

Jamaica Outreach Program

OUR MISSION:

“Jamaica Outreach Program (JOP) is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) public charity whose mission is to help the poor in Jamaica, through sister-parish and other strategic relationships. JOP provides funds, goods and services for health care, food, clothing, housing, community facilities, and education, to improve the lives of the poor in Jamaica without regard to religious affiliation, personal history, gender, age or race.”

Fall- 2014 Newsletter

Since 1997

There but for the grace of God go I ... by Jeanne Stamant

July 2014 marked my 15th trip to Jamaica. Coming face to face with 4 families who received a new home touched my heart. They are so grateful and still have so little, it underscores the abundance God has blessed us with and reinforces my personal commitment to continue to serve JOP. This annual newsletter will summarize our fiscal year 2013-2014 results, and I hope you will be inspired to renew your commitment to our mission. **Thank you** to all who pray for us, our volunteers and donors.... “there but for the grace of God go we”.

Food & Goods



We appreciate anew the support extended to JOP by the parishioners of St. John the Evangelist in Naples, FL. This past year, an ocean-going container was filled with 502 boxes of food valued at \$17,570 headed for the food pantry at St Pius X.

While we no longer collect and ship clothing and household goods, we do occasionally accept special items and arrange for their shipment to Jamaica. This past year these items included eyeglasses, eyeglass frames, medical equipment and medicines. The mission of JOP continues, our dedication endures, and our gratitude grows daily for all those who do whatever they can to help us bear witness in Jamaica to Christ’s teachings and example.

Ray Shawcross (401-862-0590) is now JOP’s Food & Goods Chairman. We thank Martha for her past leadership of this committee.

Martha Mador, long-time food drive coordinator, enters every item in the computer to develop the manifest list for shipping food to Jamaica.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Food and Goods	1
Optical	2
Financial & Volunteers	3
Education & New St. Pius X pastor	4
Medical	5
Events	5
Housing	6
Dental	7
Letter from Fr. Raphael	8
Contact Us & How to donate	8

Oct.1, 2013 - Sept.30, 2014 Highlights

- ☉ 400 Eye exams, 281 eyeglasses delivered, 5 corneal transplants
 - ☉ 502 boxes of food were delivered
 - ☉ over 2,500 patient visits to the St. Pius medical clinic were made
 - ☉ 679 dental patients were treated in 3 dental missions
 - ☉ 131 students received aid for tuition, supplies, books, or uniforms
 - ☉ 72 young adults received job skills training
 - ☉ 17 housing units were built for the poor
 - ☉ over 200 people volunteered (38 went on mission trips)
- AND MORE...** see inside for details.

Vision Care Report

During the last year, two optical trips were staged by JOP teams. Fifteen volunteers from OH, KY and SW Florida supported the professionals who donated their time, talent, and often medicines and glasses to the eye care clinic at the St Pius X compound.

The first trip to St. Pius X began October 30, 2013 with the help of Dr. Phillip Baier (Naples, FL) and Dr. Thomas Kelly (OH), supported by 8 volunteers from KY, OH and FL. Pharmaceutical supplier Alcon donated eye drops for exams and to treat various eye conditions. The team completed 220 eye exams, 200 pairs of prescription eyeglasses followed, 27 repairs, 26 cataracts diagnosed, and 21 glaucoma patients were given medicine.



Nov. 2013 Optical mission team



Dr. Zimm & Alisa, cornea transplant patient



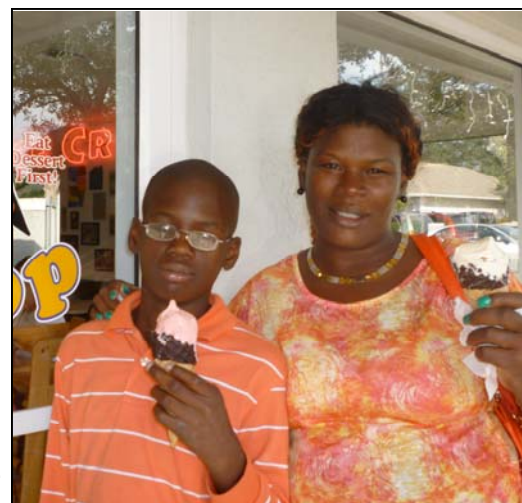
Host family and Tashika, cornea patient—Dec. 2013

The second trip in this past fiscal year was led by Dr. Jeffrey Zimm, of Naples FL, and included an optician and 3 ophthalmic assistants in August, 2014. They performed 180 exams, followed up with 81 pairs of eyeglasses, diagnosed 43 cataract prospects (70 eyes), 10 glaucoma patients and 6 new cornea transplant needs. Dr Zimm is JOP's Eye Care Coordinator and is part of the JOP Advisory Board. In addition, Dr. Zimm donated his services here in Naples and performed cornea transplants for 5 different Jamaican patients this year. In most of these cases, JOP volunteers opened their homes and hosted the patients while they were in Naples. There are many patients still waiting for eye surgery and vision care.

