

# 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 – 2021 Newsletter

Since 1997

## A Challenging Pandemic Year

The Covid-19 pandemic affected so many areas of everyone's lives. The poor in Jamaica were, and continue to be, in great need. Massive unemployment, lockdowns and curfews continue as of this writing in October 2021. Food security, housing security and education are the key areas of crisis. We focused JOP's support in those areas during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021. See the articles in this annual newsletter for more detail.

We are extremely grateful to our donors who continued to be generous during these times, even when St John the Evangelist Church was closed and experiencing its own financial challenges. Thank you for your loyal support of our ministry.

## Food & Goods

Covid-19 has really hampered our ability to collect foods and goods for Jamaica. And, just like last year, we were unable to have a food drive this year. We are fortunate to have very good donors and a supportive church to help financially. Because of this support, we were able to supply over \$63,000 to help with the purchase and shipping of food to Jamaica.

We will also continue our support for the Love in Action Soup Kitchen in Montego Bay. This soup kitchen caters to the poor with hot meals and distribution of care packages. It is run by the Korean Sisters with volunteer support.

*For more information on Foods and Goods you may contact Jeff Meyerson at 239-592-5781 or [jeff@meyerson.net](mailto:jeff@meyerson.net)*

Children waiting for meals



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## Oct.1, 2020 - Sept.30, 2021 Highlights

- ☺ \$63,875 in food support fed the hungry in Montego Bay and Kingston
  - ☺ 350 students received aid for tablets, internet cards, online learning aids, tuition, supplies, books, or uniforms
  - ☺ 12 housing units were built for the poor
  - ☺ \$4,700 was funded for medicine and medical supplies
  - ☺ There were no mission trips due to travel restrictions
- ... see inside for details.

## 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, 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).

### Volunteer Spotlight: Jeanne Stamant Pittman



Jeanne, a New Hampshire native, is one of 9 children. She graduated from the University of NH with a math and economics degree in 1973. She was an actuary and executive at Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co. where she met and married her late husband Bob Stamant (also a JOP volunteer for many years).

One week after she retired from MassMutual, she was at St John the Evangelist church and saw a request for mission volunteers to Jamaica. That was her first involvement with JOP, serving as a “grunt” for an optical mission trip in April, 2002. Since then, her volunteer role has included Board membership, Board officer (Secretary & Treasurer), chairman of Festival and Christmas Tea fundraising events, newsletter editor, field audits, mission trip coordinator, and serving wherever there was a need. She was directly involved in obtaining IRS 501-c3 status for JOP in 2006 and has since handled all bookkeeping, financial reporting, budgets, and annual IRS and Florida regulatory filings.

Jeanne credits God’s blessings and JOP for finding love a second time. She married Bill Pittman who is a JOP volunteer, as was his late wife, Judy. They married in 2020, during Covid when the church was closed, with Father Tom Zalewski presiding and 5 family members present.

After 19 years, Jeanne plans many more years in service to the poor of Jamaica, as long as God continues to bless her with good health. JOP has been so fortunate to be guided and served by Jeanne’s dedication to the people of Jamaica. Throughout her many years of service, Jeanne has been an inspiration to the JOP Board, volunteers and donors.



**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 Pittman 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 9-30-21 — Jamaica Outreach Program

### Statement of Activities

<b>Support and revenues</b>	
Contributions & Grants	\$ 243,978
Special events, net	\$ -
Donated food, goods & services	\$ 1,200
Investments & Other Income*	\$ 403
Total Revenues	\$ 245,581
<b>Expenses</b>	
Program services (96%)	\$ 230,503
General & administrative (3%)**	\$ 7,743
Fundraising (1%)	\$ 2,273
Total expenses	\$ 240,519
<b>Increase (decr) in net assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,061</b>
<b>Net assets - beginning of year</b>	<b>\$ 221,311</b>
<b>Net assets - end of year</b>	<b>\$ 226,372</b>
Unrestricted net assets	\$ 192,853
Temporarily restricted net assets***	\$ 33,519

### 96 % Spent on Programs for the Poor

Fortunately, our fixed expenses are minimal because we have no rent and no paid staff. Expenses were lower for many programs due to the cancellation of mission trips and associated in-kind goods and services donations. 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: \$27,499 Eye Surgery and \$5,000 medical equipment and \$1020 other 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 Pittman 239-248-3248

## Vision Care Report

During the last year, there were no optical or cataract surgery mission trips due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, we did ship 600 pair of sunglasses for free distribution in Jamaica.

