Dear friend,

Season's Greetings to you and your family! I hope you and your loved ones are well and keeping safe during this holiday season. As this exceptionally challenging year draws to an end, IDRF is continuing to serve the marginalized in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka with the help of supporters like you.

In this Newsletter:

- COVID-19 Relief Campaign in India
- Camera-systems for Minimally Invasive Surgeries
- Education and bright future for poor girls

IDRF's COVID-19 Relief Campaign in India

Since the beginning of the pandemic, IDRF has sent $127,000 to eight states, to provide Food and Hygiene Relief Kits to more than 6,500 poor migrant families, medicines, PPEs, and food to thousands of medical personnel and patients. In addition, thousands of migrant workers were provided snacks, water-bottles, face masks, and sanitizers at various checkpoints on their journey back home during the lockdown. The magnitude of the disruption and need is enormous as millions have lost their livelihood and struggling to meet ends. To combat this dire situation we are continuing to provide relief to more people. More details.

A tax-deductible gift of $1,000 (only $10 per family per month) provides 100 struggling families essential groceries for one month.

Endoscopic Spine Surgeries and Laparoscopic Urologic Surgeries at a Charitable Hospital, Maharashtra

IDRF provides medical services in partnership with Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Vaidyakiya Pratishthan, to the poor through a mobile clinic in 6 slums and a 300-bed multi-specialty charitable hospital in Aurangabad.
During the pandemic, the mobile clinic has continued to provide health services to more than 13,000 patients at their doorsteps. The team is also spreading coronavirus prevention awareness and distributing groceries to struggling families. Dr. Hedgewar Hospital, also supported by IDRF, serves the poor patients with quality care and state-of-the-art facilities and has recently set up an Endoscopic Spine Surgery Unit and is in dire need of:

1. **One advanced endoscopic camera-system-Karl Storz costing $55,300 (INR 4,130,000 approx.)** to perform minimally invasive spine surgeries, and
2. **One Olympus-S200 (3CMOS) 3-chip-camera costing $40,000 (INR 3,000,000 approx.)** to improve the outcome of the laparoscopic genitourinary surgeries performed by the urologists.

50% of the funds have been raised by the hospital and help is needed for the remaining funds to purchase the cameras.

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**Providing Education and Bright Future to Underprivileged Tribal Girls, Uttar Pradesh**

IDRF provides free education, lodging and boarding to poor tribal girls from north-east India. The IDRF-supported girls' hostel is on the campus of a C.B.S.E. accredited High School managed by Shiksha Bharati in Hapur. Even during the pandemic, 66 girls are residing at the hostel and following all coronavirus precautions. The older girls are helping the younger girls with their online classes and homework. They are also engaged in activities such as playing sports, learning languages, singing, learning to play instruments, folk-dancing, painting, cooking, and gardening etc.

A one-time donation of $10,000 endows one permanent educational seat in perpetuity, OR a donation of $550 (only $1.50 a day) takes care of one girl's annual expenses.

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It’s entirely with the support and commitment of donors like you that we are able to help millions of underserved people. It is during these exceptionally difficult times that we need your support more than ever! I hope you will continue to put your trust in IDRF, and help lessen the sufferings of the less fortunate.

Stay safe and well,
Dr. Vinod Prakash
Founder and President (*pro bono*), IDRF