



# International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)

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## Restoring Hope: *An Update on Recent IMHO Efforts in Sri Lanka*

The success and excitement brought on by our 9th Annual Convention in Toronto this spring has spilled over to our programming now as well. We have made great progress in recent months and are enthused to share these new developments with you...

1. \$3,560 was given to the Jaffna Hospital Development Association to purchase a **biothesiometer**, a research device used for measuring neurological impulses, and for ongoing support of the **Jaffna Diabetic Center**.
2. **Solar power panels** were given through local partner nonprofit organization Survivors Associated to benefit communities in Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu, especially with regard to keeping areas well lit at night so that students can properly study after formal school hours. A total of \$14,000 was allocated for this purpose.
3. Ongoing support for Iyanankulam village, the community in Mullaithivu District which is home to roughly 208 families that IMHO has "adopted", has continued in recent months. \$2,000 was given through IMHO Lanka to support the local school, including the **provision of a photocopy**

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through IMHO Lanka to support the local school, including the **provision of a photocopy machine and establishment of a home garden** amongst other efforts. In addition to these efforts, IMHO has also made a commitment to support 25 families (14 of them headed by war widows) through livelihoods support efforts, as well as village infrastructure development (ie: water tanks, solar power unit, etc.). These efforts are ongoing and will continue to take shape throughout the year.

4. Ten patients (5 female, 5 male) who are receiving care at the Kudil rehabilitation home were given a **bicycle** by the Tellipalai Mental Health Society to help encourage their mobility and sense of self-empowerment.



5. The second installment of funds for purchasing **livestock** to promote livelihoods development in the Ampara & Mullaitivu Districts were released, which have so far enabled 20 families to receive a goat (at roughly \$250/each) and more families to receive a cow. This project has been implemented by a new, committed partner organization-the Vattapillai Amman Kovil Association.

6. \$5,000 was given to IMHO Lanka to support more **livelihoods** development efforts in the village of **Puthuvadduvan**.

7. At the end of July, the **new ambulance** purchased by IMHO for the Batticaloa Hospital Cardiology Unit was handed over. This new ambulance will be used to transport patients to and from the hospital, conduct mobile clinics, and start a pre-hospital cardiac thrombolytic treatment (which is given at home before transferring patients to the hospital) care program.

8. Ongoing support for the Kalmunai Mental Health Association has also continued, with an additional \$4,883 given in support of **multi-disciplinary team staff** salaries for 6 months, repair costs for 2 damaged toilets, and livelihoods support for 3 quadriplegic patients.

9. At the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital, the Oncology/Cancer Care Unit received support in the amount of \$6,386 for the development of a **cancer registry** (computer & staff salary for 6 months), **patient warmer, livelihoods support for 2 cancer patients in need, radioactive iodine treatment, and website maintenance**.

10. Finally, \$1,100 was given in support of **Psychiatric Social Worker (PSW) training in Valaichenai** to expand the cadre and expertise of mental health care workers there.

**Landmark Agreement with Ministry of Health Serves to Maximize Impact of Medical/Health Efforts**



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IMHO signed an historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka on July 26th, 2012 that enables it to operate in developing health facilities and services in Sri Lanka. The agreement was signed by the Ministry of Health Secretary, Dr. Nihal Jayathilake, and IMHO Lanka Director Jegan Thambiyah, and represents the culmination of ongoing discussions as to how to maximize IMHO's impact on developing the health & medical infrastructure of the Northern and Eastern Provinces in particular and better serve people in need. The story was printed in the *Daily News* in Sri Lanka [HERE](#). We are very much encouraged by this recent development and look forward to continuing our work in the Northeast to address vital healthcare needs.



