



International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)

Issue: #18

September 2010

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Continuing to Respond to the Needs of the Resettled in Sri Lanka

According to the latest USAID statistics, only 31,000 of the 431,000 persons displaced by the end of the war in Sri Lanka remain in the IDP camps, meaning the other 72% have since been resettled. Many of those still in the camps are there because they have nowhere else to go or it is unsafe to return to their own communities. Now, more than ever, we all bear the responsibility of helping these persons to settle into their homes and communities and get them back on their feet again. This will take a multi-pronged approach, requiring more than just shelter, food, and water--a truly comprehensive plan must include components of health and medical care, livelihoods support, education and training, and so much more. With this in mind, IMHO has tried to spread its efforts around and make the greatest impact possible. In September, IMHO supported the following efforts:

1. \$5,000 for ongoing support for **mobile medical clinics** in Sandilipay coordinated by Moolai Hospital. This was made possible by a single generous donor.
2. \$3,500 was sent to the Kalmunai Mental Health Society (KAMHA) to support their annual **Mental Health Day activities** (\$1,500) and a **microcredit project** for war-affected women in Kilinochchi (\$2,000). As we highlighted in our last two e-newsletters, microcredit is a main focus of IMHO for helping people to rebuild their lives. The tailoring course for mental health clients was initiated on September 27th and will benefit 20 persons directly. The newly constructed **Vasantham Vocational Training Unit (VVTU)** at the Kalmunai Hospital Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit will officially open on October 9th as part of their



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Health Rehabilitation Unit will officially open on October 9th as part of their World Mental Health Day celebration.



Women in Kalmunai receive instruction in tailoring as part of an ongoing microcredit project for war-affected households headed by women.

3. The second installment of \$12,000 was sent to the Jaffna Jaipur Centre for Disability Rehabilitation (JJCDR) to continue their efforts to **provide prostheses and mobility devices** to amputees and other disabled persons. On account of IMHO's previous contributions, to-date JJCDR has been able to provide 10 wheelchairs, 29 tricycles, 141 pairs of crutches, 22 educational grants, and 8 revolving loans for income generation, in addition to the provisions of prostheses.

4. IMHO facilitated a donation of \$5,685 to the Jaffna University Vice Chancellor's Welfare Fund to **support the ongoing education of university students** that were displaced and deeply affected by the war.

5. A three-wheeler for Delft Hospital was requested to **help transfer patients to and from the hospital**. Earlier, the hospital had a diesel auto that it used for 5 years until it fell into an irreparable condition. Using funds already in the IMHO account with the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA), \$3,000 was used to purchase the new vehicle.



*6. *A quick update on the diabetic center established by IMHO at the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital which we have discussed in greater detail in previous e-newsletters:* On September 6th, the hospital opened the **Diabetic Education Centre** with minimum facilities. Two consultant physicians are overseeing the new center. And with continued help from IMHO, plans for further development of the center and the services it offers are in the works.

IMHO Canada Undertakes a Number of New Efforts; Women in Sri Lanka Take the Lead

In September 2010, IMHO Canada provided support to the Delft Divisional Hospital in Northern Sri Lanka to help purchase medical equipments and improve facilities for better patient care. Following generous contributions from members of the Neduntheevu Board in the amount of \$4,800, IMHO Canada agreed to match this amount. In total, \$9,600 was sent for this effort.

Most recently, IMHO Canada gave \$5,000 to the Maga Sakthy Women Federation and another \$5,000 to the Youga Sakthy Women Federation to support microcredit livelihoods & empowerment efforts for women-headed households in Kilinochchi. Each group was pledged \$9,300 total; the second installment of \$4,300/each will be sent later this year.



Members of the Maga Sakthy Women Federation in Kilinochchi have committed themselves to those who are suffering, even at their own expense.

The story of the brave and dedicated women behind these groups is certainly one worth sharing. While their homes are little more than makeshift materials, plastic sheets, and mud, these women have dedicated themselves to serving others. One local representative who visited with these women explained, "Their stories really touched my heart. It is not because of the suffering that they have undergone...It is because of their dedication and commitment to the community when they themselves are struggling."

This organization was started in 2003 to help single mothers, disabled families, and families caring for orphaned children. Their understanding of community development is much better than most. They have women's groups with 20 members each, all of whom fit into the above categories. These women save their earnings, each contributing a few rupees every month. Then one person gets a loan to start a small business. They never depended on any funding for this before the displacement. Now they are back in their villages, and they have restarted the groups again. There are more than 100 groups already.

they have restarted the groups again. There are more than 100 groups already. As the meager savings that went into their small businesses before are all lost now, they have to start afresh. However, the women are presently not in a position to even contribute a few rupees per month for the savings program. Many women have become sex workers in their areas to provide for the children. Many have husbands who are either deceased or under detention. All the members are working in a volunteer capacity since their return, as there is no money even though they themselves are living in abject poverty.

