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CareWell Charitable Society®

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CareWell Organizes Eye Screening Camp Benefiting More Than 1,200 School Children in Inner City Schools in Patna, India

Patna, India; October 2, 2009: A two day Free Eye Screening and Treatment Camp was organized by CareWell Charitable Society at the Government Primary School – Karorichak, Phulwarisarif, Patna. More than 1,200 school children and 200 adults benefited from this camp. More than 125 students were found to have vision problems, including refractory errors. CareWell Charitable Society will organize free treatment and will provide free eye glasses to these children.

The screening was conducted by Dr. Upendra Kumar, consultant Ophthalmologist at the Modern Eye Care Institute, Patna and Dr. Pankaj Singh, consultant Ophthalmologist in Anisabad, Patna. In addition to conducting screening examinations, Drs. Kumar and Singh also educated parents and teachers about the importance of eye health and outlined various preventive strategies and early signs of eye diseases.

The Government Primary School - Karorichak is an inner city school where children from families with limited income attend school. There is a high prevalence of vision problems in this group of children. Often these children have no means to access healthcare and are often not able to afford even the simplest of treatment. There is also a lack of awareness about eye disease among parents. Surveys done by CareWell consistently show that children with poor vision often do not achieve good grades and are more likely to end up as drop outs; especially in inner city schools. Studies done by CareWell have also shown that programs such as this one has significant impact on improving school grades and school retention among these children.

This eye screening camp is one of a series of screening camps that CareWell regularly organizes throughout the year in inner city schools in India. This program of CareWell has been very successful and has been greatly appreciated by children, parents, teachers and state policy makers alike. In this program teachers are also trained to conduct basic eye screening examinations. CareWell is expanding this program to cover all schools in underserved areas of this region.

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Mrs. Urmila Devi, ward counselor, exhorted people to take advantage of such programs and helped in the smooth conduct of the camp. At last, the function ended with vote of thanks by Mr. Anil K. Srivastava, Chief Financial Officer of CareWell who expressed his gratitude to the volunteers who helped organize this camp.

About CareWell: Founded in 2002, CareWell Charitable Society is a not-for-profit, non government community-based organization registered with the Government of India. Our mission is to provide comprehensive rehabilitation, financial empowerment and integrated healthcare to the millions of people living a life of poverty and despair in the urban slums of India. CareWell is dedicated to provide all medical services and education support services for free regardless of race, color, creed, origin or religion. All services are free and no one is denied service because of inability to pay. For more information about CareWell visit www.carewell.org.
