

International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)

Issue: #30

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~The IMHO Team

Season's Greetings from IMHO

On behalf of the entire IMHO team, we would like to wish all of you a very happy holiday season and a year full of happiness, success, and good health in 2012! As we reflect back on all that we have accomplished this year, we of course realize that none of this is possible without the support of people like you--people who believe that together we can promote the well being of all persons and make life better for those in need. Thank you for your compassion and your commitment! We hope you will continue to support us in the year ahead.

We are pleased to share with you some of our successes this year in our 2011 IMHO Annual Report, which was sent out last week. For those who did not receive it, you can access it online here: IMHO 2011 Annual Report.

Across Sri Lanka thousands of people in need rely on and have benefited from the support and services provided by IMHO in rebuilding lives, developing crucial health services and infrastructure, and ensuring a better tomorrow. Together with our local partners and the resilient people themselves, we have collectively accomplished so much since our humble beginnings in 2004. This past year IMHO USA continued its commitment to helping to rebuild lives for those affected by war, poverty, displacement, and natural disaster, having committed over \$200,000 in programs and in-kind donations to-date. Check out our annual report to learn more and consider making a contribution today: Donate

December 2011

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IMHO Supports Hospitals in Sri Lanka through Gifts In-Kind Program

In-kind donations have become another staple of our organization as we seek to lessen the inequitable distribution of resources in the developing world. These items helps us to further fill in the gaps and support the valuable services offered by the dedicated staff at hospitals throughout Sri Lanka. IMHO welcomes donations of all kinds. The following in-kind donations were all recently transferred:

1. Shipment of goods for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital, including milk powder, infant formula, milk formula, breast milk storage bottles, infant feeding rings/nipples, breast pumps, pulse oximeters, and other related equipment. All of these items were valued at \$12,715.

2. Glucometers and test strips for various hospitals in Sri Lanka, valued at \$15,000.

3. Pacemakers and other cardiology supplies for the cardiac catheterization lab established with support from IMHO. Estimated value of the donated items is roughly \$60,000.



Our IMHO Lanka Director hands over supplies to the cardiology department at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital.

Marking Ethiopia's First National Mental Health Day

In October 2011 Ethiopia held its first National Conference on Mental Health, marking an important change in national policy toward mental illness and its treatment. In a country scoring some of the lowest marks on global development indicators where the average GDP per capita is estimated at just \$350/year, mental health has taken a back seat while the country pushes its development agenda forward, which is what makes this event and the new emphasis on mental health all the more encouraging. IMHO volunteer Dr. Alan Krohn, who first visited Ethiopia last year on the IMHO-organized volunteer trip, was selected to be part of an advisory board for the conference and to deliver a paper there. At the conference, the local mental health care specialists and organizers adopted the slogan, "No health without mental health." Additionally, both Dr. Krohn and another IMHO volunteer, Dr. Bill Nixon, spent time working at Gondar University this past October/November, delivering lectures and helping to develop a program in clinical psychology. We look forward to sharing more updates on their progress in future e-newsletters.

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Past IMHO Events

A group of ambitious youth who are keen to harness their collective skills, knowledge, experiences, and enthusiasm toward doing service work in Sri Lanka met in San Francisco on Saturday, December 10th for the "Ideas 2 Impact" conference. This gathering provided an opportunity for youth, young professionals, and the young at heart to mingle with each other and explore how best to channel their shared interest in humanitarian work into action. Several representatives from the IMHO Board of Directors were on-hand to present about IMHO's unique role in helping people in need in Sri Lanka, while a number of youth and young professionals presented on various topics ranging from the greatest areas of need in Sri Lanka today to how best to get involved. Attendees then broke into small groups to brainstorm ideas for how best to support IMHO's efforts and help those in need, and later presented their ideas to the full crowd. The event was broadcast live on the web, and several people joined virtually as well. In case you missed it, you can check out the special event website today for more details: www.ideas2impact.org.

NYC Benefit Event Supports Children's Education in Haiti

A benefit event for the Ecole Village Lucina school project in Petit-Goave, Haiti was held in New York City on Saturday, December 10th. A project of the Dr. Henri Gerard Desgranges Foundation, the school serves disadvantaged young people and helps to support their education and overall personal development and well being. The event was attended by some of the foundation's longtime supporters, as well as new ones, who collectively raised much needed funds to support these efforts. The purpose of the event was to have an intimate gathering to continue to raise awareness and to create a committee of committed donors to sponsor children. Twelve beautiful prints of photographs taken in the community were all successfully auctioned off as well. IMHO continues to serve as the foundation's fiscal sponsor in the US.



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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