

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- 2015 Newsletter

Since 1997

Thank you for another year of loyal support !

For the past 18 years, our programs to help the poor in Jamaica have changed in many ways. We are ever mindful of the significant role our supporters play in the success of our ministry. This annual newsletter will summarize our fiscal year 2014-2015 results. **Thank you** to all who pray for us, our volunteers and donors.

Message from Father Raphael



God has blessed us once again with numerous assistants: our Benefactors and Benefactresses. **"Pride slays thanksgiving, but a humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grow. A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves"**. It is against this backdrop that I wish to express my profound gratitude to the Board members of JOP whose managerial skills and tireless effort has contributed in diverse ways for the less privileged in Jamaica. We have enjoyed much medical assistance in the areas of dental and eye care, and medicines for our clinic. In addition to that, many have been given a boost through your Education programs. God bless the volunteers who sacrifice their knowledge, time and comfort for the people of Jamaica.

My appreciations go to the Pastor, Father John, and our loving and cherished donors from St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Naples for your continuous support. As the hand of God on earth, you have become the channels of His handy works through acts of charity.

We, the people of St. Pius X Catholic Church, and all those Churches who benefitted tremendously from your kind gesture in Jamaica, say "big up" and thank you.

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

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Oct.1, 2014 - Sept.30, 2015 Highlights

- ☺ 359 Eye exams, 281 eyeglasses delivered,
- ☺ 1 corneal transplant and 52 cataract surgeries
- ☺ 505 boxes of food were delivered
- ☺ over 2,500 patient visits to the St. Pius medical clinic were made
- ☺ 2,248 dental patients were treated in 7 dental missions
- ☺ 97 students received aid for tuition, supplies, books, or uniforms
- ☺ 41 young adults received job skills training
- ☺ 8 housing units were built for the poor
- ☺ over 200 people volunteered (83 went on mission trips)

AND MORE... see inside for details.

Vision Care Report

During the last year, four optical trips were staged by JOP teams. **Twenty two volunteers** from OH, KY and FL supported the professionals who donated their time, talent, and often medicines and glasses to the eye care clinic at the St Pius X compound. At all of our missions, Father Raphael very graciously greeted the missionaries each day and prayed with us. The **St Pius X staff** of Ms Bradford, Peta-Gaye, Chawayne, Boxer, Paul and Tanicia were extremely helpful and took care of appointment-setting, registration, frame selection and general services including provision of transportation, food and supplies.

The first trip to St. Pius X began **October 29, 2014**. Due to the Chikungunya virus raging in Jamaica, and after much thought and prayer, we terminated the mission just before the 4 Naples volunteers left for the airport. The Ohio group could not be reached in time to prevent their arrival in Kingston. Dr. Thomas Kelly, Paul Connor, Amy, Peggy and Jeanne stayed on to do 2 days of exams, then departed early. Pharmaceutical supplier Alcon donated eye drops for exams and to treat various eye conditions. The team completed 119 eye exams, 107 pairs of prescription eyeglasses followed, 13 cataracts diagnosed, and glaucoma patients were given medicine. Blessedly, all missionaries returned home healthy.



October 2014 Optical Mission Team



Dr. Stahl's Cataract Mission: (Left) Raphael and wife, (Right) Team

The **March mission** was led by Dr. Brian Stahl of OH and his team performed 52 cataract surgeries in Kingston. Here is one of their patient stories. *"Raphael had dense, white cataracts in both eyes that had taken all of his vision from him. Surgery was complex, but went well. After surgery, he had the*

biggest tears streaming down his face. He didn't know if he was going to be seeing the following day, but he was so happy to have a shot at seeing again. When his patch came off he was like a newborn baby seeing for the first time. He was in awe looking at his wife, whose face he hadn't seen in years. He reached up and touched her cheek, with those big tears rolling down, yet again. He looked around pointing, smiling, and crying for as long as we were there." In their thank you letter to St. Pius, the mission team said: *"this trip has forever changed our lives. We feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to perform surgeries in Kingston. It was truly amazing how many miracles were worked on this trip. God's presence was so evident. We hope to return to St. Pius X again soon" !*

Dr Eric Donaghy's team from All Saints Eye Center, Naples, FL, did follow-up treatment for the cataract surgery patients the following week. They performed 52 exams and followed up with 25 pairs of eyeglasses.