The parish of St. John XXIII in Fort Myers, FL donated an auto-refractor and lens kit to the diocese of Montego Bay. Bishop Burchell McPherson is an old friend of Jamaica Outreach and former pastor of St. Pius X. He is starting up a vision clinic in his new region.

For those of us who serve the JOP in a variety of ways there is no greater source of fulfillment than serving the poor in Kingston. We thank our volunteers, donors, and supporters for giving us the opportunity to do so.

For more information contact : Dr. Jeffrey Zimm 239-592-5511



13-year-old Akiel and his mom enjoying ice cream in Naples, before his cornea surgery in January 2014.

Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended 9-30-14 — Jamaica Outreach Program

Statement of Activities

Support and revenues	
Contributions & Grants	\$ 248,250
Special events, net	\$ 13,409
Donated food, goods & services	\$ 164,517
Investments & Other* Income	\$ 5,346
Total Revenues	\$ 431,522
Expenses	
Program services (96.3%)	\$ 445,828
General & administrative** (1.9%)	\$ 8,716
Fundraising (1.8%)	\$ 8,304
Total expenses	\$ 462,848
Increase (decr) in net assets	\$ (31,325)
Net assets - beginning of year	\$ 150,705
Net assets - end of year	\$ 119,380
Unrestricted net assets	\$ 107,441
Temporarily restricted net assets***	\$ 11,939

96.3 % Spent on Programs for the Poor

Fortunately, our fixed expenses are minimal because we have no office rent, no buildings, and no paid staff. In spite of many challenges, we were able to continue to deliver most of the services needed by our constituents in Jamaica. We try to retain 6-months' operating expenses (approximately \$60,000) as unrestricted assets. Periodic audits of the records of St. Pius X and other grantees help to confirm that grants were used as intended. We also have an annual internal audit to verify that JOP's policies on checks and balances have been followed. Our books are open to anyone who wants a more detailed view of our finances.

THANK YOU for your faithful support of our mission.

* Other Income and Other Program Services include mission trip expenses contributed by trip volunteers.

** General/admin expenses are largely CPA financial services & insurance.

*** Temporarily Restricted Net Assets include donations restricted for distribution after the close of our fiscal year: \$1,491 Housing, \$8,587 Optical, and \$1,861 Dental Travel.

Sean Nolan, CPA, of RWHSG prepares JOP's reviewed financial statements, but the final product was not available at press time. A copy of their complete report will be available on our website or by calling Jeanne Stamant 239-514-0290

Volunteers.... By Martha Mador

The J.O.P. has increased its outreach efforts steadily with the help of an untold number of volunteers. Everything we do in and for Jamaica requires volunteers who believe in our mission and work tirelessly to fulfill it.

In the past two years the greatest change in our operations is the number of professional volunteers who have joined our ranks and travel to Kingston offering life changing services to a deserving people. Professionals from all over the country have found us online and are offering their services to our mission. As a result dozens of cataract surgeries were performed in early 2013 in Jamaica by an ophthalmologist from Ohio; 5 corneal transplants were done in Naples, Florida, for Jamaicans who have no access to that surgery in their own country. Additionally, a group of dentists, hygienists and dental assistants now visit our dental clinic at St Pius four or five times a year to provide dental treatments for people who would never have the opportunity for that kind of care. All of these volunteers work twelve hours a day for three days at a time and never complain; many of them have made repeated trips to our dental and optical clinics in Jamaica.

Our corps of volunteers who work in Naples on fundraising events, our annual Food Drive and Pocket Change Weekends are indispensable; those who serve as hosts to the Jamaican choir or Jamaicans coming here for eye surgeries are invaluable. As most of us know and believe, the greatest gift is the gift of self; our volunteers practice that year in and year out. Our gratitude for their service knows no bounds.

For more information: martha@madors.net or call Martha (860) 449-2105.

