



# International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)

Issue: #23

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## Update on IMHO Efforts in Sri Lanka

Many people in need across Sri Lanka are counting on us to do all that we can to help rebuild lives, develop key medical and health infrastructure, and deliver crucial health services...and with your help, we have been doing just that since 2004! We are very pleased to share with you some of our most recent efforts:

**1. Delivery of Dialysis Machine to Batticaloa Teaching Hospital:** As mentioned in previous e-newsletters, IMHO funded and coordinated the installation of the first dialysis machine in the Eastern Province. This machine was delivered and installed, and is now functioning and being used in treating patients in Batticaloa. Hospital staff are thrilled that they can now offer this vital

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installation of the first dialysis machine in the Eastern Province. This machine was delivered and installed, and is now functioning and being used in treating patients in Batticaloa. Hospital staff are thrilled that they can now offer this vital service to a steady stream of patients who would otherwise have to go to Colombo or Kandy for treatment.

**2. New Year's Celebration for Child Chemotherapy Patients:** Thanks to the generosity of two individual donors who donated \$1,100 collectively, more than 50 child chemotherapy patients receiving treatment at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital Cancer Unit were able to participate in a Tamil New Year's party organized for them on April 13th. Each child received one set of clothes, a cap, and other small treats and goodies, in addition to the party itself. Thanks to the Jaffna Hospital Development Association for organizing this special event. You can view a photo gallery of the event [HERE](#).

**3. Ambulance Renovations Continue:** The first of two ambulances that IMHO has provided funds for renovations through the Kilinochchi Hospital has now been completed and handed over to the Mulankavil Base Hospital. This hospital had only one ambulance before, and patients will greatly benefit from this improved emergency transportation system. The renovated ambulance looks brand new. Work now continues on other ambulances, as the need for improving such vital transportation services remains high.

**4. Toilet Repairs for Gurukulam Children's Home:** An urgent request for \$1,500 came through to IMHO in March to renovate 5 toilets at the Gurukulam Children's Home in Kilinochchi, and IMHO quickly responded. Working through dedicated staff at the Kilinochchi Hospital and a team of engineers and architects, repair work on the overflowing and non-functioning toilets began within just a few days.

**5. Microfinance Efforts Help More Families Restore Livelihoods:** In a combined effort supported by IMHO USA, IMHO Canada, and the Canadian Graduate Association 35 total families have benefited from the tireless efforts of volunteers organized under the Kalmunai Mental Health Society. These committed individuals have been carrying out livelihoods support projects for these families, looking at each family individually and responding to their specific needs. Only one beneficiary has failed to repay the bank loan, and that was due to the severe flooding which destroyed her poultry farm. Otherwise, payment recovery has been great and more beneficiary families are gradually being added. We look forward to continuing to share the success of these efforts in future e-newsletters!

*Photo descriptions (clockwise from top left): Renovation of toilets at Gurukulam Children's Home; Two nurse officers stand next to newly installed dialysis machine at the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital; Educational tutoring for IDP youth in Kilinochchi; Small bicycle repair shop owner that benefited from microfinance support; Before & after of the renovated ambulance given to Mulankavil Base Hospital; Young cancer patient in Jaffna partakes in New Year's celebration*

**REMINDER: Please RSVP for the 8th Annual IMHO Convention in Houston on April 30th!**

All volunteers, donors, supporters, and team members of the IMHO family of organizations (including IMHO USA, IMHO Canada, IMHO Lanka, and IMHO European Union) are invited to attend the 8th Annual IMHO Convention on Saturday, April 30th in Houston, Texas. We will be joined by visiting guests from Sri Lanka, as well as other experts and professionals who are involved in development work in communities in need. A full update on IMHO's efforts and

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Saturday, April 30th in Houston, Texas. We will be joined by visiting guests from Sri Lanka, as well as other experts and professionals who are involved in development work in communities in need. A full update on IMHO's efforts and plans moving forward will be shared. We are also organizing panel sessions on various topics, where convention attendees will be encouraged to participate, share their ideas, and make plans for getting involved. A dinner and fundraiser will follow.

Confirmed speakers include:

- **Dr. T. Sathyamoorthy**, *Director, Vavuniya General Hospital, Sri Lanka*
- **Dr. K. Arulnithy**, *Consultant Cardiologist, Batticaloa Teaching Hospital, Sri Lanka*
- **Dr. Paula Hertel Thevananther**, *Asst. Professor of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, USA*
- **Dr. Joohi Jimenez-Shahed**, *Asst. Professor of Neurology, Baylor College of Medicine, USA*
- **Dr. K. Niranjan**, *London, U.K.*
- **Dr. M. Sivakadadchan**, *Melbourne, Australia*
- **Dr. S. Kesavan**, *Cardiologist, Sugarland Methodist Hospital, Texas, USA*
- **Dr. Elizabeth Finigan**, *Faculty Lead, NE Center of Excellence, VA Health Care, USA*
- ...and many more!

