



International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)

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Responding to the Devastation in Haiti

As the humanitarian crisis in Haiti continues to unfold, the world is responding in remarkable ways. In response to this tragedy of incredible proportions, following the 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Port-au-Prince on January 12th, and the unfathomable devastation inflicted on this already impoverished nation, IMHO quickly contributed \$5,000 to the relief effort through Partners in Health (PIH). PIH (www.pih.org) is the world-renowned organization started by Dr. Paul Farmer, which got its start in deeply impoverished communities of Haiti.



(Photo by Associated Press)

We understand that many of you may be willing to donate your time and services to help those in need in Haiti. Due to the complete lack of infrastructure at the moment and chaotic ground situation, IMHO is unable to organize any volunteer groups ourselves. However, we would like to refer you to Partners in Health who released this message:

"At this time, while we wish we could use all of the support so generously offered by people like you, we are unable to accommodate any volunteers without significant surgical or trauma training and experience (Surgeons, especially trauma/orthopedic surgeons, ER doctors and nurses, and full surgical teams, including anesthesiologists, scrub and post-op nurses, and nurse anesthetists).

If you are a medical professional, please send the following information to healthvolunteer@pih.org:

· Your occupation & any specialization

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- Your occupation & any specialization
- Your availability - dates and length of time
- Where you are based/where you would travel from
- Language skills and level of ability
- Emergency/post-catastrophe experience
- Overseas experience

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We are working on the logistics of transporting trained medical volunteers to Haiti, and will contact you when we have assessed both our needs and the situation on the ground.

For more information, please go to: http://pih.org/inforesources/news/Haiti_Earthquake.htm

If you are interested in **contributing to the Haiti relief effort**, you may make a tax-deductible donation through IMHO. Please make your contributions either online (<http://www.theimho.org/donate/donate-online>) or by mail (<http://www.theimho.org/donate/donate-by-mail>) and make sure to earmark your donation for "HAITI RELIEF". If you donate online, you can email coordinator@theimho.org to notify us that your donation is intended for Haiti relief.

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Furthermore, one of IMHO's partner organizations, Giving Children Hope, is shipping aid directly to those in need in Haiti. **For any and all medical personnel in the Los Angeles/Orange County or nearby areas, Giving Children Hope (based in Buena Park, CA) needs volunteers to be in their offices to help with the sorting of supplies.** Anyone interested should email volunteer@godaid.org to set up a time. Make sure to put "Medical Personnel" or "Medical Experience" in the subject line, so that they can reply to you right away. Also, please CC the IMHO Programs Coordinator at coordinator@theimho.org. GCH is in need of volunteers throughout the week and will be open a few evenings. However, they have been making decisions to stay open extra hours as needed.

Also, Giving Children Hope is collecting basic supplies for relief at their office (8332 Commonwealth Ave., Buena Park, CA 90621). In particular, they are looking for shampoo, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, washcloths, deodorant, blankets, pillows, tents, nylon rope (1/4"), cooking oil, #12 extension cords, flashlights, gloves, dust masks, powdered milk, hand sanitizer, bottled water, antibacterial soap, tarps, nonperishable food (specifically foods high in protein), bandages & gauze (4x4), and painkillers.

If you are in the Southern California area and are able to help, or if you can help us get the word out to your contacts in the Southern California area, we would be most grateful. Thank you very much!

Recent IMHO Efforts: Jaffna, Kalmunai

Some of IMHO's recent efforts have included supporting the following projects:

- 1. Jaffna Diabetic Center:** \$6,000 was given to support the center, including \$2,500 to meet center expenses for 6 months, \$2,500 for diabetes awareness-raising and exhibitions, and \$1,000 to publish a book about diabetes.
- 2. Jaffna Cancer Unit:** IMHO gave \$7,000 for an ongoing cancer patient nutrition project, a project which has happened continuously for the last 4 years, benefiting 750 patients. As always, this project was supported by the family of Dr. Suntharalingam and other IMHO donors. The picture below was sent by the chief physicist from the Jaffna Cancer Hospital during the "Thaipongal food donation for cancer patients" program, which occurred on January 10, 2010.



3. Kalmunai Mental Health Society: In an effort to support a rehabilitation program for mental health patients in the area, IMHO gave \$4,500. These funds were collected from 4 individual donors with an interest in supporting mental health specifically for this project.

Become a Monthly Donor and Help Save Lives for Just \$10/month!

JUST \$10/MONTH
CAN SAVE LIVES...

