

Jamaica Outreach Program

OUR MISSION:

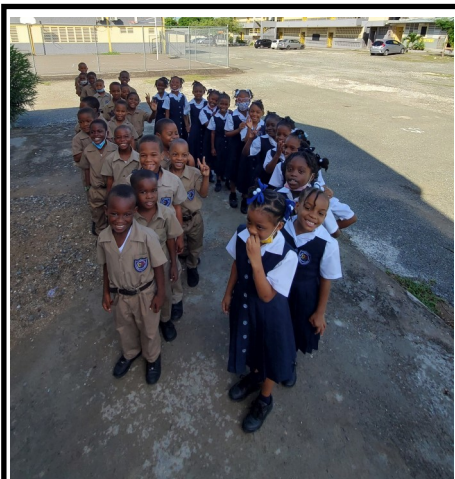
"Jamaica Outreach Program (JOP) is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) public charity whose mission is to help the poor in Jamaica. JOP provides love, respect, funds, goods and services for health care, education and basic support to improve the lives of the poor in Jamaica without regard to religious affiliation, personal history, gender, age or race."

Fall - 2022 Newsletter

Since 1997

25 Years and Still Going Strong

It's hard to believe that our mission to help the poor in Jamaica began in 1997, 25 years ago! Our founders Father Tom Glackin, Wally Kasputis and Bishop Burchell McPherson would be very proud of their legacy. The poor in Jamaica were in great need during the pandemic and they are slowly recovering. Food security, housing security and education are the key areas where we focused JOP's support during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022. See the articles in this annual newsletter for more detail. We are extremely grateful to our donors who continued to be generous during these difficult times. Thank you for your loyal support of our ministry.



Students waiting for dental screening



Fall Medical Mission



Hamilton family with their new home

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Oct.1, 2021 - Sept.30, 2022 Highlights

- ☺ \$34,500 in food support fed the hungry in Montego Bay and Kingston
- ☺ 421 Students received aid for tablets, internet cards, online learning aids, tuition, supplies, books, or uniforms
- ☺ 17 Housing units were built for the poor
- ☺ \$725 Was funded for medicine and medical supplies
- ☺ 684 Patients received dental care
- ☺ 188 Patients received health screenings
- ... 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).



Vision Care Report

The eye care division continued to support ophthalmic services to the people of Kingston despite being unable to travel to Jamaica due to covid-19 restrictions. Several eye surgeries performed in Jamaica were funded by the JOP and parishioners of St. John the Evangelist. Funds and supplies were sent to our affiliate surgery center in Kingston and four eye surgeries (corneal transplants or cataract or Laser) operations were performed in Naples on JOP patients. The eye care team plans to visit the clinic at St. Pius before the end of the year and intends to reinstate eye clinics and surgical procedures in Kingston before the end of the first quarter of 2023.

Dr. Jeffrey Zimm is JOP's Eye Care Coordinator, he has been going to Jamaica for 18 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

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 9-30-22 — Jamaica Outreach Program

Statement of Activities

Support and revenues	
Contributions & Grants	\$ 374,528
Special events, net	\$ 2,530
Donated food, goods & services	\$ 69,666
Investments & Other Income*	\$ 561
Total Revenues	\$ 447,285
Expenses	
Program services (97%)	\$ 375,381
General & administrative (2%)**	\$ 8,531
Fundraising (1%)	\$ 2,834
Total expenses	\$ 386,746
Increase (decr) in net assets	\$ 60,539
Net assets - beginning of year	\$ 226,372
Net assets - end of year	\$ 286,911
Unrestricted net assets	\$ 249,963
Temporarily restricted net assets***	\$ 36,948

97 % 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: \$29,354 Eye Surgery, \$5,000 Medical Equipment, \$1,120 Other Optical, and \$1,474 Medical.

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

Housing Report - 17 NEW HOMES FOR NEEDY JAMAICAN FAMILIES

Even with the COVID pandemic raging in Jamaica, JOP had a banner year in building houses for the poor. Through the generosity of our faithful sponsors, we constructed 17 new homes throughout the island. This was a 40% increase from the previous year.