Our teams are planning to resume services in 2022 as permitted by the Jamaican Ministry of Health.

**Dr. Jeffrey Zimm** is JOP's Eye Care Coordinator, he has been going to Jamaica for 17 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

## Education Report

This year with the Covid -19 the JOP Education program experienced many challenges. The education sector has been particularly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic with island-wide school closures ultimately impacting all enrolled students. Not only does school provide food, safety and protection, it also instills hope for a brighter future.

In addition, with the tourist and travel industry completely shut down, thousands of Jamaicans experienced a loss of employment. As a result, families and students were left without the needed financial resources to attend school. Jamaican schools were closed to in- person learning from mid-March to mid October. For Jamaican children, education is not only necessary but lifesaving.

### Dupont School Getting Tablets and Uniforms



JOP funded the purchase of tablets and internet data service for 350 economically deprived students. Without this assistance these students would have been deprived of online education classes. ...Continued on Page 4



## Education Report - continued

### Marcus Garvey School



Due to COVID-19 pandemic, this has been a year like no other for the educational system in Jamaica. But JOP did not stop our initiatives for Jamaican students but rather responded in novel and creative ways. By this past summer, school children had been deprived of face-to-face classroom instruction for well over a year. With the schools closed, the educational, social, and spiritual support that schools gave were abruptly ended. This resulted in extensive social dislocation and a negative impact on all.

JOP responded by providing hundreds of internet tools such as tablets and internet network cards for students to participate in on-line learning. Churches in both Kingston and Montego Bay facilitated the distribution of these items to needy students. In addition, this August, JOP sponsored a day camp at the Holy Trinity Cathedral that focused on the mental and physical wellbeing of both students and parents. This was in recognition of the effects of the acute stress and dislocation brought on by the COVID crisis.

Children who relied on lunch at school were often seen wandering the streets looking for food. Job loss, school closings, hunger, and other issues contributed to upset and despair for both students and guardians.

In addition to our special COVID relief programs, we continued our support of schools in the Archdiocese of Kingston and the Diocese of Montego Bay. At the DuPont School in Kingston, uniforms and shoes were purchased for needy students. Academic Scholarships were awarded to young parishioners of parishes in Kingston and Montego Bay. These scholarships subsidized tuition, transportation costs, and purchase of books for high school students.

The St Mary Basic School, Marcus Garvey School and the AMU School all were awarded grants to subsidize teacher salaries. This resulted in tuition reduction for many students. At the beginning of the pandemic before the school was completely shut down, the DuPont School received funds for COVID protocol measures, such as shields, infrared thermometers, and social distancing.

We know that education is the key to improving the lives of the people of Jamaica. The students we help will have long term impact on their country. This is all thanks to the generous support of our donors.

For further information contact Ray Shawcross at [reshaw1@verizon.net](mailto:reshaw1@verizon.net) or 401-862-0590.

### Dupont School, pre-Covid



### Student Thank You Letter

Dear Sponsors,

Good day to you. Thank you for your kind and continuous support towards my education. I am very grateful for your assistance. I commit myself to continue to excel in school.

May God continue to bless you sponsors; as you continue to do a great work.

Yours truly,



## Medical Report

We have not been able to do medical missions in Jamaica since the start of covid.

We had a mission planned for April 2020, and our medical team had plane tickets and packed supplies, but we had to cancel the mission.

We also offered to go and give covid vaccines to people of Jamaica, but were unable to get government approval and local logistics coordinated.

I've been in contact with Sister Monika in Seaford Town and Mother Joy at Good Shepherd medical center at the Cathedral in Montego Bay. We have been able to send medical supplies through Food for the Poor to help during covid. When Food for the Poor did not have all medications needed, we sent JOP grant money to pay for medications.

Let's keep the 2 sisters and their staff in our prayers so they can continue their work.

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



## In Memoriam.... Father Thomas J. Glackin

We regret that last year's newsletter did not address the passing of our founder, Father Tom Glackin, on March 5, 2020.

From 1997 until 2020, Father Glackin was a champion for the poor, both in Jamaica and locally. When he retired in 2007, his supporters raised enough money to build "Father Tom's Village" in Jamaica. They funded 158 homes, which at the time were simple one room buildings but they provided a roof, door and security for the recipient families.