.....**VISION CARE**Continued on page 4

Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended 9-30-15 — Jamaica Outreach Program

Statement of Activities

Support and revenues

Contributions & Grants	\$ 256,389
Special events, net	\$ 15,320
Donated food, goods & services	\$ 258,656
Investments & Other Income*	\$ 7,794

Total Revenues \$ 538,159

Expenses

Program services (96.9%)	\$ 517,826
General & administrative (1.8%)**	\$ 9,489
Fundraising (1.3%)	\$ 6,969

Total expenses \$ 534,285

Increase (decr) in net assets \$ 3,874

Net assets - beginning of year \$ 119,380

Net assets - end of year \$ 123,254

Unrestricted net assets \$ 116,947

Temporarily restricted net assets*** \$ 6,308

97 % Spent on Programs for the Poor

Fortunately, our fixed expenses are minimal because we have no rent and no paid staff. 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: \$2,065 Housing, and \$4,243 Optical.

Sean Nolan, CPA, of RWHSB 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 Make a Difference in Significant Ways

In 1997 when St John the Evangelist parish in Naples, Florida, partnered with St Pius X parish in Jamaica, it became obvious that there was a need for a standing committee to oversee the partnership. As a consequence, the Jamaica Outreach Program was founded. JOP volunteers work tirelessly in Naples on behalf of the poor in Jamaica by staging events like the Christmas Tea, a Casino night, and occasional concerts. An annual food drive and two pocket change collections on the grounds of St John also generate the need for volunteers and parish involvement. Once a year a Jamaican choir visits St John in Naples. The choir is lodged in the homes of JOP volunteers who open their doors to welcome the choir members for a weekend in February.

Parishioners from St John and other volunteers travel to Kingston to staff our clinics on a regular basis. Recently, social media networking uncovered professionals who staff our dental mission trips. Dentists, hygienists and dental assistants come from all over. The logistics that accompany mission trips are many and volunteer mission leaders facilitate all the arrangements for room, board, transportation and Jamaica Ministry of Health registrations.

The JOP mantra is "Making a difference in the lives of the poor in Jamaica." Our supporters and volunteers help us live up to that pledge year in and year out. There is always an ongoing need for JOP volunteers. Currently we need help in secretarial duties for our mission work, chairpersons to head special events, and dentists/hygienists/assistants. People who donate their time and join our committees are the backbone of all that the JOP does in Jamaica. Without them we would be at a significant loss.



The Sjostrom's and their choir guests—Feb. 2015

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

Housing & 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 41 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 JOP funded scholarship programs at three parishes. These grants assisted 59 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 1,300 students. This year, JOP provided uniforms for 38 needy students along with books and teacher supplies. A new program to enhance literacy of parents was funded in hopes that parents can help and encourage their children with homework. 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 2 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 72 students at African Martyrs and 81 at St. Peter Claver.

For more information contact: Ray Shawcross 401-862-0590

VISION CARE (continued from page2)...

The **May 2015 optical mission trip** was held to address the needs that went unmet in October by the Naples team from St. John the Evangelist: Dr. Philip Baier and 3 volunteers, plus Paul Connor (OH). They performed 188 exams, followed up with 159 eyeglasses, diagnosed 21 new cataract prospects, and diagnosed 13 other eye diseases including glaucoma.



May 2015 Optical Mission Team

Dr Jeffrey 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 a cornea transplant for a teenaged Jamaican patient this past fiscal year. JOP volunteers opened their homes and hosted the patient and his mother while they were in Naples. There are many patients still waiting for eye surgery and vision care.

