



International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)

2381 Hylan Blvd, Suite 13B, Staten Island, NY 10306
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2011 IMHO Volunteer Trip to Ethiopia *in Support of Deaf Education & Empowerment Efforts*

Welcome!

The International Medical Health Organization (IMHO) is a grassroots global health nonprofit organization based in the United States that seeks to improve and develop healthcare services and infrastructure in under-served regions worldwide. While the organization has traditionally been focused on the war-affected regions of Sri Lanka, last year a team of 6 IMHO volunteers traveled to Ethiopia and conducted various needs assessments. One such need that jumped out at the group was the lack of services and opportunities for deaf people throughout the country. Over the past year, volunteers have been planning and laying the groundwork for engaging the deaf community in Bahir Dar in the Amhara Region through various education and empowerment efforts. For those of you who have volunteered with us before, you know how meaningful and insightful these trips can be. For those of you who have not volunteered with us, we invite you to take advantage of this unique opportunity to explore, have fun, and make a difference in the lives of many underprivileged people from destitute communities and disadvantaged backgrounds.

Dates & Itineraries

- **2011 IMHO Volunteer Trip: Addis Ababa & Bahir Dar, Ethiopia**
Saturday, December 10th — Thursday, December 22nd

The tentative itinerary for the volunteer trip is as follows:

<i>VOLUNTEER TRIP</i>		
DAY	DATE	ACTIVITY
1	Saturday, December 10 th	Volunteer departure from USA
2	Sunday, December 11 th	Anticipated arrival in Addis Ababa; overnight at Family Cozy Bed & Breakfast
3	Monday, December 12 th	Group orientation; city exploration and time to run necessary errands
4	Tuesday, December 13 th	Local NGO partner meetings and visit: Ethiopian National Association for the Deaf (ENAD) and the Deaf Development Information Association (DDIA)
5	Wednesday, December 14 th	Local site visit and volunteering with ENAD and DDIA,

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 and a proud member of InterAction.*

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		including ENAD preschool; afternoon visit with staff and students at Addis Ababa University sign language program
6	Thursday, December 15 th	Local volunteering at the LeaMcD Center for Deaf Services (www.learmcdeaf.com)
7	Friday, December 16 th	Local volunteering at the LeaMcD Center for Deaf Services
8	Saturday, December 17 th	Local volunteering at the LeaMcD Center for Deaf Services
9	Sunday, December 18 th	Travel by private van to Bahir Dar; overnight at Summerland Hotel (www.summerbahirdar.com); group leisure time in the evening
10	Monday, December 19 th	Visit and volunteering at deaf classrooms at the Yekatit 23 School in Bahir Dar
11	Tuesday, December 20 th	Morning visit to Yekatit 23 school; afternoon leisure time and exploration of Lake Tana and surrounding areas
12	Wednesday, December 21 st	Travel by private van back to Addis Ababa; volunteer departure dinner; overnight at Family Cozy Bed & Breakfast
13	Thursday, December 22 nd	Departure for USA

Program Description

Ethiopian deaf children suffer discrimination in education, healthcare, job skills training and opportunities, and everyday communication and activities. For this reason, we at IMHO are developing an Ethiopian Deaf Youth Empowerment Program in which we will partner with local organizations already engaged in serving this vulnerable community. During this trip we intend to learn from their experiences and efforts in greater detail, in order to put together the highest quality and most comprehensive program possible as we move forward. Our hope is that the end result will be the development of a thoughtful and thorough program of life skills training, Ethiopian Sign Language (ESL) training, job training, and educational support for children in Bahir Dar (where there are currently NO services available to the deaf community).

In addition to the volunteer component, these trips will provide an opportunity to see local development projects in action. Volunteers will meet with local NGOs and make field visits to various projects designed to make a difference in communities in need.

Finally, volunteers will have time for periodic sightseeing and leisure, providing an opportunity to see some of the many fascinating sights that Ethiopia has to offer. All of this will give volunteers an opportunity to experience Ethiopian culture and engage in what will hopefully amount to a powerful cross-cultural exchange and learning experience.

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Costs

The program fee for 12 days/11 nights is set at \$1,195/person. This fee covers all expenses from the moment you arrive in Ethiopia until the moment you leave, but it excludes the cost of roundtrip international airfare, travel visa, and any other personal shopping or expenses once on the ground. Each volunteer is responsible for applying for their travel visa, as well as making their own airfare arrangements and communicating these to IMHO well in advance of any travel.

Local Partners

For this program we are partnering with the Ethiopian National Association for the Deaf (ENAD), the Deaf Development Information Association (DDIA), the LeaMcD Educational Service for the Deaf in Ethiopia, and the Yekatit 23 School in Bahir Dar. ENAD will serve as the lead partner organization and will work closely with IMHO to make all arrangements and ensure our entire group is properly cared for throughout our stay.

How to Apply

If you are interested in volunteering with IMHO this December, simply fill out the 2011 IMHO Volunteer Application & Waiver and return it to:

Greg Buie, *IMHO Programs Coordinator*
4080 View Park Dr.
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Please make sure your application is complete and has been signed wherever a signature is required. Also, a photocopy of your passport photo page is necessary. There is a non-refundable volunteer application fee of \$50, which will be applied to your overall program fee if you are accepted as a volunteer. All checks should be made payable to "IMHO" and included with your completed application. Applications must be received by November 10, 2011.

What's Next?

You will be notified by email as soon as your application has been received and processed. Over the next several weeks leading up to the trip we will be communicating with all volunteers regularly about exact travel plans, flight arrangements, suggested immunizations, payment, what to prepare for, what to expect, other trip details, and more. A non-refundable deposit of \$350 will be due no less than one month prior to departure, and full payment will be due no less than 2 weeks before departure. It is often easiest to pay in full upfront, although it is up to you to decide how you would like to do it. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns. We look forward to you joining us in Ethiopia!

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