The houses although small, come equipped with sanitation, cooking area, sink, lighting, and water. In addition, basic furnishings are also supplied. The dwellings are built with sturdy walls and water proof roofs. These units are built with structural elements to withstand bad storms.

Previously, many of the families lived in shacks with tarps and metal sheets, they now have real floors that don't turn to mud when it rains. It is heartwarming to see the look on the faces of the children when they first see the JOP houses. The houses not only provide a secure home but also a new sense of dignity and hope for the future.



Even with inflation we were able to maintain the cost of a houses at \$9800. The price includes beds, mattresses and other furniture which are provided prior to the family moving in. Understanding that this price point is more than one donor can provide we are able to match donors with each providing \$4900.

Donors truly transform the lives of desperate families struggling to survive.

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

Education Report

Marcus Garvey School



In the aftermath of the COVID 19 pandemic, the schools in Jamaica are slowly getting back to operation. Many Jamaican students have missed in person learning for nearly 30 months. This was a huge setback for both students and teachers. During this period the educational, social and spiritual guidance that the schools provide has been missing.

This year, JOP financially supported many schools in order for them to meet COVID protocols enacted by the government. Air exchange systems, water filtration and medical supplies were purchased by schools with JOP funds.

At the St Mary Basic School, the Msgr. Wilson School and Marcus Garvey School, we subsidize the cost of teacher salaries and utilities. During the pandemic, job losses were catastrophic; parents were unable to pay tuition and JOP assistance kept schools open and operating.

In the Archdiocese of Kingston, we sponsored scholarships at four different parishes for students. In total, over 50 students attend high school with the help of JOP funding. In Jamaica, student fees for books and transportation are not funded by the government and, due to the poverty level, these fees can be a major obstacle to have these youngsters furthering their education.

In the Diocese of Montego Bay, under the direction of Bishop Burchell, JOP provided \$35,000 for educational funding. The funds were used to subsidize salaries and costs of overall operation, all in an effort to make Catholic education affordable for the needy.

We firmly believe that education is the key to transforming the Jamaican society.

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



Marcus Garvey Toddlers Camp

Medical Report

Fall 2022 Mission



Our medical director, Dr. Joseph Vento, led the first post COVID medical mission to Jamaica on September 29, 2022 - the day after Ian hit Naples. The team also included 2 nurse practitioners and an assistant. Local volunteers also assisted. They saw 188 patients, many with hypertension, diabetes, asthma, STDs, skin rashes, arthritis, depression. The clinicians checked blood pressure, pulse oxygen, vision and more. Physical exams were performed and when needed mobile EKGs, finger stick glucose test and urine analysis test were performed.

At the board's request, the team visited the Village of Antonio Gabriele where a group of elderly Jamaicans are cared for and housed. It is an inspirational and effective community in the midst of a dangerous area of Kingston.

In Kingston, the team went to St. Pius and Immaculate Conception in Kingston. This was the first time a team visited Immaculate Conception Church in Stoney Hill area of Kingston. The reception by the community was overwhelming. Patients waited cheerfully to be seen under an outdoor tent - even in the rain. The trip from Kingston to Montego Bay was long and rainy - but well worth it. One day was spent in Seaford Town. It was wonderful to finally be back at Sacred Heart Parish.

The last day of the mission, the team went to St. Mary's Church in the town of Revival about 2 hours from Montego Bay.

Franciscans - Father Colin King and Brother John were our hosts. We were happy to be there on the feast of St. Francis. It was a very meaningful mission, and the team is anxiously awaiting the moment when they can head out on their next mission.

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

In Memoriam.... Wally Kasputis Feb, 1947-Aug. 22, 2022

Wally Kasputis was the spark and visionary who created the Jamaica Outreach Program in 1997, together with Father Tom Glackin and then-Father (now Bishop) Burchell McPherson at St Pius X in Kingston. Wally was president for many years until his debilitating stroke about 15 years ago. He had a big heart and much love for the poor. He was passionate about this ministry and recruited many volunteers to get it started and keep it going.

Wally's family wrote: "We are so happy our dad was able to make the trip [to Naples] to see everyone at the 20th Anniversary Celebration in 2018."



