

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. JOP provides love, respect, funds, goods and services for health care, education and basic support to improve the lives of the poor in Jamaica without regard to religious affiliation, personal history, gender, age or race."

Fall - 2019 Newsletter

Since 1997

Serving the poor with you...

Thank You!

As practicing Christians, we are reminded of Jesus' words "Whatever you do for the least of my people, you do for me." We carry out His directive by performing the corporal works of mercy: Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit (care for) the sick, give water to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, etc.

As individuals here in Naples and across the country, performing these works of mercy is not easy. Your financial support of Jamaica Outreach Program (JOP), and/or volunteerism, makes you an active participant in bringing sorely needed medical, dental, vision care, food, education and housing services to the poor in Jamaica. The results highlighted in this newsletter summarize the good works you have enabled JOP to deliver in the past fiscal year. Thank you for your prayers and support of our ministry!



Feed the hungry



Shelter the homeless



Visit the sick

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Oct.1, 2018 - Sept.30, 2019 Highlights

- ☺ 516 Eye exams, 393 eyeglasses delivered, 31 cataract surgeries
- ☺ 17 boxes of clothing, vestments, and dental equipment delivered
- ☺ Hundreds of Patients treated at St Pius & Good Shepherd clinics
- ☺ 111 dental patients were treated in 1 dental mission
- ☺ 512 students received aid for tuition, supplies, books, or uniforms
- ☺ 42 young adults received job skills training
- ☺ 6 housing units were built for the poor
- ☺ over 100 people volunteered (40 went on mission trips)

AND MORE... see inside for details.

Message from Archbishop Richards & Bishop Burchell

Dear Board Members and Donors of JOP,

On Behalf of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Kingston and the Bishop of Montego Bay, we would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for your ongoing support of the following churches, St. Pius X Church, St. Pius X Skills Training Center, St. Benedict, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Dupont Primary and Infant School, African Martyrs of Uganda Early Childhood Institute, Art Literacy School, St. Peter Claver, and Immaculate Conception Church and Missions, Sacred Heart, St Mary's basic school, Montego Bay diocese education fund, Good Shepherd Foundation and Love in Action Soup Kitchen.

This support continues to provide well needed assistance. These include, but not limited to: parish operations, education fund, housing, medical clinic (St. Pius X), school supplies and repairs, and to salaries for teachers. We are also deeply grateful for the ongoing dental, optical and medical missions, which continue to provide wholesome health care for those in our communities who are in most need.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Kingston and Bishop of Montego Bay appreciate this initiative and continued support and generosity, through which the lives of many of our people have been impacted in a very positive and meaningful way.

Philippians 4:19. "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

May God continue to richly bless all your endeavors, your ministry and mission.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Kenneth D. Richards, DD, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Kingston

Most Rev. Burchell McPherson, DD, Roman Catholic Bishop of Montego Bay

Volunteers Are Essential in Our Service to Jamaica

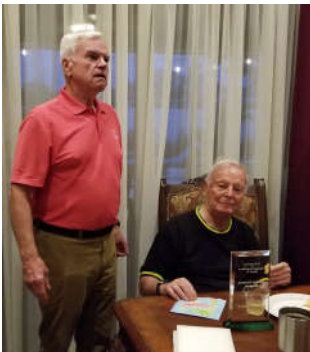
The need for volunteers is always ongoing. In Naples, we need and depend on host families willing to welcome Jamaicans who visit Naples for medical treatment or JOP events. Our greatest needs are people in leadership roles who can chair fundraising events, mission trips, bookkeeping and administrative tasks.

To staff mission trips, we need optometrists, opticians, dentists, dental hygienists/assistants, doctors, and nurses from any part of the USA!

New volunteers are always welcomed. Anyone interested in becoming an active volunteer is invited to contact any Board member (see box below for contact info).



Choir, host families, Deacon Vivian and Father Collin.



We are deeply grateful to Joe Gagnier who has retired as president of the JOP Board after 19 years. He has been an inspiration to all who have served with him.

