

# JAMAICA OUTREACH PROGRAM

REPORT TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS & other interested parties

Re: Dental Mission to St. Pius—Kingston, Jamaica; November 12- 17, 2023

From: Michele LaBasi, MEd, BS, RDH

## November 2023 Clinical Team

**New:** Melanie Ceasar, RDH, (MD), Shamira Maley, RDH, (OH), Melat Hussen, RDH (IL) **Returning:** Dr. Renee Batts (JA), Denisha Stewart (JA), Deshi Tweggs, RDH (NV), Kyana Upchurch, RDH, (VA), Joshua Lightning, RDH, (VA), Michele LaBasi, RDH, (OH).

**Background** The newly acquired ultrasonic unit approved for purchase by the board in October was installed and ready for use on the November mission. The four handpieces purchased in the US were brought into Jamaica without difficulty. The generous donation of 40 cases of toothpaste (960 qty) and 15 cases of toothbrushes (1080 qty), approximate value \$1,250, from Kirk Distributors, in St. Catherine’s was picked up by

Patrick Silvera (driver) and brought to the clinic ready to be sorted into oral hygiene kits for the children. Another donation of 600 adult size toothbrushes was brought down by a team member, Deshi Tweggs. These items are costly for the patients to purchase on their own and provide essential oral hygiene care for prevention and maintenance. JOP is grateful for these donations as well as the patients who receive them.



## The Mission

### School Program

The students were seen by six members of Brown Girl, RDH. The goal of this mission was to see as many grades/students as possible at St. Pius Primary and Infant School during the mission. It was not only



accomplished but exceeded because we were able to bring in some of the Infant graders (aka Pre-K) to the clinic for cleanings. Approximately 15 of these little ones had the opportunity for a fun and positive first-time dental experience with a dental hygienist. This in contrast to the typical first-time treatment from a dentist involving an injection for a filling or extraction *after* an issue has been identified. I recommend JOP find a way to provide more appointment time for the students at St. Pius Primary to be seen by dental hygienists in the clinic for more than an oral health presentation, screening, and fluoride varnish application (sometimes additional Silver Diamine Fluoride - SDF) in the auditorium. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders were seen in September and the remaining 5<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> graders (plus app 15



Photo credit: D. Tweggs

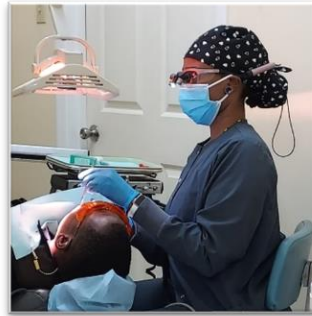
Infant grade) went through the oral hygiene education program in November’s mission totally well over 1000 students! JOP appreciates the dedicated RDH’s who rotated through the school program and clinic to see both students and adult patients.



Dr. Renee Batts returned as well as Keváun Harvey and Ayjah Smith (dental students at UTech in Kingston) as dental assistants. Denisha Stewart, a Jamaican dental assistant from Dr. Sarah Tibby's office (Friend of JOP) was also available. The three assistants worked in shifts as their schedule allowed. We are grateful for the local support from these dental professionals.

Thursday was the beginning of a tropical depression with heavy rain, which kept about half of the scheduled patients away. There are always those who need care and will be seen if there aren't any contraindications. The major concern for dental care, especially an extraction, is elevated blood pressure. There were a number of patients who were referred to a physician for further evaluation. The school program identified hundreds of children who need further dental care. There was a total of 44 Parent Permission slips returned from that number, and should be seen at the next missions to prevent worsening of the dental disease.

CLINIC		
	Patients	Procedures
<b>RDH Patients</b>	108	108
<b>Sealants</b>	1	4
<b>Fillings Patients</b>	9	22
<b>EXT Patients</b>	13	18
<b>Unable to Treat</b>	12	
<b>Consultation/Referral</b>	2	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>154</b>



School Program	
Screened	843
Fluoride Varnish	843
# of SDF Patients	109
# of SDF Teeth	569
Treated in clinic	6

### Going Forward

More time needs to be allowed in the schedule to accommodate the students with dental disease and its prevention. Diseases in the mouth affect the rest of the body. Although this will cut into the number of adult patients obtaining appointments from the community, it will be an investment for the future health of the children as they mature into adults.

#### Wish List – if an office has the following going unused, WE could use it!

Curing lights (we'll take those old ones with cords off your hands)

Ultrasonic scaling tips – 25kz (the longer size)

3M or Beautiful A2

Flowable Resin A2

Beautiful Flow Plus

Viscostat Clear Gingival Hemostatic

Dry Socket Med Paste

Round Diamond – 001 and 003

Retraction cord (size 00 and 2)

Metal finishing strips

School program – looking for a company who donates to non-profits, please let me know!

Floss samples

Fluoride varnish (hundreds needed)

SDF

Disposable mirrors



A tax-deductible receipt will be gladly issued! Please contact JOP at [Info@JamaicaOutreach.org](mailto:Info@JamaicaOutreach.org) on how to donate.

If you or anyone you know would like more information about serving with JOP on a dental mission, contact:

Michele LaBasi [mLabasi.jop@gmail.com](mailto:mLabasi.jop@gmail.com) or Roger Plante [rogerplante10@gmail.com](mailto:rogerplante10@gmail.com)

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