



International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)

Issue: #33

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Empowerment of Marginalized Women Trishaw Drivers in Jaffna & Other Sri Lanka Efforts

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Coordinated by the Women's Education and Research Centre (WERC), a handful of marginalized women from various communities were given vocational and life skills training, provided with a trishaw (three-wheeler), and organized into small collectives for financial accountability and group support. The trishaws were handed over to these deserving women on March 8th in Jaffna, Sri Lanka in commemoration of International Women's Day. Around 50-60 civil society members, NGOs, government officials, and community leaders were present for this momentous occasion. At the end of the ceremony, the women drove away in their new trishaws--a proud moment for all of them and their families. These women are not only empowered to now provide for themselves and their families, they are also breaking down gender stereotypes and norms about the role of women in society and challenging the male-dominated order of this profession. It also has the potential to enhance the mobility and sense of security of women passengers, particularly those that travel alone. This project was supported by both IMHO USA and IMHO Canada, amongst other donors, which collectively contributed **5 trishaws**.

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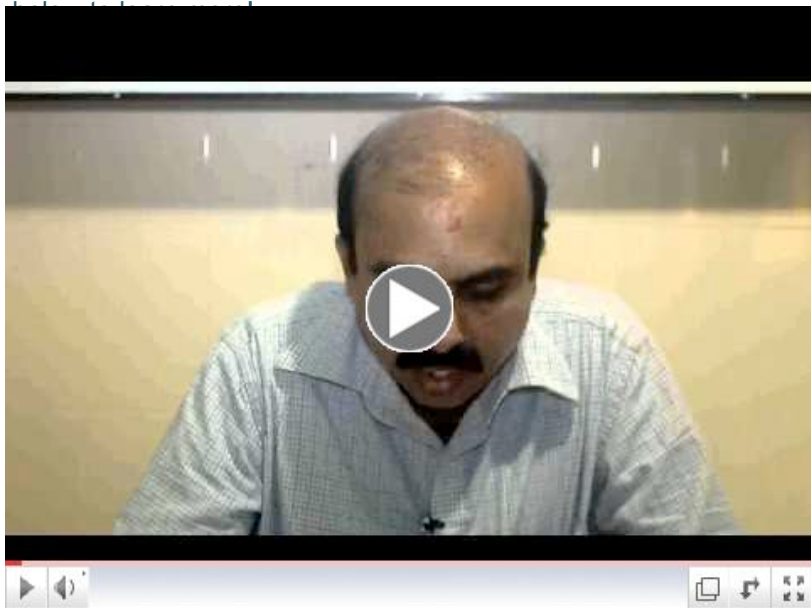
collectively contributed **5 trishaws**.

Additionally, IMHO USA made a contribution in the amount of \$20,000 for providing a new and much needed **ambulance for the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital Cardiology Unit**. IMHO Canada also played an instrumental role, dedicating \$10,000 to this project and helping to make improved cardiac patient transport in this region a reality.

In a continued effort to support vulnerable youth who have been deeply affected by poverty and conflict, IMHO USA provided Sivan Arul Illam with financial assistance in the amount of \$13,440 to provide **ongoing care, nutrition, and other basic support to children in Mannar** and their families.

Two New IMHO Videos Highlight IMHO's Impact on Strengthening Healthcare Services in Sri Lanka

Two new Tamil-language videos produced by IMHO and its partners on the ground highlight three very important projects that are helping to rebuild the healthcare infrastructure and livelihoods for resettled families in Northern Sri Lanka. The first video focuses on the Jaffna Diabetic Centre & home gardening projects, which have become staple programs of the organization. Click the image



IMHO Diabetic Clinic & Home Gardening Projects

Secondly, back in 2008, IMHO made it a top priority to improve cardiac care in the Northern Province and to establish a cardiac catheterization lab at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital. After heavy networking, fundraising, and awareness-raising, this facility became a reality in 2010 and many patients have since benefited from these life-saving services. Beyond that, IMHO has continuously supported and helped build up the facilities and human capital of the Jaffna Cardiology Unit and improve overall cardiac care. Click the image below to watch and learn more!

cardiac care. Click the image below to watch and learn more!

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IMHO Cardiology Unit video documentary

**PLEASE VOTE for our ALCS Training Video
Pitch
& Help us Win a Grant!**

IMHO Board member Dr. Sujanthi Rajaram recently submitted a video for consideration in the Grand Challenges Canada grant opportunity for "Rising Stars in Global Health". Dr. Rajaram's idea is to initiate an Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) training program at the University of Jaffna in Sri Lanka, for which volunteers at her hospital and amongst the diaspora will come together to strengthen cardiac services in the Northern Province. **We need your help...please vote for this video today to help get us to the next round! [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER & VOTE](#)**

Rising Stars in Global Health
Application Videos



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Application: Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) training in University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka



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See you this weekend in Toronto for the 9th Annual IMHO Convention!