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

Medical Report

Dr. Lee Martin sees about 50 patients per week in the medical clinic at St. Pius X. Patient flow subsides when there is no free medicine to dispense. Dr. Al Kerns, JOP Board member, continues to facilitate the purchase of medicines for the "All Care Clinic" at St. Pius X.

Dr. Kerns recently found a source in Jamaica that is equally or less expensive for purchasing medicine as the source we have used in the past in the USA. This enables Dr. Lee Martin at St. Pius to order drugs as needed and alleviates the delays associated with shipping from the U.S., customs, and Ministry of Health inspections. *For more information contact: Dr. Al Kerns 514-1553.*

Medicines, equipment and supplies	Yr. Ended 9-30-15	Total since 1998
Purchased with donations from St. John parishioners & JOP donors	\$20,000	\$ 256,810
Donated by the Catholic Medical Mission Board	\$ 0	\$3,069,617
Total:	\$20,000	\$3,326,427

Christmas Tea



Wed. December 2, 2015, 12:30 pm

Plan to join us again this year for our annual Christmas Tea, featuring a champagne reception, boutique shopping, fashion show, 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 jamaicaoutreach.org or saintjohntheevangelist.com

Casino Night

Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 5:30 pm in the St John the Evangelist ballroom. Please come to support the poor in Jamaica... Tickets are \$55 per person. This fundraiser will feature **very casual attire**, an open bar, dinner, 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.



Concert

Paul Todd and Paul Todd, Jr.

Monday, February 29 7:00 pm

To benefit JOP

St. John's Ballroom — 625 111th Ave N. Naples, FL



For tickets (\$25) call Roger 239-948-2145 or online saintjohntheevangelist.com or jamaicaoutreach.org.

Our Dental Clinic Answers a Critical Need.....

It's 9 AM Monday morning at the St. Pius X office and the phone is ringing off the hook. Yesterday, the various churches in the area announced the dates of the upcoming dental mission at the VanDomelen clinic. By noon, the schedule of 140 available appointments is filled.

Our services at the VanDomelen Dental Clinic on the grounds of St Pius have multiplied dramatically since it opened its doors four years ago and, frankly, the need for our services stretches far beyond what we can deliver. Dental decay is a prevalent and painful commodity for the people we serve in Jamaica.

Following is an excellent example of how busy the clinic is. During the January mission, we had booked 128 patients to see the two dentists, which means one patient every 25 minutes per dentist. As the schedule materialized, the two dentists ended up performing 178 treatments in three days. You can imagine the long hours the team worked to get that job done. It seems that despite exhaustive scheduling efforts, countless emergencies still present themselves during the mission.



Michele LaBasi, Akron, OH applies fluoride varnish at the DuPont School, and examines for dental decay

Our services at St. Pius are provided to all of God's children, regardless of religious background, and they come to us from all directions and some travel great distances to see us.

So many of our patients have never seen a dentist, and it is not uncommon for a patient to present with a full mouth of bad teeth. We attempt to do prophylactic cleaning to prevent the spread of decay, but so often the only viable option is extraction, and many patients have to be seen at several successive missions to provide full treatment.

Fiscal 2014-15 has seen the first year of capacity operation for our Dental Clinic. In the two prior years combined, we held a total of eight dental missions, but this year, 62 volunteer missionaries staffed **seven missions** and were successful at spreading love and caring treat-

ment to **1,088 patients** in our clinic. In addition, they provided oral health education, and full oral inspections to **1,160 students** at the DuPont School, most of whom also were treated with an application of protective fluoride varnish.

All patients who require extractions need to be screened for medication history and also need to have blood pressures taken. It is not uncommon to find a patient with a BP at dangerously high levels and they don't even know they have a problem. Fortunately, Dr. Lee Martin, at the medical clinic on the mission grounds, is able to treat these patients and provide them with medicine furnished by JOP.

