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Florida Skin Center Physician Assistant Helps Treat Thousands of People in India

FORT MYERS, Fla. (May XX, 2018) — Florida Skin Center’s Shirisha Vallarapu, a Board-certified physician assistant (PA), has returned from a 10-day medical volunteer trip in Araveli, India, where she and 10 other American medical personnel helped to treat over 2,500 local villagers.

Stationed in a highly remote and tribal area, also referred to as the oldest geographical mountain range in the world, Vallarapu, along with other PAs, dermatologists and medical assistants, assisted children and adults within a local school that was transformed into a clinic via ME to WE. This social enterprise worked with the villagers to provide free medication to patients, who are otherwise without access to basic care, as well as to teach children about the importance of basic hygiene and boiling water through a puppet show.

Vallarapu worked with organizational translators to treat a wide variety of skin and medical conditions, including eczema, bacterial infections, psoriasis, scabies, lice and mumps, that are also attributed to local individuals’ lack of knowledge about the importance of vaccinations. Patients often walked an average of three to five kilometers to see Vallarapu and her peers, as well as utilized buses provided by ME to WE.

“I consider myself so fortunate to have successfully completed a mission that allowed me to take full advantage of the dermatological skills that I apply at Florida Skin Center every day,” she said. “Unlike bigger cities in India,



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like Mumbai and Delhi, the Araveli mountain range has a nearly 75% illiteracy rate, so it is absolutely necessary that we find alternative ways to provide villagers with top-notch skin and health care.”

In their leisure time, Vallarapu and others visited an historic temple and centuries-old fort on camelback, as well as took painting courses from area artists. Now, she is researching other ME to WE trips that her family can take, during which they would help to build a school, as well as other medical trips to India and Kenya.

About Florida Skin Center

Florida Skin Center opened its doors in 2001. Currently with offices in Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Lehigh Acres and Punta Gorda, all Florida Skin Center locations maintain a focus on excellence in patient care, with same-day, early-morning and walk-in appointments readily available. Patients are greeted with spa-like treatment, including a hot towel, juice or coffee, and are able to view informational videos as they wait for a provider to assist them. Insurance and billing are handled on-site, and scheduling is strategically constructed to move a patient’s day along as he or she desires. Call (239) 561-3376. Online at FloridaSkinCenter.com.

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