While we grieve the loss of our dear friend, we rejoice in the fact that he now rests in the good hands of his Shepherd.



Rev. Fr. Thomas J. Glackin 1938-2020

## Dental Clinic Report

The Covid-19 virus put a huge damper on the planned missions for the entire year. Jamaica Outreach is optimistic that there will be a resolution to this pandemic and that we will be able to resume our dental mission program soon. In the meantime we are maintaining a list of volunteers consisting of lay persons, dentists, hygienists and dental assistants. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we are able to provide some financial reimbursement for our missionaries although they do bear some of the cost in addition to the generous donation of their lost wages at home plus their valuable time and energy.

We are annually in need of some 2,000 tooth brushes, (sample size) paste and floss and about the same amount of fluoride varnish applications.... donations of which are always appreciated.

*For more information please contact Roger Plante at [rogerplante10@gmail.com](mailto:rogerplante10@gmail.com)*

### Kingston, Jamaica Food Packages



### Montego Bay Food distribution





## Message from Archbishop Richards

Dear Board Members of JOP,

On behalf of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Kingston, we would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for your ongoing donations towards the following churches, St. Pius X Church, St. Benedict, African Martyrs of Uganda Early Childhood Institute, Holy Trinity Cathedral Summer Art Literacy School and Immaculate Conception Church and Missions.

These contributions continue to provide well needed assistance. These include, educational fund, school supplies and to pay salaries for teachers. So too we are 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.

“We are born to live for others and we are born to die for them, with one and the same energy, and we are only happy when we are about the business of doing both (Ron Rolheiser).”

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Kingston appreciates this initiative and continued support and generosity. May God richly bless all your endeavours and your ministry and mission.

With prayers and best wishes.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Kenneth D Richards, DD

## Housing Report - 12 NEW HOMES FOR NEEDY JAMAICAN FAMILIES

With the COVID epidemic causing economic devastation in Jamaica, housing is more important than ever. Since the inception of the JOP Housing Program we have financed the construction of over 500 houses for impoverished families. In this year alone, even with the pandemic surging, we were able to have 12 houses built. This has all been made possible by the incredible support of our generous donors. Families in these homes now have safe and sanitary housing. No longer are they forced to sleep in a garbage dump, slum or leaky shack. Parents and children have a sense of dignity and self-respect. Children do not have to worry where they will sleep next.



However, after considerable study, it has been determined that it is necessary to utilize new methods in the building of these houses. Beam construction is now used in the foundations to prevent long term cracking and settling. In every new structure the roof and underlayment are fortified to strengthen the houses against high winds from hurricanes and other storms. In addition, we are now providing beds, mattresses and other furniture as the family moves into the home.

Along with an increase in cost of basic materials this has resulted in the donor price of a house rising to \$9800. Understanding that this price point may be more than one donor can provide, we are now able to match donors with each contributing \$4900. Hopefully our donors will continue to assist us to show God's love to the poor and marginalized of this underprivileged nation, providing homes.

Our partner for building houses, Food for the Poor, will match any full or half house donation with \$9,800 or \$4,900 in FOOD support until Easter 2022. Housing donors will therefore double their impact until that time.

For further information regarding donating a house contact Ray Shawcross at [reshaw1@verizon.net](mailto:reshaw1@verizon.net) or 401-862-0590



# Concert

To benefit Jamaica Outreach  
Thursday, April 7, 2022 7:00 pm  
St John the Evangelist  
Pulte Family Center Gym

## Billy Dean & Dawn

*Opera to Elvis  
And Everything In Between*



For tickets (\$25)  
buy online at  
[JamaicaOutreach.org  
/events](http://JamaicaOutreach.org/events)  
Or email Jeanne  
[jbstamant@gmail.com](mailto:jbstamant@gmail.com)

St Mary's Basic School, Montego Bay  
Pre-Covid



Jamaican Choir is tentatively scheduled to sing at St John's masses February 5-6, 2022, depending on the Covid environment.



**Jamaica Outreach Program**  
P.O. Box 110581  
Naples, FL 34108-0110

[www.JamaicaOutreach.org](http://www.JamaicaOutreach.org) 239-325-2103  
Email: [info@jamaicaoutreach.org](mailto:info@jamaicaoutreach.org)

### To make a donation or bequest:

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