Left : Current President Ray Shawcross and past president Joe Gagnier

Right: Volunteer with student



Interested in learning more? Gen. Info: Ray Shawcross, President 401-862-0590 **Medical:** Dr. Joseph Vento 917-561-5499 **Vision Care:** Dr. Jeff Zimm 592-5511

Dental: Roger Plante: 239-948-2145 **Education & Housing:** Ray Shawcross 401-862-0590 **Donations & Events:** Jeanne Stamant 239-248-3248

Optical Equipment : Paul Connor 330-784-6623 **Food and Goods :** Jeff Meyerson 239-592-5781 **Website & Publications:** Jeff Meyerson 239-592-5781

Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended 9-30-19 — Jamaica Outreach Program

Statement of Activities

Support and revenues	
Contributions & Grants	\$ 298,666
Special events, net	\$ (36)
Donated food, goods & services	\$ 424,475
Investments & Other Income*	\$ 5,844
Total Revenues	\$ 728,949
Expenses	
Program services (98%)	\$ 661,726
General & administrative (1%)**	\$ 7,521
Fundraising (1%)	\$ 6,757
Total expenses	\$ 676,004
Increase (decr) in net assets	\$ 52,945
Net assets - beginning of year	\$ 163,908
Net assets - end of year	\$ 216,853
Unrestricted net assets	\$ 192,202
Temporarily restricted net assets***	\$ 24,652

98 % Spent on Programs for the Poor

Fortunately, our fixed expenses are minimal because we have no rent and no paid staff. Periodic audits of the records of our 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: \$24,652 Eye Surgery.

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 239-248-3248

Vision Care Report

During the last year, four vision care trips were staged by JOP teams. **Twenty-two volunteers** from OH, KY, GA and FL donated their time, talent, medicines and glasses to the eye care clinic at St Pius X and Sacred Heart in Montego Bay region.

In October 2018, **Dr. Tom Kelly (OH)** with **Paul Connor** other volunteers travelled to Bishop Burchell's rural territory in Seaford Town where they saw 122 patients.

The October 2018 trip to St. Pius X included **Dr Dwight Avery (OH)**, **Dr Alanna Edwards (GA)**, and other volunteers. The team completed 209 eye exams.

The October 2018 Cataract Surgery mission trip was led by **Dr Jeffrey Zimm (Naples, FL)** and **Dr. Lynn Byerly**, their staff and support from Jamaican ophthalmic assistants. They performed 31 cataract surgeries. We are grateful to **Dr Zimm and his professional contacts** in the Florida eye care community for their donations of medical supplies and equipment for cataract surgeries

In June 2019 **Dr. Eric Donaghy**, **Dr. Lynn Byerly** and their team did cataract patient follow-ups and other eye exams on 185 patients.

...Continued on Page 4



Education Report

Over 512 students at 29 Catholic parishes received financial support for books, transportation, fees and tuition. Without this critical financial aid many of the students would not be able to continue their education. With the overall climate of violence and economic deprivation in inner city Kingston the support for these young people is needed now more than ever.

The DuPont Primary School on the grounds of St Pius X Church was once again the recipient of significant funds as a result of generous contributions by JOP donors. This school has an enrollment of 1250 students in the heart of one of the most disadvantaged areas. This year the school had to be closed for a two-week period due to the outbreak of gang violence in the surrounding neighborhood. The school with its strong values-based instruction, provides an oasis of peace for the students.

DuPont received money to completely update and rewire its computer and internet system. This resulted in an innovative reading program, funded by JOP, being added to the curriculum. JOP purchased shoes and uniforms for 50 needy students. In Jamaica, parents are required to purchase shoes and uniforms in order for their children to attend school. In an effort to combat truancy, it was found that several children were not attending school because they lacked shoes.



Students at DuPont School getting new uniforms and shoes

JOP is the sole sponsor of the parent literacy project at DuPont. This program now in its fourth year has proven to be very successful in equipping adults with basic literacy skills. This not only enables them to assist their children with schoolwork but also enhances the self-esteem of formerly illiterate adults.

