

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."

January, 2011 Newsletter

Since 1997

"Many hands make light work".....

This year's annual newsletter is dedicated to the many hands of our volunteers and donors from St. John the Evangelist and elsewhere, who lighten the burden of the poor in Jamaica. In this issue you will see how much has been accomplished in fiscal year 2009-2010, and how far we've come since 1997 when the sister-parish program was founded. The St. Pius X compound and the DuPont School are well positioned to move from "dependence" to "interdependence" in the years ahead.

May God bless those who make this a better world, by praying for us, volunteering and donating.

Thank you for your support of, and faith in, our mission.

Oct.1, 2009 - Sept.30, 2010 "in a nutshell"

- ☺ 793 Eye exams, 653 Eyeglasses, 190 Cataract surgeries
- ☺ 811 boxes of food + \$10,000 purchased food
- ☺ 2,261 boxes/items of clothing and goods
- ☺ 15,000 patients visited our Medical Clinic
- ☺ 52 children were sponsored for school lunch or uniforms
- ☺ 42 computers installed in the library & computer lab
- ☺ 4 families received a new home
- ☺ 34 volunteers went on mission trips



*Medical clinic patients,
patiently waiting for the doctor.... See article page 3*

Interested in learning more ?

Gen. Info: Joe Gagnier, President 254-9090

Medical + Dental: Dr. Al Kerns 514-1553

Optical: Richard VanBuskirk 225-1212

Housing: Roger Plante 948-2145

Packing: Bill O'Connell 594-9439

Education: John Oustrich 598-4335

Adult Educ. & Website: Ugo Assi 992-4188

Donations/Events: Jeanne Stamant 514-0290

Sewing: Nancy Cote 514-0410

Mission trips, or other volunteering:

Ann Kerns 514-1553



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POCKET CHANGE FOR JAMAICA HOUSING. 2010 saw the beginnings of Jamaica Outreach's "Pocket Change" drive which produced sufficient funds to build 4 homes last spring, for needy families in and around St. Pius X parish. St. John the Evangelist parishioners are asked to accumulate their pocket change during the year for collection at one Spring and one Fall pre-designated weekend. Through these efforts, thousands of dollars in actual pocket change have been processed, along with checks and dollar bills of all denominations which generous parishioners have placed in the collection receptacles before and after masses on those designated weekends. Additionally, several donors have seen fit to fund the construction of an entire house which costs \$2,800. The four homes have been built and the Nevers, Fleming, Morris and Allen families are very grateful for the generosity of their donor friends from the St. John's community.



Housing conditions before your donations



The Morris family and their new home

The homes built under this program measure 18' X 14' and have a locking door and windows; and although there is no finish work on the inside, these homes provide a marvelous improvement for these people who are coming from tin "shantys" and cardboard boxes. There is no plumbing in the homes, but communal facilities are usually available.

WOODWORKING TOOLS RECEIVED. JOP graciously accepted the donation of a complete home workshop of woodworking tools. These tools will be donated to one or two skills training centers for young men in Kingston, near St Pius X. The generous donor accompanied these tools with an additional contribution toward the construction of a meeting space for use by the Boy Scouts. Plans are under way for this construction and this building will be combined with a multi-purpose educational facility on the grounds of the Dupont School.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE AT ST. PIUS X. As in prior years, JOP has spearheaded many repairs and improvements to the grounds and buildings at St. Pius X, and the Dupont School. This year's major project was the rebuilding of the deteriorated gate-keeper's cottage....

All this is possible with the grace of God and the generous donations received from JOP friends in the US.

Roger Plante, chairs this program and for more information, he can be reached at 239-948-2145 or email RPSOLD@COX.NET

"A stitch in time..."

The St John's sewing group continues to provide clothing for Jamaican children. They meet on Wednesday afternoons and delivered 191 articles of clothing last season. FMI contact Nancy Cote 514-0410.