Interested in learning more ? Gen. Info: Joe Gagnier, President 254-9090 Medical : Dr. Al Kerns 514-1553 Optical : Dr. Jeff Zimm 592-5511

Housing: Chip Howard 495-0609 Dental: Roger Plante 948-2145 Education & Food Drive: Ray Shawcross 401-862-0590

Donations/Events/Website: Jeanne Stamant 514-0290 Volunteering : Martha Mador 860-449-2105

Education Report

Hundreds of students, both children and adults, were assisted by the Jamaica Outreach Program this year.

St Pius X parish in Kingston runs a Skills Training Center educating 51 adults in a 9 month long course for job skills in either food preparation or cosmetology. The courses also include basic math, English and computer training. JOP provides the bulk of the funding for the operation of this critical program. JOP also provided some support to a similar Skills Training Center at St. Peter Claver. After graduation many obtain their first job. Unemployment in that area is over 40%.



St. Pius X Skills Training Center students 2014



Deacon Frank & Martha prepare toy cars for shipment to Jamaican pre-schools. Dupont kindergarten kids loved them and "painted" their cars with crayons.

JOP funded scholarship programs at three parishes. These grants assisted 71 students to continue their education. The students are selected by the parish scholarship committees based on financial need, satisfactory school performance, and community involvement. Scholarship recipients are expected to give back to their church community through involvement in parish activities.

Dupont Primary and Infant School, located on the grounds of St Pius X is an inner city school with an enrollment of 1,390 students. This year, JOP provided uniforms for needy students along with books and teacher supplies for the entire school.*Continued on page 5* →

Meet the New Pastor at St. Pius X

— Father Raphael Assamah



I was born on 4th July 1976 in Ghana. All my education was in Ghana. Listening to the voice of God within me, I entered the St. Paul's Major Seminary in 1999 to study Philosophy, Sociology and Spirituality. In 2003, I studied theology and education at St. Peter's Regional Seminary. I was ordained Deacon in January 2008 and later into the priesthood on 23rd August 2008 for the Archdiocese of Accra.

As a priest I worked at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, in Accra, the capital city of Ghana. While there I was in charge of the youth and was chaplain to some societies in the Archdiocese.

There was the need for priests to assist in Jamaica. The door was opened for volunteers and I opted to come to Jamaica. Currently I am working in Sts. Pius X and Peter Claver Catholic Churches in the Archdiocese of Kingston.

Concert

Monday, March 2 7:00 pm

Kevin Williams (Jamaican tenor)

Billy Dean & Dawn

*Broadway - Gospel - Caribbean
Jazz - Classical*

*... all your favorite happy and
inspirational songs*



BILLY DEAN AND DAWN

For tickets (\$20) call Roger
239-948-2145 or buy online at
www.jamaicaoutreach.org.

Medical Report

Dr. Lee Martin sees about 50 patients per week in the medical clinic at St. Pius X. Fewer patients come when there is no free medicine to dispense.

Dr. Al Kerns, JOP Advisory Board member, continues to coordinate the purchase and delivery of medicines for the "All Care Clinic" at St. Pius X, including the \$21,000 shipment made in August 2014.

Medicines, equipment and supplies	Yr. Ended 9-30-14	Total since 1998
Purchased with donations from St. John parishioners & JOP donors	\$21,121	\$ 236,810
Donated by the Catholic Medical Mission Board	\$ 0	\$3,069,617
Total:	\$21,121	\$3,306,427

Education Report (continued from page 4)

In addition, JOP has collected hundreds of used books from St Ann School in Naples and shipped them to Kingston for use at Dupont. The Dupont School strives to cultivate the intellectual, moral and spiritual development of its students in grades pre-K to 6.

JOP grants have been given to 3 Basic Schools, which educate children from 3 to 6 years of age. These Catholic schools serve to get students ready to enter the first grade. There are 61 students at African Martyrs and 42 at Christ the King. St. Mary's in Montego Bay will open soon.

JOP also funded a one week summer camp for Catholic youth. The camp provided an atmosphere of spirituality, guidance, fellowship and fun for 31 disadvantaged young people from the urban core of Kingston.

For more information: Ray Shawcross 401-862-0590



Career Day at African Martyrs of Uganda Parish Basic School

Christmas Tea



Wed. December 3, 2014, 12:30 pm

Plan to join us again this year for our annual Christmas Tea, featuring a champagne reception, boutique shopping, entertainment, lunch, scones and sweets. \$35 per person — reserved seating in the St. John's ballroom. Wear your Christmas colors! For tickets call Jeanne 239-514-0290 or buy online at www.jamaicaoutreach.org. See all the photos from last year's Tea on our website's photo gallery.