To view the full event listing and see the convention agenda, please click [HERE](#). **ALL guest are encouraged to RSVP.** To do so, please send an email to Nantha (*TX Coordinator and Event Planner*) at [texas@theimho.org](mailto:texas@theimho.org) or Greg (*IMHO Programs Coordinator*) at [coordinator@theimho.org](mailto:coordinator@theimho.org). Thanks and see you in Texas!

## Newly Renovated Point Pedro Base Hospital Wins Silver Award in National Competition



IMHO wishes to congratulate Dr. A. Ketheswaran, the staff at the Jaffna Regional Division of Health Services, and the staff of the Point Pedro Base Hospital for winning the Silver Award in the National Health Excellence

IMHO wishes to congratulate Dr. A. Ketheswaran, the staff at the Jaffna Regional Division of Health Services, and the staff of the Point Pedro Base Hospital for winning the Silver Award in the National Health Excellence competition conducted by the Central Ministry of Health in the category of curative care institutions (for medium scale General Hospitals & Base Hospitals). Of the 9 General Hospitals and 45 Base Hospitals across Sri Lanka, the Point Pedro Base Hospital won second place, which is all the more amazing considering this area has been heavily affected by conflict until recently. In addition, the Jaffna RDHS division won the Bronze Award in the competition for Best Health Management Unit. Last year IMHO supported the Point Pedro Base Hospital in this endeavor by providing \$5,000 for "5S" quality improvement renovations.

### **Global Outreach of IMHO Canada: *Japan, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka***

With natural disasters striking a number of countries in the Pacific Rim in recent months, IMHO Canada decided to step up by supporting the emergency relief efforts of the Canadian Red Cross for **earthquake and tsunami survivors in Japan**. A **\$2,500** donation will be used to support emergency health and the distribution of relief items to people impacted by this disaster. "The compassion the Canadian people have demonstrated...through their generous support...is incredibly uplifting at a time when we are dealing with such an immense humanitarian tragedy," stated Satoshi Sugai, Director International Relief Division, Japanese Red Cross Society. "This financial support is very much needed and continues to be welcomed to help the hundreds of thousands of lives that will forever be changed by this disaster."

IMHO Canada also committed **\$1,900** to an effort to benefit poor patients at the Bahir Dar Felege Hiwot Hospital in Bahir Dar, Amhara, **Ethiopia**. For this project, IMHO is coordinating a shipment of medicines to this highly under-stocked hospital, which serves a catchment area of over 5 million people. This shipment, which is being coordinated in partnership with another organization (Giving Children Hope,) contains important antibiotics, antimalarials, anti-hypertensives, and diabetic medications to benefit poor patients at the hospital.

Lastly, in an update on flood relief efforts in **Sri Lanka**, IMHO Canada has committed a total of **\$10,470** to serve those who were displaced and suffered as a result of the worst flooding to hit the island in decades. A total of \$5,235 was raised by a number of service-minded individuals and groups specifically for this cause, an amount which was matched by IMHO Canada. IMHO Canada would like to thank all who donated to this effort, including **Anpuneri**, a committed group of volunteers, who gave **\$1,000** for flood relief, whom we mistakenly left out of our last e-newsletter. Thank you, Anpuneri, for your continued support!

### **IMHO Receives Grant-in-Aid Award from Livermore Temple in CA**

On March 19, 2011 the Human Services Committee of the Shiva Vishnu Temple (Hindu Community & Cultural Center) in Livermore, CA presented IMHO a 2011 grant-in-aid award for \$500. The grant will help to support IMHO's efforts in promoting maternal nutrition amongst malnourished and undernourished mothers in Northern Sri Lanka, especially those that were displaced or otherwise deeply affected by the war. Thank you to the committee and the Livermore Temple for honoring IMHO with this award for the second year in a row!

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## Past IMHO Events

### \*\*\*New Jersey Community Rallies to Help Rebuild Lives in Sri Lanka\*\*\*



The New Jersey Chapter of IMHO held an exciting benefit concert, fashion show, and dinner on Saturday, March 26th at the West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North Campus in Plainsboro, NJ. An estimated 425 people were in attendance for the event, which featured a concert by esteemed musical artists C.S. Ainkaran and Anitha Krishna, accompanied by their live band. Dozens of local volunteers also participated in the fashion show part of the evening, everywhere from the little ones up to the adults, showcasing a variety of South Asian fashions. Dinner was provided by Dosa Garden Restaurant in Staten Island, New York. It is always an exceptional occasion when so many people come together to get involved in these types of benefit events, sending a powerful message that through our collective commitment and enthusiasm, we can help others while having fun in the process.

