

Jamaica Outreach Program

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

“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.”



Jamaican Choir entertaining host families in Naples, FL. Returning February 15th, 2025.

Welcome to the Annual JOP Newsletter

We are thrilled to share with you all the developments and activity that the JOP has been working on over the past fiscal year.

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to all of our donors and volunteers who have continued to support our mission. Your generosity and dedication have allowed us to expand our reach and make a lasting impact on the lives of those in need in Jamaica.

As a direct result of your generosity here are a few highlights of the impact JOP has made this past fiscal year:

- \$31,250 in food support for Montego Bay and Kingston's poor.
- 6 housing units were built for the poor.

- 552 students received aid for tuition, supplies, books, uniforms, lunches, or transportation.
- 10 mission trips were staffed by 71 Healthcare volunteers.
- 730 patients received dental care & 1,471 students went through the oral education program.
- 448 patients were treated or screened at medical health fairs.
- 252 patients received eye exams and 214 people received eyeglasses.

Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for your continued support! Enjoy our annual newsletter!

Jop Board

Inside This Issue:

Thank You & Volunteers pg. 2

Financials pg. 2

Dental, Medical, Food & Goods, & Housing Reports pg. 3-5

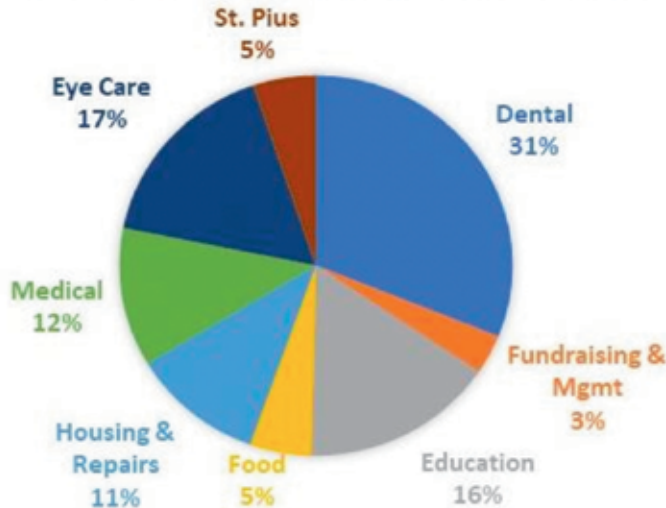
Education, & Optical Reports pg. 6-7

Message from Jamaica & Contact pg. 8

Financials

Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended 9-30-24

97% SPENT ON SERVICES TO THE POOR



Revenue*	\$	623,908
Expenses*	\$	660,337
Incr. in Net Assets	\$	(36,429)

*Includes \$302,622 "in kind" goods and (Dental, Medical, Eye) services.

Our books are open to anyone who wants a more detailed view of our finances. More info: Jeanne Pittman or jamaicaoutreach.org/policies-financials.

In Memory



Joe Gagnier passed away on Jan 8, 2024 at the age of 92, after a long illness. Joe was the President of JOP from 2005 through 2018. He and His wife Trudy were loyal volunteers from JOP's early days in the late 1990's, serving with the "Packers & Sorters", hosting visiting Jamaicans, food drives, Christmas Tea, mission trips and other events.

Goodbye dear friend and servant of the poor. May eternal rest be granted to you.

DENTAL REPORT

Michele LaBasi, MEd, RDH

JOP Dental is incredibly grateful for the generosity of donors, whose contributions make our missions possible. From October 2023 to September 2024, our teams completed six successful missions, marking our 47th outreach to date. We were fortunate to have dedicated teams totaling 66 dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and laypersons who provided compassionate dental care to 730 patients.

We are especially excited to share news of our inaugural collaboration along with JA dentist, Dr Sarah Tibby, the Jamaica Dental Association, and the University of the West Indies' Mona School of Dentistry. This outreach was a great success, and we are thrilled to announce that we will repeat this initiative in January 2025.