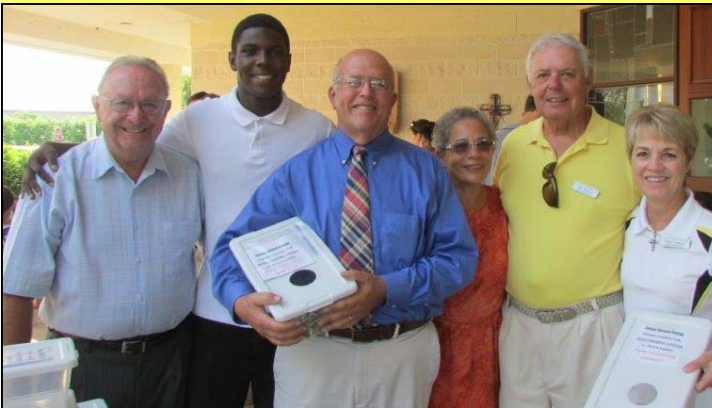
Casino Night - Jamaican Style

JOP is having a Casino Night, **Friday, February 6, 2015 at 5:30 pm** in the St John the Evangelist ballroom. Please come to support the poor in Jamaica... Tickets are only \$50 per person. This fundraiser will feature **very casual attire**, an open bar, food stations, 5000 free gaming chips, genuine Vegas tables* and professional dealers* who will coach and entertain you. Your chance to win prizes in our Grand Raffle (must be present to win). Consider being a sponsor! For tickets and info, call Jeanne 239-514-0290, or buy online at www.JamaicaOutreach.org.

*The casino gaming tables are provided for entertainment purposes only by Casino Party Nights FL, Inc. 954-926-4219. All donations and proceeds go to JOP.



Housing Report



Pocket Change volunteers & Chip Howard (center), Housing Chairman

This past fiscal year JOP donors funded the construction of 17 new homes for the poor. Two homes, pictured right, were built with donations to our April, 2014 “Pocket Change” collection.



Ewart Family, Cave Mountain



Francis family, McCooks Pen

Summer 2014 JOP housing inspections.

“...it’s a luxury of living somewhere with a locked door.”



The Housen home

In conjunction with a dental mission in July 2014, Roger Plante and Jeanne Stamant were able to randomly inspect four of the homes built by Jamaica Outreach (JOP) donors.

The first home we visited was in McCooks Pen built for Mr & Mrs Densil Housen in mid-2013. Mr. Housen was not present, however we met with his daughter and grandchildren who live next door. Mr. and Mrs. Housen are an unemployed elderly couple. We estimate 11 members of this extended family benefit from the homes including great grandchildren who come for extended visits as their living accommodations in a nearby hut are very sub-standard. Although there were very sparse furnishings, they now enjoy a home of their own.



The Murander home

The second site was the home of Patricia Murander in the Garden Woods section. Ms. Murander is disabled and she lives there with her four children. She cannot work and is totally reliant on others. She has a stove and beds, but food is a huge issue. Jamaica was experiencing a severe drought, so gardening and production of their own food seemed to be a non-option this summer. For many, survival often means searching and begging for food every day. Fortunately when the children get to school age, they get a good meal every day.

Our third visit was to Ms. Dolce Smith whose home was built in October, 2013 on Patrick Street in St. Catherine, near Kingston. Getting to that house involved a lot of twists and turns

through dirt roads, walking 200 yards on a narrow dirt path, and crossing a makeshift bridge of corrugated zinc over a small canal that brings a little water from a nearby river. Ms Smith told us of her mental health issues and she is attempting to get help and medications. Her three grandchildren Marcus, Abigail and Alicia, live with her much of the time. Ms. Smith struggles every day to find food and the only furniture is two beds and a 12 inch charcoal cooking grille. Ms. Smith’s plight, and those of all the families we visited, is further complicated by the drought as the rainwater tank (attached to many of our houses) very often runs dry.*Continued on page 7*



Ms. Smith showed us inside her new home and her 12” charcoal cooking grill on the floor.