The medical clinic at St. Pius continues to stay open and see general medical, minor surgical, and pediatric indigent patients six days per week. Dr. Lee Martin sees 30 to 40 patients per day; afternoons to late evening on weekdays and Saturday mornings. There is a small fee, for those who can pay of \$600 Jamaican dollars, or \$7 US. Those who cannot pay get free care. Prescriptions, other medications and supplies are given free of charge if they are available. St. John the Evangelist parishioners and JOP donors contribute the funds necessary to keep the clinic dispensary well supplied. This past year, the earthquake catastrophe in Haiti has dried up the aid we used to get from Catholic Medical Mission Board, but we hope the see supplies and medicines resumed in 2011. We appreciate your help in keeping the clinic and dispensary running.



Medicines, equipment and supplies	Yr. Ended 9-30-10	Total since 1998
Purchased for the medical clinic with donations from St. John parishioners & JOP donors	\$ 17,914	\$ 152,594
Donated by the Catholic Medical Mission Board and shipped by Food for the Poor	\$ 0	\$ 2,491,514
Purchased for the dental clinic with donations from St. John parishioners & JOP donors	\$ 7,650	\$ 114,967
Total:	\$ 25,564	\$ 2,759,075

The new Dental Clinic is completed with two fully equipped dental chairs, x-ray equipment, and new dental cabinets, sterilizers, etc. Dental hygienists from the University of the West Indies in Kingston will soon be able to use our facility to see, screen, and refer patients to volunteer dentists and oral surgeons, who can see patients at our dental clinic or the University or their offices.

"Waste not, want not."

A group of volunteers continue to gather on the second Saturday of the month at North Naples Storage to sort and pack items for our co-parishioners at St Pius X in Kingston, Jamaica. These items consist of some of their basic needs: clothing, household items, food and clinic needs. They are shipped to St Pius X in ocean going containers, also packed by the volunteers.

This is a very happy and fun group (no meetings). Anyone interested in joining, just show up at North Naples Storage on the second Saturday of the month, or call Bill O'Connell at 594-9439.



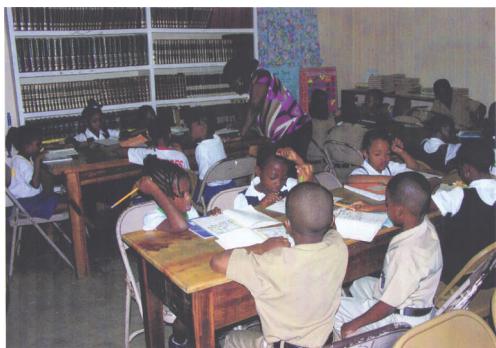


Reading ... 'Riting... & 'Rithmatic

A Report Card



Some of us remember the song that goes “Reading, Riting, and ‘Rithmatic; taught to the tune of a hickory stick”. Well, if you would substitute the phrase----taught to the tune of love, patience and total commitment, it may not rhyme with the lyrics of the song; but it certainly describes JOP’s effort over the last 6 years in trying to improve the educational climate at the Dupont Primary School. During this period of time JOP has purchased hundreds of textbooks, workbooks, and related materials with your donations and received thousands of dollars of in-kind donations from many other people, all in an effort to give these deserving students every opportunity to succeed.



As a measure of student improvement, we have seen the Literacy rate in Grades 4 and 5 rise **from a zero percentile in student literacy three years ago to 33 percentile on the Standardized Assessment Test**, followed by a dramatic jump to 66 percentile two years later; to a high point of **71 percentile last school year**. A TREMENDOUS EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE STUDENTS AND STAFF!

What has been responsible for this dramatic increase in the student’s scores? Part of the rationale has been our ability to initiate funding for programs like the After-School Reading Initiative which allowed 600 students to remain after school two days a week to get additional help

from the Dupont staff, who volunteered their time and energy to improve the Reading Skills and Reading Comprehension of these ambitious students.

