

JAMAICA OUTREACH PROGRAM

REPORT TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS & other interested parties

Re: Dental Mission to St. Pius—Kingston, Jamaica; January 23-24-25-26, 2023

From: Michele LaBasi, MEd, BS, RDH



January 2023 Clinical Team and Jamaican Support Staff

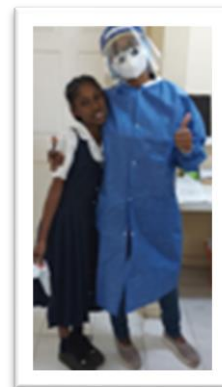
CLINICAL New: Dr. Dionne Finlay (NY), Janet Marshall-Harris, DA (NY), Genesis Moore, RDH (TX), and Camille Savory, RDH (Canada) Returning: Dr. Sarah Tibby (Jamaica) *not in photo*, Sarah Haezebrouck, DA (FL), Michele Bissonnette, RDH (MA), Margaret Conrad, RDH (GA), and Michele LaBasi, RDH (OH) **SUPPORT STAFF** Rosemarie, Marie, Jody, Boxer, Patrick, (Vivienne, Lesly-Ann, Father Mario - not in photo)

Background The January 2023 mission was greeted with blue skies and sunshine. This in part, contributed to the returning and first-time dental missionaries along with the Jamaican staff experience a successful four-day outreach to St Pius X January 23, 24, 25, and 26, 2023. The extraordinary nine-member, all-female dental team was composed of international (USA and Canada) and intranational (Jamaica) members. Everyone worked cohesively from the onset and maintained a high level of morale despite the typical challenges that arise during a mission. This unified effort enabled them to tirelessly provide dental care to 200 hundred adult and child patients for extractions, fillings, cleanings, and referral exams in the Van Domelen Clinic. The main focus of this mission was to address the dental disease needs of the St Pius X school children and the mission was fortunate to have a pediatric dentist come to handle those. In addition to clinical patients (dentist and RDH), the school program screened 13 groups of Grades 4-6 remaining from the September mission which leaves the Primary Grade children to be screened in March 2023.



The Mission Dr. Dionne Finlay, originally from Jamaica, now practicing in NYC, and Dr. Sarah Tibby, currently practicing in Kingston, Jamaica, provided quality care to those who otherwise would not be able to afford it. They went above and beyond by working several 10-11 hr. days to help over seventy-three patients during their four-day schedule. Dr. Finlay served in the clinic daily and Dr. Tibby came to the clinic on Tuesday morning and Wednesday afternoon.

Dr. Finlay performed fifty-nine extractions on fifty-six patients (fifty-two were children). In addition, she placed fifty-six fillings, nine preventive resin fillings (sealant was not available), and fourteen child cleanings which could have easily been more, based on the need. Dr. Finlay identified two child patients in need of root canals on key teeth who also needed antibiotics due to infection, neither was available. One child is recommended to return to see the oral surgeon in March. Another child was referred to an area dentist. Continued collaboration with area dentists is essential.





Margaret Conrad, RDH, oversaw the school program and reported there were 376 children who received group oral hygiene instructions, screenings for oral disease, and topical varnish fluoride applications. She and her team identified 148 children (39 % of students) with the greatest restorative and preventive needs and were referred to the clinic for further evaluation during this mission. Margaret stated many of the students in those grades had retained primary teeth (either complete or parts of baby teeth that won't come out without help) and/or decay in their first

permanent molars which appear approximately at age six. It is recommended each child be seen in the clinic for an exam, cleaning, and sealants to get ahead of dental disease. The reason is prevention is less traumatic, more cost-effective, and time efficient, i.e., in 4 hours, 8 - 12 children can be seen compared to 4-5 adults.

The dental hygienists working in the clinic demonstrated great skill in assessing their patients' needs and carrying out individualized treatment plans involving simple and advanced therapies. Gratitude is in order for how they were able to rotate through the clinic and school schedule to share the heavy patient load. Together, they provided hygiene care to 127 patients.

All dental equipment functioned well with minimal interruption due to idiosyncrasies particular to each unit or situations out of the clinic's control such as lack of electricity. Small tasks performed before the time they are needed helped to create a stress-free environment, e.g., being familiar with the availability and location of supplies and knowing how to use each dental unit. Suction traps maintenance has been completed prior to the arrival of the next mission and should remain a mandatory task prior to the closing up of the clinic each mission. In addition to the posted list of steps to take to prepare the clinic between missions, it is suggested to have a trouble-shooting checklist available in the clinic at each unit and piece of equipment to help the teams be aware of easy fixes without needing to call for the serviceman, Mr. Jolly. An inventory was completed and recommendations for dental materials, patient load, and clinic administration procedures were forwarded to those in charge.

Going Forward The upcoming March mission will be a large team. At the time of this report, three returning dentists; a general dentist, an oral surgeon, and a pediatric dentist are confirmed and auxiliary positions are mostly filled. Each dentist will have an assistant, with a floater assistant to help around the clinic as needed and for instrument sterilization. The school program will also need a rotating complement of auxiliaries as determined by the Team Leader. It will be beneficial to locate antibiotics prior to the mission, as none are readily available and the medical clinic is not in operation. A list of common dental items which will be helpful to have on hand in the clinic can be emailed to the next team to see if they can bring them.



"This year I took the opportunity to volunteer in Jamaica because it's my mother and father's birthplace. Dentistry is one of the most underserved healthcare fields worldwide. Poor oral health impacts lives in myriad ways. Giving back to a deserving community, has been a gratifying experience that I have loved every single second of doing. Take care of your oral health! camcareoralhealth.com -- Camille Savory, IRDH

I have been a dental assistant more than 23 years. I have always loved caring for patients and educating them, however, when I started volunteering to be a part of the JOP mission in 2019, the purpose became clearer. To give back to those that are so deserving and grateful, something I am so passionate about is the greatest feeling. The smiles of the children and adults we see is better than anything in this world. Friendships are created and our hearts are filled each time we reach the island... I have been blessed to be chosen as a part of these trips. --Sarah Haezebrouck EFDA, BS