The Skills Training Program at the St Pius X Church offers two basic courses in cosmetology and food preparation. Completion of this program results in formerly unemployed young adults obtaining employment in local businesses. JOP has sponsored Skills Training for many years.

Once again, this year the Arts and Literacy Camp at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kingston was funded by JOP. The camp is a summer program for 40 children in which they experience creative arts including dance, music, reading and literacy skills. The Camp has drawn wide acclaim in the community for being innovative and enterprising. *...Continued on Page 7*

VISION CARE (Continued from page 3...)

Paul Connor, JOP Board member and optical equipment professional, has been a God-send in the production of all the prescription eyeglasses resulting from our mission trips over the years. In the past fiscal year, **393 pairs of eyeglasses** were delivered to Jamaica by Paul at incredible savings to JOP. Paul also repairs and maintains the equipment in our eye clinics, and has solicited hundreds of new eyeglass frames from his contacts in the optical profession.

Dr. Jeffrey Zimm is JOP's Eye Care Coordinator, has been going to Jamaica for 15 years and is part of the JOP Advisory Board. There are many patients still waiting for eye surgery and vision care.

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

Medical Report

On June 17, Dr. Joseph Vento, our new medical director, led a mission to Kingston. The team was composed of 2 physicians, 2 nurses and 3 volunteers. 119 DuPont School children received physical examinations and 8 food service employees were given the required government

medical clearance. Over a 2-day period, working diligently in extreme heat, the nurses and volunteers reviewed immunization records of all of the patients and recorded height and weight of each child, who also received an eye exam and hearing test and then the physicians conducted the required physical exam. The medical exam is a requirement of the Jamaica Ministry of Education for enrollment. Thus, by having the mission team conduct the exams, the parents were spared any expense they otherwise would incur.

Medicines, equipment and supplies	Yr. Ended 9-30-19	Total since 1998
Purchased with donations from St. John parishioners & JOP donors	\$5,300	\$ 306,312



St Pius X Medical Clinic and the Good Shepherd Medical Clinic in Montego Bay received grants as well.

We are eternally grateful to Dr. Al Kerns for his 21 years of service as JOP's Medical Chairman. Al retired from the JOP Board in July, 2019 and will continue on our Advisory Board.

For more information contact: Dr. Joseph Vento 917-561-5499 / jtvmd@yahoo.com.

Mark your calendars for our concerts to benefit JOP.

Paul Todd, PJ and Gavin Hart : **Nov. 14, 2019 7:00 pm** in the ballroom at St. John's. Gavin is one of our annual Jamaican choir visitors .

Ave Maria Univ. Music Dept. **March 19, 2020 7:00pm** in the Gym at St. Johns.

Expect a great mix of Broadway, Opera & Sacred Music.



Paul Todd and Paul Todd Jr.



Ave Maria University Music Dept. A perennial favorite.

Dental Clinic Report

Jamaica Outreach Program continues its dedication to conducting dental missions to St. Pius X clinic in Kingston, Jamaica and to the Sacred Heart Mission in Seaford Town, just outside of Montego Bay.

It has been a difficult year for these missions for several reasons: Our organizer for the last 11 years retired due to aging factors, and ongoing road construction in Kingston is causing severe problems with lack of water pressure, thereby crippling our dental clinic at that location.



JOP conducted a dental mission to St. Pius in May 2019 which was quite successful in spite of the water problems. Veteran missionary dentists Dr. Mary MacKay (ME) and Dr. Elie Joseph (Haiti) were accompanied by Dr. D'Anna Calogero (FL) for this mission. The team of ten missionaries serving so generously at this mission came from NJ, MA, TN, FL, ME and Haiti. They included Regina Johnson and Deshierra Tweggs who will be serving as mission team leaders in the future, and JOP is very happy to welcome them aboard.

Fortunately Roger Plante has temporarily come out of retirement to organize a few missions for the not too distant future.

