



International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)

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NEW Report on the Ongoing Health Efforts & Needs of Partners on the Ground

This past year has been a very trying one for many in Sri Lanka, as those affected by the long-standing civil war now struggle to put the pieces of their lives back together. At present, many of the health and medical needs of the IDPs, resettled IDPs, and those throughout the Northeast affected by the conflict have yet to be fully redressed. The most pressing current needs touch on issues of mental health, amputee rehabilitation, sanitation & clean water, health infrastructure development, microcredit/livelihoods support, and local personnel training & support. There is still so much to be done in rebuilding the health services & health infrastructure of Northeast Sri Lanka.

A new report compiled by the IMHO Team highlights the efforts and impact that many of IMHO's projects have had, while also drawing attention to a number of the current needs of various hospitals and partner organizations. This report is meant to achieve two main objectives. First, we hope to offer an update from the ground of the various efforts and accomplishments of each hospital or partner organization with which IMHO has partnered over the last several years. And secondly, we hope to highlight the various needs of each of these



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the last several years. And secondly, we hope to highlight the various needs of each of these hospitals and partner organizations at present in order to help each to deliver better health & medical services to patients and to help develop the local infrastructure for doing so. By no means is this report comprehensive of all partners and all efforts undertaken; it is merely designed to offer a glimpse of what some of the major gaps are in the health & medical services currently available in NE Sri Lanka, so that we may be better enabled to respond.

This report is available on our website here: (<http://www.theimho.org/field-news/field-reports/276-health-needs-report-2010>) and includes updates on the following partners:

- Batticaloa Teaching Hospital
- Jaffna Teaching Hospital
- Kalmunai Base Hospital
- Mannar General Hospital
- Point Pedro Base Hospital
- Tellipalai Base Hospital
- Moolai Hospital
- Vavuniya Mental Health Unit
- Jaffna Jaipur Centre for Disability Rehabilitation
- Meththa Foundation
- Regional Directorate of Health Services—Jaffna

"Vasantham" Park at Kalmunai Mental Health Rehab Unit Hosts Night of Entertainment



On April 10, 2010 the Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit at the Kalmunai Base Hospital opened its "Vasantham" entertainment park for patients and their families. A night of entertainment for patients in the acute unit and the rehabilitation unit, along with their families, was hosted by the unit's multi-disciplinary team. All the families gathered there to prepare their meals and have an enjoyable time with music programs—a type of healing medium itself used in mental health. The night was also a goodbye party for the unit's professional occupational therapist, Lynn Feraman, who has been working at the unit and is headed back to her hometown in the U.K. at the end of this month. The entire mental health team at Kalmunai is grateful to IMHO for a generous donation that enabled the construction of this park inside the hospital grounds at the mental health rehabilitation unit.

Meththa Foundation Update on Amputee Rehabilitation Efforts

The Meththa Foundation (UK) continues to provide an exceptional service for the amputees in the IDP camps. The staff is clear on their programming and objectives and are painstakingly creating a database of amputees. Two British prosthetists are helping the local workers make limbs that are then fitted to the people who need them in the camps. They have earmarked approximately 400 young amputees in Pompemadu camps to benefit from their services. The immediate task at hand is to get these persons mobilized as soon as possible. You can read a full report/appeal by the Meththa Foundation posted on our website: <http://www.theimho.org/field-news/field-reports/274-meththa-appeal-rehab>



IMHO New Jersey Chapter Supports Psychiatric Mobile Clinics

In 2009, IMHO supporters came together for a walk-a-thon fundraiser which netted \$20,000 to support the health efforts of IMHO in Sri Lanka. These funds went to support a mobile mental health team serving IDPs/resettled IDPs. This mobile mental health team consists of 1 nursing officer, 1 social worker, and 2 counselors. The team has been providing general counseling, child counseling, family counseling and support, alcohol counseling, psychosocial interventions, vocational training, play activities, relaxation therapy, and more since November 2009 in the areas of Jaffna, Tellipalai, Point Pedro, Chavakachcheri, and Velanai. Their efforts, which include caring for over 80 patients at home, have not only dramatically improved the quality of life for these persons, they have also helped to reduce the frequency of re-admissions to the hospital and helped to protect others by reducing the risk of violence and suicidal risk amongst the target population

The funds to support this project have been sent in 3 installments, with the first \$8,500 being sent last year (2009), the second \$8,500 being sent in February 2010, and the balance (\$3,000) due to be sent this June 2010. Thank you again to Mrs. Suntharalingam and all who organized, attended, and supported this effort!

7th Annual IMHO Convention in Boston is THIS WEEK

*****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, 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, the UK, and elsewhere. The focus of this year's convention will be on mental health & psychosocial

UK, 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. You can view and download the convention agenda, 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!

Upcoming IMHO Events

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

TICKETS: \$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>

Nalam Kaappom 2010: Toronto (IMHO Canada)

WHEN: Saturday, June 5, 2010 from 4:00-8:00pm and Sunday, June 6, 2010 from 12:00-6:00pm

WHERE: Canada Sri Ayyappan Temple, 635 Middlefield Road, Scarborough, ON M1V 5B8

WHY: The people of NE Sri Lanka need our help! The most pressing needs are for prosthetic limbs, mental illness & psychosocial issues, ongoing primary care services, sanitation (including toilets), and assistance for the Jaffna and Batticaloa Hospitals.

HOW: You can make a donation to IMHO Canada by check/cash, PayPal, or direct debit (www.IMHOCanada.org). Or become a monthly sponsor for just \$10/month!

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 from Jaffna, Kalmunai, and Vavuniya, and updates from IMHO Canada on efforts thus far. 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! Admission is FREE! Link to event listing on IMHO Canada site:

<http://www.imhocanada.org/events/upcoming-events/details/31-uyir-kappom-2010>

Sri Rajhesh Vaidhya Concert for J/Victoria College Chulipuram (IMHO Canada)

WHEN: Monday, May 9, 2010 at 5:15pm

WHERE: Imperial Oil Auditorium, Ontario Science Center, 770 Don Mills Road, North York, ON M3C 1T3 (www.ontariosciencecentre.ca)

WHY: A portion of the evenings proceeds will benefit IMHO Canada's efforts to serve those in need

TICKETS: \$20 or \$50; call 416.910.1287 or 905.897.6628

Join world famous Veena artist and music composer Veena Venthan for Sri Rajhesh Vaidhya's benefit concert for J/Victoria College Chulipuram proudly presented by O.S.A.-Canada. The evening's proceeds will benefit the school with part of the net proceeds benefiting IMHO Canada

evening's proceeds will benefit the school with part of the net proceeds benefiting IMHO Canada as well. Link to the event listing on the IMHO Canada site:

<http://www.imhocanada.org/events/upcoming-events/details/32-rajhesh-concert>

**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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