We have funded a school lunch and school uniform program, an Extra-Curricular Activities Program which includes After-School and Saturday Sports Teams, a Dance Club, an Instrumental Music Program equipped with a variety of new musical instruments; the Students-at-Risk Program conducted for under-achieving students which has significantly reduced the student drop-out rate; a Sunday-School Summer Camp which takes the students off the streets and allows them to play games, get help with their school work and gives them the chance to go on field trips to museums, art galleries, and other cultural events; and an Environmental Club. As one teacher stated: ” We are breaking the cycle of poverty by educating our future generations”

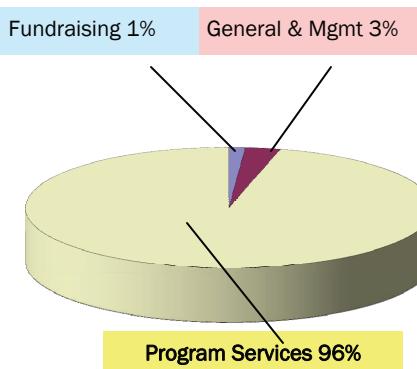
There is no doubt we all should share in the pride of what has been accomplished at Dupont. For that we give the students, staff, the Board of JOP, our many donors, and the parishioners of St. John’s a resounding A+ on the Report Card. God Bless You. Thank you for your support.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN PARTY

JOP is having a Pirates of the Caribbean Party, Friday, February 4, 2011 at 5:30 pm in the St John the Evangelist ballroom. Please come to support the poor in Jamaica... the cost is only \$50 per person, reduced 30% from last year's event. This fundraiser will feature an open bar, dinner, music and dancing (with JOP supporter Bob Cox as DJ) along with a fun Treasure Chest event, Silent Auction and Live Auction. Our Jamaican MC, Kevin Williams, is a well-known tenor, who sings "The Holy City" (Jerusalem). Kevin will be singing at selected masses February 5th & 6th at St John's. For tickets and info, call Jeanne 239-514-0290.



"A dollar here, a dollar there..." for the Fiscal Year Ended 9-30-10



Program Services 96%

Optical	\$ 106,450	29%
St Pius X	\$ 73,950	20%
Education	\$ 55,348	15%
Food & Goods	\$ 49,372	13%
Other*	\$ 30,871	8%
Dental & Medical	\$ 26,989	7%
Housing & Community Bldg	\$ 14,400	4%
	\$ 357,380	96%

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

** Temporarily Restricted Net Assets include donations restricted for distribution after the close of our fiscal year: \$46,231 Housing, \$20,763 Optical and \$691 Other.

The accounting firm of Smith & Co. LLP compiles JOP's financial statements, but the final compilation was not available at press time. A copy of their complete report will be available on our website or by calling Jeanne Stamant 514-0290.

Statement of Activities	
Support and revenues	
Contributions & Grants	\$ 227,626
Special events, net	\$ 14,146
Donated food, goods & services	\$ 114,567
Investments & Other Income*	\$ 32,821
	Total Revenues \$ 389,160
Expenses	
Program services	\$ 357,380
General & administrative	\$ 10,406
Fundraising	\$ 4,854
Other	\$ -
	Total Expenses \$ 372,640
Increase in net assets	
Net assets - beginning of year	\$ 160,043
Net assets - end of year	\$ 176,563
Unrestricted net assets	\$ 108,878
Temporarily restricted net assets**	\$ 67,685

As it was for many charities, our total revenue was lower than in past years. We recognize how difficult this economic climate is for our donors and also for the poor in Jamaica. Fortunately, our fixed expenses are minimal because we have no office rent, no buildings, and no paid staff. Our largest administrative expense was for last year's audit by a local CPA firm; this year we will reduce those expenses by foregoing the audit and engaging the CPA to prepare only compiled financial statements. In spite of the economy, we were able to continue to deliver most of the services needed by our constituents in Jamaica. Our books are open to anyone who wants a more detailed view of our finances.

We are in solid financial shape, thanks to your faithful support of our mission.

"Teach a person to fish, you feed him for a lifetime."