We are very excited to be hosting our first IMHO convention in Toronto this weekend and are happy to report our Saturday evening event & dinner is all sold out! Thanks to everyone in the IMHO family and in the Greater Toronto community for this overwhelming response. Tickets are not needed to attend the business networking event on Friday, April 27th or the morning program on Saturday, April 28th, so we encourage you to attend those, even if you do not have a ticket yet for the Saturday night event. You may visit our special event website at www.IMHOAnnualConvention.com to find all the event details. Join us and other guests from around the world in learning about our work and engaging in conversation with visiting physicians and other development leaders from across the globe who are engaged in rebuilding the health, medical, and social service infrastructure in Sri Lanka and in communities in need worldwide!

Business Networking Event: Friday, April 27th from 7:00-10:00pm

Saturday Morning Convention: Saturday, April 28th from 8:00am-2:00pm

Saturday Evening Program, Show, Dinner, & Auction: **SOLD OUT!**

WHERE: All activities will take place at the New Jaasmin Banquet Hall, 90 Nolan Court, Markham, ON L3R 4L9, Canada

Upcoming Events

******IMHO Recipe Book******

Dr. Shiamala Suntharalingam is currently collecting recipes to make a cookbook, the proceeds of which will benefit the work of IMHO in serving communities in need in Sri Lanka and elsewhere. Please join her in this endeavor by providing any recipes you may have that you think others would like to learn and try as they explore various flavors and cuisines. If you have a recipe you would like to share, please submit it by email to shiamala72@gmail.com and title the email "in aid of IMHO". Along with the recipe please include digital photos of your ingredients and the final dish. Also, include a photo and a small description of yourself. For more detailed instructions and to view a sample recipe, please visit our website [HERE](#).

******Audio Book of Not Quite Paradise Continues Support for University of Jaffna Students******

Dr. Adele Barker, who is a Professor at the University of Arizona in Tuscon and author of [Not Quite Paradise](#), a memoir on her experiences in Sri Lanka as a Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellow and repeat visitor, has recently recorded an audio reading of her book, the proceeds of which continue to benefit students at the University of Jaffna. [Not Quite Paradise](#) (*Beacon Press, 2009*) is the record of her sojourns on the island as she moved between her tranquil life

her sojourns on the island as she moved between her tranquil life in the south and a very different life up on the Jaffna Peninsula. Dr. Barker gave a presentation at the IMHO Annual Convention in Boston 2 years ago and initiated a scholarship fund for students at Jaffna University from the proceeds raised from her book. To purchase the audio book and support her efforts, please use the following link: [SHOP HERE](#)

Past IMHO Events


Malarum Mottukkal Event Helps Bring Improved Care to Premature Babies in Jaffna



On April 14th, 2012, *Malarum Mottukkal*, a fundraiser for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Jaffna Teaching Hospital, was held at the Queens High School of Teaching in New York. The event was a grand success, **raising over \$25,000** and bringing in an attendance of over 400 people. The program boasted of a variety of entertainment programs ranging from group singing to Bharatanatyam dance performances to a grand concert rendered by three talented and upcoming young musicians, all in classical musical style. Simply put, the program was presented by children for children, all of whom are blossoming buds, or *malarum mottukal*.

The program kicked off with a welcome address by medical student Ms. Rujanthi Rudra. Students of Smt. Savitri Ramanand presented a brief vocal recital while students of Smt. Sivarani Sinnathambi played a few pieces on the violin. Marvelous dance recitals by students of Smt. Vignseswary Jeygandi, Smt. Mathy Pillai, and Smt. Jarumila Premathyalan followed. The IMHO President Dr. Kanaga Senathirajah welcomed everyone to the show on behalf of the IMHO and gave the backstory of how this program was initiated by a young person, Shenthuraan Tharmarajah. Later, IMHO Treasurer Dr. Rajam Theventhiran gave the audience an insight as to how the raised money will be spent to benefit the newborns as well as what activities the IMHO has been carrying out since it was founded in 2004.

Finally, the triumvirate of Aditya Venkatesh on vocals, Vivek Rudrapatna on violin, and Shenthuraan Tharmarajah on



Rudrapatna on violin, and Shenthuraan Tharmarajah on mrudangam captivated the audience with a brilliant concert. Both Aditya as well as Vivek especially showcased their talent in their Kharaharapriya alapanas, while Shenthuraan awed the stunned with his pumping thani avarthanam. To wrap their concert, the artistes collaborated with Smt. Vigneswary Jeyagandhi to present their thillana as "Kalinga Narthanam," a dance drama featuring a live orchestra and cast.

**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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