathering created space for deep reflection, strengthened a shared sense of purpose, and laid the foundation for a long-term strategic vision. It also marked a pivotal shift—from a focus on technical implementation to advancing strategic influence in the areas of family strengthening and family-based alternative care. A key takeaway from the workshop was a collective vision to evolve the Care Collective into a dynamic learning ecosystem—building knowledge, influencing narratives, and catalyzing cross-sector collaboration and innovation to ensure better outcomes for children and families.

The *Care Collective* centers aim to support children's transition from institutional care to family-based settings, while empowering communities to prevent institutionalization and helping district child protection systems achieve action plan targets.

Mother's Day Social Media Campaign



In the run-up to Mother's Day (falling on May 11), Miracle Foundation India launched a powerful social media campaign on May 8, continuing through to International Day of Families (falling on May 15). The campaign honored the resilience, love and courage of those who nurture and uplift children, the ones who hold families together, and stand as the quiet strength behind every child's dream. Through real-life stories, thoughtful visuals, and interactive content, the drive invited people to reflect on the powerful role caregivers and families play in nurturing and protecting children.

We are delighted to share that the campaign generated significant interaction and reached a wide audience across multiple platforms - [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#). On Facebook, our campaign reached nearly 1.9M accounts, generating over 2.4M impressions and nearly 16,000 engagements , while Instagram saw nearly 2.5M users reached, and LinkedIn witnessed a reach of over 2,400 accounts.

These impressive metrics across platforms highlight how the campaign successfully sparked meaningful conversations around caregiving and children's rights. Additionally, we were pleased to participate in a LinkedIn Chat hosted by *Prerana* on the occasion of International Day of Families. We actively engaged in meaningful conversations throughout the day with our experiences, reflections and insights on 'Nurturing Families: The Power of Positive Disciplining of Children'. A heartfelt thank-you to our followers and partners for your continued support in building a world where every child grows up in a safe, permanent, and loving family.

Donor Testimonial



"Growing up in institutional care is one of the most difficult experiences a child can face. What Miracle Foundation India does—creating stable and loving family environments for these children—is truly extraordinary. Supporting them in their mission, even with a small contribution during the Mother's Day Campaign, gave me a deep sense of fulfillment. I'm truly grateful to be part of Miracle's [Foundation India] vision: Every child deserves a loving family."

Mariyaraaj

Resource Links

- [Bringing Care Experience to Social Work Capacity Building in India | A Report](#)
- [287 Orphaned Kids adopted in Odisha in 2024-25: CARA](#)
- [IACN Quarterly - Issue 18](#)
- [Prerana's LinkedIn Chat on International Day of Families](#)

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