Thanks to the hard work of so many volunteers and community members, approx. **\$20,000** was collected to support a number of important efforts for those in the Vanni who were deeply affected by the war in Sri Lanka. These include providing micro-grants to families in need, supporting the many needs of IDP school children, and support for the disabled. IMHO wishes to thank everyone involved in this event for their service and dedication! You can view a **photo gallery** of the event by clicking [HERE](#).

### \*\*\*IMHO Canada: Volunteers Launch "Wedding Favours" Campaign at OHM Wedding Show\*\*\*

On March 26th three representatives from IMHO Canada attended the OHM Wedding Show in Markham to promote IMHO Canada's most recent campaign-- "Wedding Favours". It was a great start to the campaign and an exceptional venue at which to share the idea behind IMHO Canada's "Wedding Favours" Package. Our volunteers did an outstanding job explaining to the brides- and grooms-to-be about this new idea, and most of them seen carried away. Already, a number of couples have pledged to support this initiative and help use their special day to give back to those in need. Please check out our "Wedding Favours" page for more information.



**\*\*\*IMHO Canada: Health Seminar for Seniors in Toronto\*\*\***

Also on March 26th, a medical education event for seniors was held in Scarborough, with many senior citizens in attendance. Both IMHO International Board President Dr. Raguraj and IMHO Canada President Dr. Lambotharan were on-hand to present and answer the seniors' questions. Topics included "Daily Routines for Holistic Health", "Falls, Fractures, Depression, and Mobility Issues in the Elderly", and "Loneliness and Related Issues for Seniors". It was a very informative event, and a number of attendees showed their gratitude by making contributions to IMHO Canada or signing up to become monthly contributors.

**Upcoming IMHO Events**

**\*\*\*Annual MA Fundraiser 2011\*\*\***

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 23rd, 2011 at 6:00pm

**WHERE:** VFW Post 2498, 20 Junction Street, Needham, MA 02492

**WHAT:** Annual fundraiser for the MA Chapter of IMHO to support flood victims and help provide continued health and medical services to the needy people in the North and East of Sri Lanka. We will have an update of IMHO's activities over the past year, plus a raffle, the annual sari auction, and more!

**RSVP:** Nanda (massachusetts@theimho.org; 617.965.9233)

**\*\*\*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. You can also view the event listing on our website [HERE](#).

Please join us for our 8th Annual IMHO Convention, taking place this year in Houston, Texas. Rooms are available for booking by phone at 281.442.5100. For reservations by phone, group nightly rates are \$70/night (tax, which does not

Please join us for our 8th Annual IMHO Convention, taking place this year in Houston, Texas. Rooms are 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). Hotel reservations must be made by Friday, April 22nd if you wish to get the group rate. We look forward to seeing you there!

**\*\*\*Online Shopping Campaign\*\*\***

**WHEN:** Now! This is an ongoing campaign taking place online.

**WHERE:** Go to <http://cafegive.com/?cause=IMHO>

**WHAT:** Now you can make purchases from your favorite online stores and earn money for IMHO! Simply login to [cafegive.com](http://cafegive.com) and shop your favorite stores...Target, Barnes & Noble, Expedia, Macy's, Home Depot, iTunes, and hundreds more. A percentage of all your purchases will go back to IMHO. Just use the following link and start shopping today <http://www.cafegive.com/?cause=IMHO>

**\*\*\*IMHO Canada Greeting Card Sales\*\*\***

IMHO Canada is pleased to offer [greeting cards designed by Sri Lankan youth](#) whereby all profits will benefit youth in Sri Lanka. Each pack of colorfully designed cards comes with 10 cards and envelopes for just \$5! Or you can order 5 packs for just \$20. To order, simply email Lokini, IMHO Canada Programs Coordinator at [lokini@imhocanada.org](mailto:lokini@imhocanada.org) and give the details of your order.

The cards can either be picked up at the IMHO Canada office or can be mailed to you. If you are picking the cards up at the IMHO Canada office, simply bring a cheque or cash as payment. If you prefer to have the cards mailed to you, please make a donation online [HERE](#) and make sure to include \$5 extra for shipping. In either case, please coordinate in advance with the IMHO Canada Programs Coordinator by email or phone.

**Be the  
Difference.  
Save a Life  
with just  
\$1/day!  
[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 \$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).

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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