### Upcoming IMHO Events

**\*\*\*3rd Annual OC Sri Lankan Food Festival\*\*\***

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 22nd, 2012 from 5:30 - 8:30pm

**WHERE:** Rush Park Auditorium, 3021 Blume Drive, Rossmore, CA 90720 **TICKETS:** Event tickets must be purchased in advance; please contact [coordinator@theimho.org](mailto:coordinator@theimho.org) for tickets today! Suggested minimum donation is \$30 for individuals and \$60 for families. All proceeds will benefit disadvantaged communities in Sri Lanka and Haiti. For the event flyer and more details, visit the event listing here: <http://www.theimho.org/events/upcoming-events/details/57-oc-food-festival-2012>

**\*\*\*2012 Semi-Annual IMHO Meeting\*\*\***

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 6th, 2012 from 8:00am - 1:00pm

**WHERE:** Hilton Garden Inn White Marsh,  
5015 Campbell Blvd., MD 21236

\*For room reservations, call [\(410\) 427-0600](tel:(410)427-0600)

Join us for our 2012 IMHO semi-annual meeting in Baltimore where we will be joined by visiting physicians and others in the development sector who will speak about the major needs affecting people in the countries in which IMHO works, as well provide a forum for discussion and discuss opportunities for supporting this important work. For the event flyer and more details, please find the event listing here: <http://www.theimho.org/events/upcoming-events/details/56-2012-semi-annual>

*\*Free breakfast and lunch will be provided  
\*Rooms can be booked under a special group rate  
\*We will be joined by a visiting physician from Sri Lanka who will share first-hand insights, experiences, and projects  
\*Please RSVP to [contact@theimho.org](mailto:contact@theimho.org) so that we may get an accurate headcount!!*

**\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE: 10th Annual IMHO Convention\*\*\***

**WHEN:** Friday, May 3rd & Saturday, May 4th, 2012

**WHERE:** Doubletree Hotel Somerset, 200 Atrium Drive,  
Somerset, New Jersey 08873

**FOR MORE INFO:** [sujanty@yahoo.com](mailto:sujanty@yahoo.com); [sunthasiva@verizon.net](mailto:sunthasiva@verizon.net)

Please save the date! You are cordially invited to join all volunteers, donors, supporters, and team members of the IMHO family of organizations (including IMHO USA, IMHO Canada, IMHO Lanka, and IMHO European Union) to attend our 10th Annual IMHO Convention! We will be joined by visiting physicians from Sri Lanka, as well as other experts and professionals who are deeply involved in development work in the communities in need that IMHO serves globally. A full update on IMHO's efforts and plans moving forward will be shared as well. Come learn how you can get involved and become a change-maker for good. All event details will be posted in the months to come on our special event website ([www.IMHOAnnualConvention.com](http://www.IMHOAnnualConvention.com)).

**\*\*\*IMHO Recipe Book: Submissions Needed!\*\*\***

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](mailto: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](#).

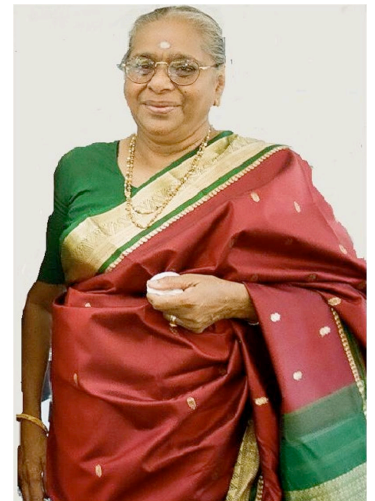
## Past IMHO Events

**\*\*\*Varghese Wedding Gifts\*\*\***

Gayathri and Jerry Varghese celebrated their special day on May 11, 2012 in Florida, collecting an incredible \$4,328 total through wedding gifts they received! These funds will help IMHO to support ongoing clean water and livelihoods projects in Sri Lanka. We are grateful to Gayathri & Jerry and all of their generous guests for this wonderful gesture, and we wish them a life of much happiness together!

**\*\*\*80th Birthday Celebration\*\*\***

Parameshwari Skandarajah of Ohio rang in her 80th birthday by helping to support people in need back in her native Sri Lanka. While her actual 80th birthday is on September 2nd, she celebrated early and collected \$450 to support IMHO in the process. She first came to the United States a few times in the 1980s for a visit, but then permanently moved here in the early 1990s. In the past she also generously contributed to IMHO in the amount of SLR 25,000 that she had saved from her retirement. What an inspiration!



**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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