Founders: Fr. Tom Glackin, Bishop Burchell McPherson, Wally Kasputis

Dental Clinic Report

We finally did a mission trip to Jamaica this past fiscal year! The first one since Covid disrupted prior dental services. From September 26 to September 28, 2022, our team worked at the VanDomelen Dental Clinic on the grounds of St Pius X. They included 6 dental assistants, 4 hygienists and 3 dentists. They treated 189 patients in the clinic. with cleanings, fillings, extractions, and referrals. In addition, 495 students at the DuPont School were given oral education, screening for cavities and fluoride varnish treatments.

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 toothbrushes, (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



Dental Mission Fall 2022

Message from Most Rev. Burchell A. McPherson

MESSAGE to the JAMAICA OUTREACH PROGRAM

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow" 1 Cor. 3 :6,7

It is with distinct pleasure and pride that I offer heartiest congratulations on behalf of the People of God in the Diocese of Montego Bay, to yet another edition of the Jamaica Outreach Program (JOP) newsletter.

JOP and the Diocese of Venice are very dear to my heart and my association with this organisation from inception, coupled with the dynamic leadership of my dear friend and visionary of blessed memory Fr Tom Glackin and so many others, has been a source of strength in my personal ministry and role as a Bishop.

The Body of Jesus Christ is discerning anew its relationships with its members and the society at large in this ever-changing world after such an unprecedented pandemic. It is working towards redefining its place and identity in the reality of an increasingly anti church population, and a myriad of other issues which neglects to see the plight of the poor and marginalised, who barely eke out a meagre existence on the fringes of society and are only consoled by the compassion and merciful intervention of organisations like JOP.

God has chosen you as true witnesses and evangelisers to Christ in your respective professions, by the corporal acts of mercy which are manifested in your programmes. In this role, your stewardship and tangible support in alleviating the plight of the impoverished will be consistently called upon to proclaim the Christian vision, of how we are called to live in community and of the centrality of God for a flourishing society.

I am assured that based on your spirit of volunteerism and giving throughout the length and breadth of Jamaica, your sojourn will continue to be enriched.

I implore you to continue with enthusiasm and joy, to plant those seeds of effective social outreach in the educational support of our youth, the elderly, the sick and the homeless. Your triumphs and challenges through your ministry over the past 25 years gives Jamaica hope; hope that there is a bright future to be realized by labouring in the vineyard and in establishing fundamental Catholic Christian values and principles, that will have permanent worth and will make a positive difference in transforming our world.

May our Lord Jesus endow you with wisdom and ever deepening holiness, as your esteemed Board of Directors continues in work to the glory of God.

Keep building on the solid foundation laid by those who have served before you and prepare the way for those yet to come!

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Burchell A. McPherson, D.D.

Bishop of Montego Bay

Events

At press time, in the fall of 2022, we are not planning any events in 2023. Watch our website or the St John the Evangelist church bulletin for any updates.

Food, Goods and Other Programs

Because of cost of shipping, we have changed how JOP provides food and goods for Jamaica. We will no longer collect items or have a food drive. Our assistance will be in the form of grants and working with other agencies to provide food, goods and other services to the poor in Jamaica.

One of our grants this year was for the Antonino Gabriele Village. This project was started in 2009 with donors from St. John the Evangelist. It was designed to serve the impoverished elderly people near St. Anne's Catholic Church in Kingston.

Beyond this initial JOP grant in early 2022, their future needs include support for food, utilities and repairs. JOP hopes to be a major donor to this project.

Antonino Gabriele Village



Antonino Gabriele Village

For information on Foods and Goods you may contact Jeff Meyerson at 239-592-5781 or jeff@meyerson.net

Jamaican Choir is scheduled to sing at St John's masses February 18-19, 2023. Contact Jeanne Pittman 239-248-3248 if you would be willing to help house one or two of our Jamaican visitors.



Jamaica Outreach Program

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www.JamaicaOutreach.org 239-325-2103

Email: info@jamaicaoutreach.org

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 20-8041251. We also accept gifts of securities directly. Our account is handled by Ciccarelli Advisory Services, Pershing DTC #0443, Acct # A6G042795.