



International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)

Issue: #36

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Assisting Disabled Persons in Sri Lanka through Water & Sanitation Efforts

Thousands of civilians in Sri Lanka lost their limbs and many became paraplegic during the civil conflict that ended in 2009. Many of these paraplegics are still suffering daily without proper toilet facilities. IMHO has made a commitment help these innocent civilian amputees gain access to suitable toilets and tube wells that will ease their suffering and allow them proper access to water & sanitation. Working through local partner organizations, we have been able to provide many such facilities for persons in need in Mannar & Kilinochchi, Northern Sri Lanka. To-date, seven (7) tube wells and seven (7) toilets have been completed, with pledges of at least 10 more tube wells and several more toilets made thanks to recent contributions from our generous supporter. IMHO has already committed \$12,800 to these efforts this year alone. The cost for a tube well is around \$975 (SLR 125,000) and for a toilet is \$750 (SLR 95,000).

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In addition to these efforts to improve water and sanitation standards for vulnerable populations, IMHO also continues its commitment to rebuilding livelihoods for this demographic. As an example, IMHO is one quadriplegia patient in a very remote village known as Malikaithevu in the Anuradhapura District who has been bedridden for the past 17 years. This man has had chronic bed sores, lacks access to an inadequate mattress and was engaging in no vocation. However, thanks to a therapist from Australia (a psychiatric nurse) who provided the patient with a water mattress, his situation was brought to the attention of IMHO. The organization then gave a \$50,000 (\$400) as a micro grant for income-generating activities being coordinated by the Mental Health Association (KAMHA). It is capable individuals like this who stand to benefit from these types of minor but life-altering interventions. You can view a few more photos of IMHO's efforts [HERE](#) under the "Toilets for Disabled" tab. IMHO wishes to express our gratitude to everyone helping to make a difference in the lives of those in Sri Lanka.

Vital Equipment Donations to Hospitals in Sri Lanka Helps to Build Local Capacity

IMHO has recently made several significant contributions in the form of in-kind contributions and the provision of much needed medical equipment to hospitals in Sri Lanka. In August, pacemaker and blood analyzer equipment valued at \$70,000 was handed over to the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital Cardiology Unit to support the staff and improve cardiac care for patients in the Eastern Province.

Earlier in the year, IMHO made a commitment to supply surgical instruments to be used in the operating theater at Tellipalai Base Hospital. This equipment, towards which IMHO made a contribution of \$20,000, has now been procured and is in use at the hospital.

Additionally, the Vavuniya General Hospital received a supply of orthopedic equipment for their new Orthopedic Unit thanks to an \$11,000 grant from IMHO. The newly built Orthopedic Unit at the hospital was opened in 2010 and now has the capability for performing difficult and advanced surgeries. In



Pacemaker & blood analyzer donated to Batticaloa Teaching Hospital

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now has the capability for performing difficult and advanced surgeries. In particular, IMHO's valuable support went towards an adult limb reconstruction system. You can view more photos of these efforts by clicking [HERE](#).



Orthopedic equipment in use at the Vavuniya General Hospital

Upcoming IMHO Events

*****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:4104270600)

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 so that we may get an accurate headcount!!*

*****Annual Jaffna Medical Association (JMA) Call for Abstracts*****

The organizing committee of the JMA Annual Scientific Sessions invites you to submit abstracts for the academic program. The abstract should be written in English. The title of paper should be concise in bold capital letters, and the author's name should begin with the first name followed by

letters, and the author's name should begin with the first name followed by the last name. The text for the abstract must not exceed 300 words; should be structured and include the introduction, objective of the study, statement of methods, summary of results and brief conclusion. Authors should not use headings within. You can submit the abstract in accepted format to jmaconference2012@gmail.com. Please find the submission form [HERE](#).

*****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; 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).

*****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 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

*****The Importance of Service Emphasized at the OC Food Festival 2012*****

The third annual IMHO Food Festival in Orange County took place on Saturday, September 22nd in Rossmore, CA with around 250 people in attendance. Organized by volunteers from Anpuneri, a group of committed families that support philanthropic endeavors wherever there is need, the event was a great success, raising around **\$33,000** in donations! These funds will be used to support two vital projects serving communities in need in Sri Lanka and Haiti, including the construction of tube wells and toilets for disabled persons in resettled communities in Northern Sri Lanka and providing a regular nutritious breakfast for children at the Ecole Village Lucina school in Petit-Guave, Haiti. It is truly heartwarming to see the generosity of our community. Our sincere thanks to IMHO Vice President Dr. Rajam for coming all the way from New York to share the work of IMHO. We also express our gratitude to Manitha Neyam Trust for their assistance, along with Greg Buie, Gowri Arulmoli, Dr. P. Thangarajah, Anjana Pathmarajah, Jothy Yogarajah, and Kavi Srinivasaraghavan for their presentations and performances.

**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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