SET UP A RECURRING DIRECT DEBIT DONATION AT
WWW.THEIMHO.ORG/DONATE
[MONTHLY-GIVING](http://WWW.THEIMHO.ORG/DONATE/MONTHLY-GIVING)



We have reached a very critical point In Sri Lanka, and it is imperative that we act now in a big way. **But we need YOUR help!** Please visit our website for information on how to set up a monthly direct debit donation for \$10/month (or any other amount) or to set up a recurring donation online via PayPal. If we each give \$10/month or \$30/every 3 months or \$120/year, it will all add up quickly. Set up your recurring direct debit donation at www.theimho.org/donate/monthly-giving or set up your recurring PayPal monthly donation at www.theimho.org/donate/donate-online.

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An anonymous donor has come forth, willing to match up to 50 people who sign up to donate \$10/month. Since we first put out this appeal last week, we have had 10 new monthly donors register, which means we have a long way to go. Please sign up today and help us achieve this matching donation. Think of the lives we can save and improve together...DONATE TODAY! For questions or more information, please email coordinator@theimho.org or treasurer@theimho.org.

Current Humanitarian Needs in Sri Lanka are...

1. MENTAL HEALTH: We plan to help provide counseling, medications, livelihoods support, and support other mental health efforts throughout the region.
2. AMPUTEE REHAB: There is a great need to provide prostheses, physical and mental rehabilitation, and other support for amputees and paraplegics and their families, including many children & orphans.
3. MICROCREDIT/LIVELIHOODS SUPPORT: Many families have obviously lost their livelihoods, which has taken a huge toll on their physical and mental health and exerted an incredible burden on those left to care for them.
4. SANITATION & WATER: There is a need to develop sanitation and regular clean water delivery systems, especially for resettled IDPs.
5. HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
6. HEALTH PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT

Ongoing support for War-Affected Youth and Orphans through Local NGOs: GOC Receives 170 IDP Orphans



On December 30, 2009, the first batch of "differently able" children were released from the Vavuniya IDP camps to Gods Own Children Foundation, a local nonprofit service organization working directly with and caring for many disadvantaged and disabled children in the Jaffna Peninsula. Gods Own Children has received assistance from IMHO over the years for various efforts concerning the well-being and health of youth.

GOC received 170 children from Zone 0 and Zone 2 of the Chettikulam IDP Camps in Vavuniya. The children were officially taken over by Dr. B. Anandkumar and Mrs. Anne Mary Jecintha Anton. The children from Zones 3 and 4 could not be taken over on that day due to time constraints and logistical problems. It was a day of joy for the staff and volunteers of Gods Own Children Foundation and Relief International (an American based NGO who assisted GOCF and

Children Foundation and Relief International (an American based NGO who assisted GOCF and another IMHO partner) , who had been working hard for the past 6 months for the release of the "Differently Able Children" from the IDP camps. In total, GOC will be receiving 500 children.

The children will be housed in a large cluster of adjacent houses, which were modified to resemble a children's village, officially named as Puloly Children's Village. IMHO has an understanding with the organization to support these young orphans who have already endured so much. In addition, IMHO (USA) and IMHO Canada both have an understanding with Sivan Arul Illam, another nonprofit organization and orphanage that has recently taken on several hundred IDP orphans. Both IMHO (USA) and IMHO Canada remained committed to helping these young people during this time of great need.

7th Annual IMHO Convention & Upcoming IMHO Events

*****7th Annual IMHO Convention in Boston, MA*****

WHEN: Friday, April 30th & Saturday, May 1st, 2010

WHERE: Hilton Boston/Woburn, 2 Forbes Road, Woburn, MA, 01801

WHAT: 7th Annual IMHO Convention with guests from Sri Lanka, U.K., Australia, and U.S., with a focus on mental health and physical rehab in Sri Lanka

It's that time of year again...the 7th Annual IMHO Convention is being held this year in Boston/Woburn, Massachusetts on Friday, April 30th and Saturday, May 1st. The convention is being held at the Hilton Boston/Woburn at 2 Forbes Road, Woburn, MA 01801. This year we are welcoming several of our esteemed colleagues and partners from Sri Lanka and elsewhere. The focus of this year's convention will be on mental health & psychosocial rehabilitation for IDPs and resettled IDPs, as well as physical rehabilitation for amputees and others left injured by the war. Our scheduled agenda is as follows:

Friday, April 30th

6:00-7:00pm: Welcome Dinner

7:00-8:30pm: CME Activities

8:00-10:00pm: Youth Forum & Women's Forum

Saturday, May 1st

8:00am-12:00pm: Workshops on mental health and physical rehabilitation, featuring several speakers visiting from Sri Lanka and representatives from other NGOs

12:00pm-1:30pm: Lunch

1:30-5:00pm: Afternoon Break

5:00-9:00pm: Keynote Speaker, IMHO Presentations, Chief Guest, and Dinner

You can view and download the event flyer and Youth Forum flyer from our website here:

<http://www.theimho.org/events/upcoming-events/details/28-7th-agm>

Hotel rooms are now available for booking by phone at 781.932.0999. For reservations by phone, group nightly rates are \$129/night, which includes continental breakfast. Please ask for the group rate for the International Medical Health Organization (IMHO).

For those who will be flying in, we recommend flying in and out of Boston Logan Intl. Airport.

Please RSVP to the IMHO Programs Coordinator at IMHOConvention@gmail.com to confirm your space, and notify us if you have a particular preference for vegetarian or non-vegetarian meals. We look forward to seeing you this spring in Boston!

*****2nd Annual IMHO Ohio Golf Tournament*****

WHEN: Monday, May 17th, 2010 at 12:30pm

WHERE: New Albany Country Club, 1 Club Lane, New Albany, OH, 43054

WHAT: 18-hole scramble at the Jack Nicklaus Championship Golf Course

HOW MUCH: \$300/player or \$1,000/team of 4

Please register yourself or your team early to ensure your spot in the tournament. You will have the chance to win a car at the hole-in-one hole sponsored by Liberty--Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep. For more information or to view the event flyer, please visit our website:

<http://www.theimho.org/events/upcoming-events/details/27-ohio-2nd-golf-tourney>

Past IMHO Events

*****Florida Youth Shows Us All the Meaning of Charity*****

A 7th grade student in Florida, Labeenth Lavan, has come up with a clever way of raising funds to support IMHO's efforts. Inspired by a story his father told him in which his grandfather gave his first harvest or a general contribution every year to a temple in Poonagary, Labeenth decided to do his part in helping disadvantaged children in Sri Lanka. His idea was to sell a 48-pack of Snickers candy bars at his school for \$1/each. Minus the upfront cost of the candy bars, when he finished selling all the candy bars, he raised \$30 from one box...enough to support an orphan at Sivan Arul Illam in Mannar, Sri Lanka for one month. More importantly, his efforts demonstrate the effect that the actions of one person can have on improving the lives of others half a world away. Labeenth hopes that other students will get involved in similar ways. If you are interested in contacting him, please email labeenth2009@hotmail.com. Thanks for your compassion and exemplary leadership, Labeenth!

*****IMHO Introduction to Michigan*****

IMHO held an awareness- and fund-raising event in Southfield, Michigan on December 5th at the Ruchi Indian Cuisine restaurant. The event was organized by local volunteers and attended by many families who are interested in the work of IMHO. Following a 45-minute presentation, there was a Q&A session, with much curiosity from those who attended. The event raised a few thousand dollars, but more importantly, helped bring our message of hope and progress through health work to yet another new community.

*****Kroger Supermarkets*****

Thanks to the creative and tireless efforts of several ardent IMHO supporters, especially Siva Sivakanesan, Manokari and other GCTAA members, IMHO received its first check for a few hundred dollars from Kroger Supermarkets Neighborhood Reward Program. IMHO was registered as a charity under this program, then volunteers sold cards in increments of \$50, \$100, or more, which are used to purchase groceries as usual. Every time one of these cards is swiped, Kroger donates 4% of the total to IMHO. This unique idea has enabled IMHO to receive regular corporate contributions from Kroger. Thanks to all who have supported this program. Keep shopping!

**Be the
Difference.
Save a Life
with just
\$10/month.
[DONATE
TODAY!](#)**

During this crucial time in Sri Lanka and around the world, as we face monumental challenges in providing better access to quality medical and health care for those most at-risk populations, we need YOUR HELP now more than ever. With **just \$10/month** you can help save and improve lives in Sri Lanka and elsewhere. Please consider making a donation to IMHO today. You can **donate online via PayPal as a one-time or recurring donation** (the amount & frequency of which are up to you).

You can also **donate via mail** by sending a check made out to "IMHO" to the following address:

**IMHO Treasurer
PO Box 61265
Staten Island, New York 10306
United States**

All donations are tax-deductible (tax ID code #59-3779465)

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