



International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)

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IMHO Supports Amputee Rehab Efforts by Jaffna Jaipur Centre for Disability Rehabilitation



In the wake of the cessation of hostilities in Sri Lanka's devastating civil war, there are a large number of people across the Northeast that suffered limb loss and are in need of urgent help. Many thousands had limbs amputated in 2009 as the war came to a violent end. There is now a massive need to improve the facilities for rehabilitation of amputees and others with long-term disabilities in all parts of Sri Lanka. Of primary concern are those in the Northern and North Central Provinces, where the people have been worst affected by the conflict, find themselves living under extremely vulnerable circumstances, and are in greater need than those living elsewhere. The need to assist people in rebuilding their lives and returning them to good health is clear.

According to recent government statistics there are at least 4,200 confirmed amputees in need of a prosthesis and physical rehabilitation, although some INGOs at the IDP camps in Vavuniya have estimated the figure might be as high as 25,000-30,000 total, or more. The vast majority of these amputees are between the ages of 20-45 years of age, thus affecting a very crucial part of the workforce. Urgent physical, vocational, and psychosocial

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affecting a very crucial part of the workforce. Urgent physical, vocational, and psychosocial rehabilitation will enable all of these disabled persons to lead independent, productive lives. For this purpose IMHO is lending its support to a project with the Jaffna Jaipur Centre for Disability Rehabilitation (JJCDR) to provide mobility devices, such as wheelchairs, tricycles, walkers, crutches, and walking aids to help the disabled (especially the recently displaced persons) to move independently and comfortably again.

To-date, IMHO has transferred \$12,000 to the Jaffna Jaipur Centre for Disability Rehabilitation in order to purchase outdoor, all-terrain wheelchairs and mobility devices, and to support physical rehabilitation programs. However, this is just the first of 3 installments. In total, IMHO has approved \$36,000 towards this project, which will undoubtedly reshape many lives and give hope to patients and their families. The Texas Chapter of IMHO has been instrumental in providing support for this effort through their February fundraiser.

Update on Other Recent IMHO Efforts

1) Diabetes Awareness Program: The "*Neerilivai Vetti Kolvom*" awareness program for diabetes commenced last month with a cultural program in Jaffna and a large number of persons in attendance. The Jaffna Teaching Hospital Diabetic Center is conducting this program in collaboration with the hospital's Faculty of Medicine and the Hospital Development Association. The idea is to raise awareness about the disease, what signs to look for, how to get treatment and care for those with the disease, and how to live a healthy life after diagnosis. Such community education programs are all too important.

2) Pediatric Unit, Batticaloa Teaching Hospital: Support (\$1,000) for the Pediatric Unit at the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital was given for both ongoing speech therapy services and to provide logistical support with continuing phone services for parents of patients to use the phone.

3) Medical Education: Three Medical Officers in Psychiatry from Sri Lanka are being given the opportunity to participate in a 6-week summer course in psychiatry at the University of Montreal in Canada, thanks in part to support from IMHO. IMHO has contributed \$3,000 total (or \$1,000 per physician) to help cover all of their roundtrip airfare. The visiting physicians, Dr. Judy Jeyakumar from Batticaloa, Dr. Suthakaran from Vavuniya, and Dr. Dan Soundararajah from Valaichenai, were all given admission to attend the course, with the university agreeing to waive all course fees for the doctors. IMHO is proud to support the ongoing education of these doctors on the ground, who play a crucial role in offering mental health services to patients in need.

4) School Nutrition Program in Point Pedro: \$4,000 was transferred to the Sri Ramakrishna Saradha Sevashramam in Point Pedro to continue with their nutrition project for poor school children.

IMHO Secretary Heads to Haiti on Relief Mission



IMHO Secretary, Dr. Thavam Thambipillai, recently volunteered his time on a relief trip to Haiti as part of a volunteer medical group led by the Interfaith Medical Center, an Episcopal Hospital based in New York. The team traveled to Petit-Goave, just outside Port-au-Prince, where they attended to the ongoing medical needs of the massive numbers of persons left displaced, homeless, injured, and sick in the wake of the devastating earthquake that rocked Haiti earlier this year. Dr. Thambipillai, who is a transplant surgeon from Dayton, Ohio, has volunteered on medical relief trips before, but described the situation in Haiti as being tremendously dire and beyond anything else he had ever experienced. IMHO initially responded to the crisis in Haiti by donating \$5,000 to Partners in Health, an organization which got its start serving impoverished communities in Haiti and has since become a leader there.