Skills Training Center

In addition to the DuPont Primary School, Jamaica Outreach Program (JOP) supports the St. Pius X Skills Training Center. This facility is staffed by qualified teachers who provide job training in Cosmetology, Catering, Sewing and Computer Skills. Literacy and "numeracy" classes are part of the curriculum for all skills, to help prepare young adults for the workplace. In 2009, there were 18 students enrolled and this year enrollment is up to 32. JOP funded upgrades and equipment for the cosmetology facility, rehab for the new computer room and supplies for the catering department.



Scholarships

After 6th grade, education in Jamaica is optional, but students can progress to "high school" or college if they qualify academically and can afford the book fees and/or tuition. JOP funded \$7,700 in scholarships last year, allocated to 16 students. This funding is 30% less than what we funded in the prior year, due to more limited resources & donations, but we are gratified by the graduation of 4 of our prior recipients. To qualify for a scholarship, applicants must demonstrate satisfactory academic performance the prior semester, financial need, and be involved in at least one St Pius X ministry. The St Pius X Scholarship Committee makes all awards decisions.

Message from Fr. Thomas Dynetius, Pastor, St. Pius X

My dear friends,

As we begin this New Year 2011, I look back gratefully at what the Lord has accomplished in our parish, and my heart overflows with joy as I thank God for His Steadfast Love. The last year, 2010, was truly blessed by your generosity. The many who visit our health clinic, the many who receive sight through St. Pius Vision Center, the many who develop their skills through our Skills Training Centers, the many who benefit from our Evening Institute, the many whose hunger is abated through the food shared... the list of our beneficiaries goes on and on... in their smile we see the generosity and self-sacrificing love of our benefactors and friends from Jamaica Outreach Program and St. John the Evangelist... Thank you for making our faith relevant in our lives. Thank You for making our ministries effective and successful. God bless you all. —*Father Thomas*

“Seeing is believing...”

Our November, 2009 optical mission was a huge success with a record 363 eye exams. This was a large patient load and 323 pairs of eyeglasses were prescribed. Most were made in Ohio by our Ohio optician, Paul Connor, and in a most amazing effort, Paul and his Jamaican assistant actually made 68 pairs of new patient eyeglasses in the small optical lab & dispensary on the grounds of St. Pius X Church. In addition, 57 patients were diagnosed and readied for cataract surgery.



“Wow! I can see!” -

- Calvin Bartley reacts after getting new glasses.

The March 2010 mission trip was combined with a surgery team from Ohio. This team included two ophthalmologists/cataract surgeons, one glaucoma specialist/ophthalmologist and two optometric physicians. This was the most aggressive vision mission in the 14-year history of JOP work at St. Pius X. The results were outstanding with nearly 200 cataract surgeries successfully completed and all the interocular implants were of the same standard we do in the United States. In addition, our glaucoma specialist hand-carried an SLT Laser which was used for the first time in the country of Jamaica. With this laser, he treated 40 patients who were losing their sight due to glaucoma. The two optometrists worked at St.

Pius Optical Clinic. Working 12-hour-days they examined 440 patients with 360 requiring eyeglasses, which were made in Naples and shipped to our patients via St. Pius X. Using our local transportation system, we were able to take some patients from the eye exam to the St. Joseph's Hospital and prepare them for the surgery they desperately needed. Sadly, one afternoon and evening there was unrest in the hospital neighborhood and our patients, doctors and staff were escorted out of the area and returned to St. Pius. However, the following day we were able to work, with the surgeons finishing their last cataract procedures at 2 a.m.

The June optical mission, normally staffed by Dr Zimm's Naples group, was canceled due to another outbreak of unrest in the same neighborhood.

We are grateful to God for all the talented and unselfish doctors, opticians, nurses and volunteers who have given so much to our JOP vision program.

Jamaica Outreach Program

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To make a donation or bequest:

Mail your check or credit card information to the address at left or call/email us. Our Federal Tax ID is 20-804-1251. We also accept gifts of securities directly (not through the diocese of Venice). Our account is handled by Ciccarelli Advisory Services, Pershing DTC #0443, Acct # A6G042795.