Our missionary recruiting efforts have been so blessed; thanks to networking by our parishioners, our on-line presence and Divine Intervention. This year, our missionary teams consisted of 13 dentists, 3 senior dental students, 34 hygienists or assistants and 12 lay persons. Many of our missionaries return year after year to "give a little more."

The appreciation and the love expressed to our missionaries by the locals extends far beyond what can be expressed in this article.

Continued on page 7



September, 2015 Dental Mission Team

Dental (.....continued from page 6)

One of our March missionaries commented: *"We were so humbled by their appreciation — so many of them gave us hugs and handshakes and the best: the huge smiles from ear to ear."*

One February missionary, after seeing the living accommodations for folks around the St. Pius community commented: *"It was beyond a humbling experience — just to see a person needing some bread to eat for survival that day."*

Kathy, from the Boston area, a hygienist, and three time missionary for us, commented: *"Please extend all my appreciation to the JOP team and the entire St. John's family for this wonderful opportunity."*

Housing Report

JOP supports a housing program and the matching fund grants from the Jamaican government continues. For \$3,200 we can build two small homes or one double-sized. The smaller homes contain one room + toilet and shower. The larger homes contain two small bedrooms, a loft, a living room and bath facility.

Recipients need to have title to, have valid squatters rights to, or hold a long term lease on the land. They also need to show their extenuating need and their ability to support the home.

Each year, one of the two pocket change collections at St. John's is devoted to housing. Additionally, several individual donors have funded the construction of eight homes built this year, bringing our 9-year total to 485 homeless or severely deprived families who have been provided with a secure house to call home.

A spot audit of this year's new construction performed on Sept 23, 2015 by Roger Plante revealed one such very needy and meritorious recipient family.....We'll call her Mary, to preserve her anonymity, the head of a household and she is a true success story. Her voyage from prison inmate in 1992-1993 to a staunch part of society today is an excellent example. Since her release, Mary got a head start, first with food assistance during her first pregnancy in the 1990's and several years later she applied for business startup assistance from Food For the Poor, which was granted. Mary, who was unskilled, was now able to buy materials wholesale and sell them at the local market on Friday and Saturday....all through a supervised program. She now sells things like kitchen items, school uniforms, T-shirts and the like. She keeps the inventory in 55 gallon drums in her home, and each Fri. and Sat. she carries them down to the marketplace and sells her wares. Today, Mary is the proud mom of a 21 year old working daughter with baby grandchild, a daughter in college, two children in high school and one in grade school. Mary's income provides food, clothing and the basics for her family, but owning a home was not within reach. The family had been sharing a tiny broken down 3-room house with about a dozen other extended family members. When they heard about our housing program, they went through the application process and thanks to the generosity of one of our St. John parishioners, (\$3,200) they now are the proud owners of a 2 bedroom home located on the same family compound. The location is on a nearly impassable roadway and they walk to work and school each day over 1/2 mile.

Mary is extremely grateful for her new home and the tears flowed heavily when she hugged Roger to say good-by. She does not know the identity of her donor, but she asked Roger to thank "Florida" for the wonderful gift.

Interested donors and volunteers may contact Housing Committee chairman Roger Plante at RogerPlante10@gmail.com or at 239-948-2145.



Home "Before"



Home "After"

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 505 boxes of food valued at \$17,700 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 books, eyeglasses, eyeglass frames, medical and dental supplies. Ray Shawcross (401-862-0590) is JOP's Food & Goods Chairman.



Volunteers hand out bags 1 week before



2015 Food Drive — We love donors with bags, bags, bags— St John and St Agnes Caritas volunteers sort & pack boxes & load the container.



Jamaican choir Feb. 2015. Choir returns to sing at St. John's masses February 6 & 7, 2016

Jamaica Outreach Program

P.O.Box 110581

Naples, FL 34108-1929

www.JamaicaOutreach.org 239-325-2103

Email: JamaicaOutreach@comcast.net

To make a donation or bequest:

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