IMHO Becomes a Registered USAID Private Voluntary Organization (PVO)

Earlier this year, IMHO became a registered Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the principal US agency for extending assistance to countries recovering from disaster, trying to escape poverty, and engaging in democratic reforms. USAID PVO's comprise a diverse group of organizations engaged in foreign assistance and development worldwide—from institutions with global reach that annually deliver hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to less experienced PVOs with limited resources. IMHO is hoping this new status will help the organization to secure USAID funding for current & future projects in Sri Lanka.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

IMHO Helps Give Opportunities to Special Needs Youth in PA through Keystone Extreme

As part of our ongoing commitment to serving those wherever there is need, IMHO donated \$1,400 to Keystone Extreme Inc. to support a cognitive, speech and physical health program for 14 disabled children. Keystone Extreme, which operates a cheerleading program in Northeast Pennsylvania (USA),



is driven by their mission of fostering individual strengths, while striving towards excellence as a team and all star program. Though the focus is on the skills needed for all star cheerleading, Keystone Extreme has always prided itself on having a "family atmosphere". Their program teaches children the importance of sportsmanship, camaraderie, goal setting, motivation and most importantly teamwork. The organization offers children and young adults with special needs the opportunity to participate in a sport that otherwise might not be available to them. Keystone supported IMHO's efforts in Sri Lanka after the tsunami disaster of 2004, and we are proud to now support their important work locally with disabled children.

Past IMHO Events

******Texas Chapter of IMHO Supports War Amputees in Jaffna******

The Texas Chapter of IMHO held its annual meeting with great success on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the Madras Pavilion in Sugarland, Texas. In addition to the presentations on IMHO's progress and current focus efforts, a medical panel discussion was organized for the benefit of the guests and to answer any questions. The panel covered discussion topics related to Cardiology, Pediatrics, Dentistry, Internal Medicine, and Oncology. A dinner followed the presentations and discussions. About 70 guests attended from all across Texas, including the areas of Dallas, Austin, Houston, Beaumont and San Antonio. Following the success of the event, the "Texas Rehab Fund 2010" was established to assist in the efforts to help rebuild health services in the Northeast and provide crucial health and medical care to those affected in the region, especially war amputees and other disabled persons in Jaffna. Roughly \$15,000 in donations was collected at the event, although the Texas Chapter of IMHO has made a commitment to fund 50% of the amputee rehab project with the Jaffna Jaipur Centre for Disability Rehabilitation (JJCDR) at a total cost of \$36,000. Efforts to support this important project will continue until the project goal is met. Thank you to all who attended, participated in the discussions, and contributed to IMHO's efforts to help those in great need.

7th Annual IMHO Convention & Upcoming IMHO Events

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

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

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, UK, and US, with a focus on mental health and physical rehab in Sri Lanka

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**
7:00-9:00pm: 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**
5:00-9:30pm: Keynote Speaker, IMHO Presentations, Chief Guest, Annual Boston Saree Auction, 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>. You can also view **the official Boston Convention website** here: <http://www.bostonimhoconvention.org/>

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 & 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>

******Uyir Kaappom (Save Lives) 2010: Toronto******

WHEN: Saturday, June 5, 2010 from 6:00-9:00pm
WHERE: Atlanta Banquet Hall, 1240 Ellesmere Rd., Scarborough, ON
CONTACT: contact@imhocanada.org; 416.321.9555

Please join IMHO Canada for this annual event to learn about the most current and pressing needs of the people in Sri Lanka, including firsthand accounts from three visiting physicians, including Dr. Mullai (Jaffna), Dr. Judy Jeyakumar (Kalmunai), and Dr. Suthakaran (Vavuniya). This event is also the annual fundraising event for IMHO Canada, so please come out and show your support, and make a donation to the important work we

do to help those in great need in Sri Lanka!

Link to event listing on IMHO Canada site: <http://www.imhocanada.org/events/upcoming-events/details/31-uyir-kappom-2010>

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\$10/month.
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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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