



International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)

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Prioritizing Education & Teachers in Sri Lanka

With the destruction of homes, schools, roads, and much more throughout Sri Lanka's protracted conflict, many resettled families are continuing the long and slow process of rebuilding. One of the most acute needs repeatedly emphasized by local partners at the ground is that of rehabilitating the local educational infrastructure in these resettled areas. IMHO has been reaching to the core issues facing education in these areas by working to empower the teachers. Support for these teachers has taken the form of establishing basic facilities like safe lodging and toilets, which will cut their traveling time by several hours each day and allows them to be more focused. These improved accommodations also have a positive impact on a teacher's decision to stay with a school, especially those in rural or hardship areas, beyond their mandated commitment. This will reduce teacher turnover and ensure that experienced teachers remain in these areas, areas where they are so desperately needed.

Beyond this, IMHO has supported a number of educational efforts, helping to supply students with notebooks, book bags, school supplies, and bicycles, as well as helping to fund after-school tuition centers. Other local partners have also organized dental care efforts, educating and enabling youth to brush their teeth regularly and learn about proper dental care and hygiene. The impact of these efforts have been incredible.

For young people residing in resettled areas of Sri Lanka that were devastated by the war, finding a suitable place for study and learning is quite the challenge. Through the provision of solar power panels in

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communities across the Vanni, it is possible to keep school buildings and premises well lit at night so that students can properly study after formal school hours. Such efforts are vital for the overall development, both current and future, of these most highly affected areas as people strive to rebuild. IMHO continues to lend its support to such crucial services and will continue to prioritize education and the establishment of improved educational facilities and opportunities for years to come.

Celebrating a Decade of IMHO! **Final Call for Tix to our 10th Annual Convention**



*If you have not yet booked your hotel room for the upcoming 10th Annual IMHO Convention in New Jersey, please do so by this **Wednesday, April 24th!** Use the group code "IMH" when booking to get the special \$95/night rate at the [Doubletree Hotel Somerset](#). If you have already booked your room but did not use the group code, please let us know whose name you booked it under and we can add you to the group.*

*Also, please be aware that there will **NO TICKET SALES AT THE DOOR**. If you plan to attend the Annual Convention, you must RSVP and purchase tickets in advance! The last day will be Wednesday, April 24th...no exceptions! For details on how to purchase tickets and RSVP, please click here: [BUY TICKETS](#)*

And make sure to check out our special event website for all the event details:

www.IMHOAnnualConvention.com

WHEN: Friday, May 3rd & Saturday, May 4th, 2013

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

FOR MORE INFO: sujanty@yahoo.com; sunthasiva@verizon.net

For families with small children, please note that free babysitting services will be made available to you for the Saturday evening program for children under 12. Please email us at coordinator@theimho.org to let us know if you plan on utilizing this service. If you wish to see the **event flyer**, you can download it by clicking [HERE](#). And to join our **Facebook event page** and see who's coming so far, please click [HERE](#).

Getting Families in Kilinochchi Back on their Feet Again

For the past several years, IMHO has been supporting myriad livelihoods development and support efforts to help families deeply affected by chronic poverty and displaced by war (and subsequently resettled) across Sri Lanka, particularly in the Northern and Eastern Provinces where rates of

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poverty and the prevalence other hardships are much higher. Part of these ongoing efforts include support for 40 families in Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka who have benefited from the support provided by IMHO through one of our local partner organizations. In addition to financial support, sewing classes and other technical skills building trainings have been conducted for women to help them develop their abilities and establish a regular source of income. Equipment has also been provided, such as an incubator to hatch chicks, an initiative that alone benefited 10 more families. A major component of this project is also after-school education support for the children of these families, effectively demonstrating our multi-faceted approach to empowering them and helping them to lift themselves out of poverty and out of a state of dependency. Rest assured, these initiatives will continue for as long as they are necessary...



IMHO Texas Supporters Rally behind Paraplegics in Vanni, Sri Lanka

Over 70 volunteers and donors from all over Texas attended the 2013 IMHO Texas Annual Fundraising Dinner Program at the Madras Pavilion in Sugar Land, Texas on Saturday, March 23, 2013. The full program included an ideas2impact (i2i) young professionals/youth program update, presentations on "Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease" and "IMHO's Role in Building Health Systems & Addressing Vital Humanitarian Needs- An Update", health forum, interactive discussion of health issues between the medical panel and the attendees, light music entertainment, and dinner.

The event raised around \$18,000, including contributions by mail and in-person before, during, and after the program. This year's goal of \$22,000 is expected to be reached with additional contributions in the coming months. The contributions will be used to help fund IMHO's livelihoods program for about six paraplegics in Vanni, Sri Lanka. The complete program is expected to benefit nearly 40 spinally injured paraplegics who have been rehabilitated to the level of driving three-wheelers with hand control modifications and are in a desperate socio-economic status. The project will be implemented with the help of local partners. The project will also help the families of quadriplegics who cannot work on account of the monthly return of funds by the beneficiaries over an eight year period. On behalf of IMHO and the IMHO Texas Chapter, we sincerely thank all the attendees, donors, volunteers, and well-wishers who made this program such a resounding success!

**Ethiopian Sign Language Instructor
Takes up his Post & Volunteer Opportunity
in Ethiopia this August 2013**



Our first IMHO-sponsored full-time Ethiopian Sign Language teacher, Mr. Abel, took up his position at Yekatit 23 School in Bahir Dar last week! His presence will benefit the students of this school, their parents and teachers, and others in the community. This is just the first of many steps to support these amazing kids, their teachers, and the inspiring deaf students and local leaders we have had the privilege of getting to know. We will be returning this August with a volunteer group for a 13-day service learning trip to Ethiopia, for which we already have 10 volunteers registered. The details are as follows:

WHEN: 11-24 August 2013

WHERE: Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar, and Awash, ETHIOPIA

WHO: Students, Persons fluent in Sign Language, Deaf Persons, Medical Doctors, or anyone with a big heart!

HOW MUCH: \$1700 (all inclusive from time of arrival until departure; excludes airfare and visa fees)

Join us abroad this summer on a 13-day global service learning trip designed to educate, empower, and inspire deaf youth in Ethiopia! For the second year in a row, a volunteer service trip is being organized to Ethiopia, in which international volunteers will interact with local deaf persons, conduct educational service programs for deaf children, visit with local organizations at the forefront of developing services for the benefit of the deaf community, and explore this truly magnificent country! Only a few volunteer spots remain! For more details and instructions on how to apply, please visit our website at: <http://www.theimho.org/needs/volunteer-abroad>

**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
955 Proprietors Road, Suite B
Worthington, Ohio 43085
U.S.A.**

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

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