October 30 to Nov.1, 2019 we have a team of 8 medical and dental missionaries organized for Sacred Heart compound in Seaford Town. Volunteers are coming from MD, FL, DC, and GA. JOP has been blessed with the addition of Dr. Joseph Vento and his wife Loretta to our staff as medical coordinator, and he brings a

wealth of expertise from his many years of "family practice" medicine. They will be leading this mission.

A dental mission to St. Pius X in December 2019 will have a Pediatric Dentist, a General Dentist and an Oral Surgeon present, along with 3 assistants and 6 Hygienists. This team will treat about 700 students at the DuPont School in addition to a few hundred patients at the clinic. Volunteers are coming to us from NC, SC, KY, MA, NJ, GA and MD.

We are also planning January and March missions to Kingston to care for the balance of the students at the DuPont School and those at St. Peter Claver School.

Additionally, small medical and dental teams are often needed to serve at the Sacred Heart mission in Seaford Town. All it takes is 4 dental persons or 4 medical persons to organize their own mission with dates that fit into the JOP and Sacred Heart schedules.



Interested parties can contact Roger Plante at

ROGERPLANTE10@GMAIL.COM.

There is always a great need for supplies for these missions and if you feel so inclined, items which missionaries can carry in or we can ship include: toothbrushes (all sizes), sample size toothpaste, dental floss, children's vitamins and pre-natal vitamins. Anyone wishing to make donations should contact Roger Plante.

MISSION ORGANIZER NEEDED

If you find yourself recently retired and want to bring MEANINGFULNESS into your life, come join our ministry and find true satisfaction in helping the poorest of God's Children.



Education (....Continued from page 4)

In the Diocese of Montego Bay, St Mary Basic School under the direction of Bishop Burchell McPherson was the recipient of significant funding from JOP. The school is staffed by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and serves children from the ages of 3 to 6. The school prepares these youngsters with a foundation which enables them to achieve in primary school.

Other Basic Schools which received JOP funding were African Martyrs of Uganda and Marcus Garvey. All these schools have a long history of tradition and excellence. They seek to educate the whole child through a strong academic and spiritual program. Through prayer, example and instruction, these institutions strive to provide a quality education that will teach students to know, love and serve God and their neighbor.

For more information contact Ray Shawcross at 401-862-0590 or reshaw1@verizon.net.

Housing Report - SIX NEW HOMES FOR NEEDY JAMAICAN FAMILIES

This year our housing program financed and built 6 two-bedroom homes for poor and homeless families. The houses are small but do have a living area and bathroom facilities. In addition, solar lighting is provided along with beds and some furniture.

Due to the generosity of our donors, families now have safe and sanitary housing. No longer will they be forced to sleep in a garbage dump, in a slum or in a leaky shack. More importantly, they will have feelings of dignity and self-respect.

Children in families who receive housing can go to school without worrying where they will sleep next. They will have a place to study and call their own. Parents will have improved job opportunities. With the assistance of our donors we attempt to build miracles one family at a time.

Each home cost \$7,200. Sometimes this price point is more than one donor can provide, so we match two donors and they each provide \$3,600.

For information about donating a house contact Ray Shawcross at reshaw1@verizon.net or 401-862-0590.



Food & Goods

We continue to support the soup kitchen in Montego Bay Diocese. The "Love In Action" soup kitchen is run by Korean sisters and volunteers; it serves and delivers hot meals 5 days a week to the poorest of the poor.

Thanks to the support of our church and community we were able to ship 17 boxes of clothing, rosaries, vestments and dental equipment to Jamaica.

For more information on Foods and Goods you may contact Jeff Meyerson at 239-592-5781



Lined up at the St. Pius X Food Pantry



Love in Action Soup Kitchen

Jamaican Choir returns to sing at St John's masses Feb. 22-23, 2020.



Jamaica Outreach Program

P.O.Box 110581

Naples, FL 34108-1929

www.JamaicaOutreach.org 239-325-2103

Email: info@jamaicaoutreach.org

To make a donation or bequest:

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