Mr. Francis & twin daughters,
with Jeanne & Roger

Housing Report (continued from page 6)

The fourth home visited was that of Mr. Izette Francis (see photo, page 6). He is an amputee who suffered the loss of his leg in an accident some 25 years ago; he uses old crutches to get around. He is the single parent of twin ten year old daughters whose mother abandoned them when they were babies. They are awaiting some basic furniture, but they love having a bathroom and the solar electric lighting system in the new house. The new home will provide them with a great degree of security for the girls which is his prime concern. He would very much like to be productive. He has a chicken coop in the back yard and is trying to get seed money to start a chicken business.

All in all, we were very pleased with what we saw and each of the four cases we inspected validated that our housing program and our affiliation with Food For the Poor Housing Division are solid and trustworthy. Interested donors and volunteers may contact Housing Committee chairman Chip Howard at cah3rd@comcast.net or at 239-495-0609.

VanDomelen Dental Clinic

Praise to God for the gift of generous donors and devoted volunteers, both of which keep our dental mission effort afloat. This year our teams worked tirelessly to provide tender loving dental care to an overwhelming number of needy in and around Kingston.

JOP sponsored 3 dental missions, in March, July, and September; one is scheduled for October and starting in November, 2014, dental clinics are planned for every other month throughout 2015.

By word of mouth and through social networking, dental professionals have come forth from MA, GA, AL, FL, TN, CT, RI, NH, NY, PA, and Montreal Canada to staff our missions. They come from multiple religious and ethnic backgrounds, but each brings to the scene a love for humankind and their own enthusiasm to serve the poorest of our brothers and sisters.

Each mission team usually consists of two dentists, two assistants, two or three hygienists and a group leader who serves to assign the patients. Each mission treats between 150 and 200 patients, providing cleaning, fillings, extractions and even some restorative dental work when time permits. So far, each of the teams has agreed to repeat their mission efforts in the coming year, which is testimony to the warm memories they return home with.

Dentist Eric from the Atlanta area, wrote: ***“Once I got off the plane, I was overcome with emotion by what we had done. It was hard to hold back tears just thinking about how much we gave of ourselves and the difference it made to the people of Jamaica. I have never worked so hard.....It was truly an emotional experience for me! I am still riding this rush.... from helping those people and I feel like it has changed my perspective on life.”***



July, 2014 mission team

Michele, a hygienist from the Boston area wrote: ***“Just when you think you can’t see another patient, you take a moment and go to the front desk and look out into the waiting room into the eyes and faces of these beautiful, innocent children and the adults waiting so patiently, and your energy is re-stored.....Their happy faces and the gratitude they show re-juvenates you, allowing you to get up and do it all over again the next day.”***

In October of 2014, we begin a fluoride varnish program at the DuPont School in an effort to curb the spread of decay in those young teeth. ... ***Continued on page 8***



Photo taken at patient's request. Note the child's rubber glove "balloon".

Thank You Message from Father Raphael

A thanksgiving heart is not only the greatest virtue but the mother of all virtues. In light of this, I wish to express heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the Pastor and parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church for your support (financial and otherwise) in the areas of education, medical-dental-vision care, housing, food. Your contribution has gone a long way to help the poorest of the poor in Jamaica. May God bless and give success to the work of your hands.

To all the members of JOP who work behind the clock to put smiles on the faces of the less privileged, we say "gracias". God bless you all.

-Rev. Father Raphael Assamah, Pastor: St. Pius X and St. Peter Claver Catholic Churches, Kingston, Jamaica



Jamaican choir Feb. 2014. Farewell dinner songs and fun with Robyn's hats.
Choir returns to sing at St. John's masses February 7 & 8, 2015

Dental Report (continued from page 7)

Hopefully in the next three missions, we will be able to treat all 1,400 students and then repeat the procedure again every six months. Also, we continue our dental hygiene educational sessions with each mission trip.

All of this is very expensive and the generosity of the parishioners at St. John's and JOP donors, makes it all possible. We ask everyone's prayers for the continuing success of this program and their cooperation in future fund raising efforts.

Very important also, we ask all friends of JOP to

pass on the message by "word of mouth" that **JOP is always in need of dental volunteers**. Roger Plante, who chairs these missions can be reached at 239-948-2145 or rogerplante10@gmail.com



St. Pius X staff: Miss Bradford (parish secretary) and Deacon Vivian Blair.



Ricky (left), Boxer (right) with missionary Peggy Johnson



Dr. Jeffrey Zimm and team
Optical mission August, 2014

Jamaica Outreach Program

P.O.Box 110581

Naples, FL 34108-1929

www.JamaicaOutreach.org 239-325-2103

Email: JamaicaOutreach@comcast.net

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