Their commitment is touching. Their knowledge is sound. It is registered organizations like these that can really make a difference. Under the programs being supported by IMHO Canada, each woman will get a grant of SLR 5,000 (\$50) to start a small business.

Call for IMHO Canada Volunteer Youth Coordinator

Are you interested in doing something positive for the community and becoming an active leader and role-model for other youth? Do you have a passion for humanitarian efforts and finding ways to improve healthcare in underserved areas around the world?

If so, then IMHO Canada has an amazing opportunity for you! We are looking for an outgoing, compassionate leader to be our next IMHO Canada Volunteer Youth Coordinator. Your roles would include:

- *organizing community events to promote awareness and raise funds*
- *liaising with youth networks*
- *coordinating youth volunteers and delegating tasks*
- *working with the IMHO Canada Board of Directors on future projects and healthcare initiatives*

If you are interested in this position, please email your resume to lokini@imhocanada.org. The minimum age to apply for this position is 20 years of age. This is a volunteer position. Thank you for your interest!

Upcoming IMHO Events

Ethiopia Medical Volunteer Trip

WHEN: October 17-30, 2010

WHERE: Addis Ababa & Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

WHY: To serve those in need by providing quality health & medical care

WHO: Medical doctors & health professionals

Registration for this volunteer medical trip is now closed. We will have an update on this initial effort in Ethiopia in our next e-newsletter.

IMHO Semi-Annual Meeting in Baltimore

WHEN: Saturday, October 16, 2010; registration opens at 8:00am & program commences sharply at 8:30am

WHERE: Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, 700 Aliceanna Street, Baltimore, MD, 21202

*Free breakfast and lunch will be provided

*Rooms can be booked under a special group rate of \$179/night for standard single or double (group code: IMHO) for Friday, October 15th

*We will be joined by visiting physicians from Sri Lanka who will share their first-hand insights, experiences, and projects

*Presentations will cover the current situation in Sri Lanka today, IMHO's recent and planned efforts, and other special guest presentations

*Please RSVP to IMHOconvention@gmail.com This e-mail address is being

*Please RSVP to IMHOconvention@gmail.com This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it or 714.315.0518 so that we may get an accurate headcount!!

*****SAVE THE DATE: April 30, 2011**

8th Annual IMHO Convention in Houston, Texas***

WHEN: Saturday, April 30th, 2011; Registration opens at 8:00am; Program starts at 8:30am

WHERE: Sheraton North Houston (at George Bush Intercontinental Airport), 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, TX 77032

WHY: Come hear first-hand about the humanitarian needs in Sri Lanka and globally from visiting experts, doctors, and humanitarian workers. Learn about the important work of IMHO, participate in panel discussions on various topics, and get involved with our organization. More details to come! You can also view the event listing on our website [HERE](#).

Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us for our 8th Annual IMHO Convention, taking place this year in Houston, Texas. Rooms will be available for booking by phone at 281.442.5100. For reservations by phone, group nightly rates are \$79/night +tax, which does not include breakfast. The nightly group rate with breakfast for 2 included is \$89/night +tax. Please ask for the group rate for the International Medical Health Organization (IMHO). We look forward to seeing you there!

Past IMHO Events

*****Coin Collections from Ohio Youth Help Those in Sri Lanka*****

Kids from the Cincinnati and Dayton area in Ohio put a clever plan into action by collecting coins using a self-made coin box at various locations, then donating the proceeds from their campaign to support IMHO's efforts. This is a simple idea that can translate almost anywhere and is easy to organize. It is also a fun way to get kids involved and to help them understand the importance of helping others. We wish to thank the following youth for their involvement and contributions:

*Thamilini (raised \$63)

*Annie (raised \$43)

*Janan (raised \$23)

*Nimesh (raised \$15)

*Gaya (amount TBD)

*Bala (amount TBD)

*Any others who names are not listed here, thank you!

*****Annual Ohio Dinner & Meeting Held in Columbus*****

The Ohio Chapter of IMHO held its annual dinner in Columbus on September 25th, with many families partaking in the festivities. The event raised over \$3,500, including the annual contribution from Kroger card sales. IMHO Board member Jegan Thambaiyah came from California to present on his recent trip to Sri Lanka and the work that IMHO is doing to better the lives of people in need. Thank you to the event organizers and all who attended for your continued support!

**Be the
Difference.
Save a Life**

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 \$1/day** (or \$30/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).

with just
\$1/day!
DONATE
TODAY!

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
U.S.A.

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

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