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## **Eradicating Child Labor One Step at a Time: *Apex Foundation Sponsors "Mile for a Smile" Walkathon to Raise Money to End Child Labor***

**Herndon, VA:** The Apex Foundation will host its third annual "Mile for a Smile" Walkathon on November 14 in Hyderabad, India, expecting over a thousand participants in the rally.

The event has become a tradition for employees of Apex CoVantage, a Virginia-based knowledge process outsourcing company with facilities in India, to celebrate Children's Day in India while raising money and awareness for charities. This year's theme is to support child rights and eliminate child labor throughout the world.

"The Apex Foundation continues its dedication to promoting self-empowerment through this year's walkathon," said Dr. Shashikant Gupta, Apex's president, "We hope the funds raised will help bring an end to child labor so children can focus on education, which will help them reach their full potential."

The Apex Foundation is partnering with a local India radio station to provide an additional way to support the event by pledging 200 rupees (approximately \$4.43) for every text message they send, with no limit to the number of messages they can send.

Two years ago, the first "Mile for a Smile" event provided \$30,000 for a new school for the Academy for Severe Handicaps and Autism in Bangalore, India and last year's walkathon benefited over eleven participating organizations with a combined donation of \$250,000.

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### **About the Apex Foundation**

The Apex Foundation ([www.apexfoundation.org](http://www.apexfoundation.org)) is the private, non-profit foundation of Apex CoVantage. Since 1992, the Apex Foundation has supported self-empowerment programs that assist and inspire people to achieve self-sufficiency. The Foundation also supports relief agencies that serve people affected by emergencies and natural disasters. By providing grant monies to organizations dedicated to empowering those in need, these groups can provide social assistance to people in dire circumstances. In this way, the Foundation is able to build skills and attitudes, so that people can lead satisfying, dignified lives and, in turn, contribute to the communities in which they live.