In addition to patient care, our oral health education program at DuPont School was highly impactful. A total of 1,471 students were screened for oral disease, with over 100 receiving dental services at the clinic. The community and school eagerly anticipate our continued efforts to prevent and treat oral diseases, and we look forward to returning soon in November. While many of our dedicated dental professionals return for future outreaches, we are always seeking additional dental personnel for our 3 or 4 day missions. Together, we can continue spreading **Smiles Across the Miles**.

For more information about Dental please contact michele@jamaicaoutreach.org.



MEDICAL REPORT

Dr. Joe Vento & Loretta Vento

2024 was a busy year for the medical team. We expanded the number of parishes we served and the geographical area we covered. We were extraordinarily blessed to have new volunteers join us from as far as Denver and as near as Naples and FGCU. We also had local nurses from Jamaica assisting us. We held three missions where we conducted health screenings in January, April, and August. It was wonderful to see so many familiar patients - many of whom remember us by name.

In January, we went to Kingston and visited St. Mary's Mission at Above Rocks, Immaculate Conception, and St. Benedict the Moor. In April, we served the Montego Bay area, visiting Sacred Heart - Seaford Town, St. Gabriel - Cave Valley, and the Montego Bay Hope Clinic. In August, we performed children's physicals at three schools in Kingston: St. Benedict the Moor, St. Theresa, and St. George's College.

It is truly a privilege, an honor, and a blessing to be able to do these missions and to share special moments with our Jamaican family. We have so many precious memories! We are grateful to the JOP, the Jamaican clergy, local volunteers, and our fellow missionaries who make these missions possible.

For more information about Medical please contact jtvmd@yahoo.com.



Photos Left to Right: Seaford Town. Dr. Vento with a patient St. Gabriel. St. Benedict the Moor. Hope Clinic. Adults in Kingston waiting for their Physicals. St. Catherine. Jamaican friends thanking us.

FOOD & GOODS

Jeff Meyerson

JOP, with the support of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, continues to help feed the needy in Jamaica. With our financial donations to *St. Anne's Food Program*, *St. Benedict Women of Mercy Soup Kitchen* and to *Love in Action Soup Kitchen* we are helping to provide hot meals and food packages to the poorest of Jamaica. JOP also thanks *St. John's Sewing Ministry* and *Ladies of Charity Ministry* for their donations. They are truly helping the most needy of Jamaica.

For more information about Food & Goods please contact jeff@jamaicaoutreach.org.



HOUSING REPORT

Jeff Meyerson

There is a great need for housing the poor in Jamaica. And, with the support of St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church and other donors, JOP worked with *Food for the Poor* to build six houses.

For donors wishing to help other families in Jamaica, the cost of a new house is \$9,800. These new houses include everything the family will need, including beds, mattresses, and furniture. If the \$9,800 price for a home is too much for one donor, JOP will combine two \$4,900 donations to build a house.

For more information about Housing please contact jeff@jamaicaoutreach.org.



OPTICAL

Paul Connor

Two Vision Care missions were held at the St Pius X Eye Clinic in Kingston. The first was led by Paul Connor in November 2023 and the second was led by Dr. Jeffrey Zimm in December 2023

The November 2023 mission saw 172 patients and distributed 144 prescription eyeglasses. They also diagnosed 30 patients ready for cataract or other eye surgery. Numerous reading glasses and sunglasses were given to patients as needed. All the staff at St. Pius X were welcoming and worked diligently to provide us with all we needed during this mission. Both the OH and FL volunteers' flights were delayed or canceled. All arrived home safely. Doing God's work is rewarding but sometimes exhausting.

December 2023: Dr. Jeffrey Zimm and his family conducted an eye care mission in Kingston Dec. 29, 2023 to Jan. 1, 2024. They examined 80 patients and arranged for prescription eyeglasses to be made in Naples and shipped back to Jamaica. Dr. Zimm also assessed the facilities and procured equipment needed for future cataract surgery mission trips.

For more information about Optical please contact paul@jamaicaoutreach.org.



Photos Left to Right: November 2023 Optical Team. Sue O'Brien and Optical Patient.. Paul Connor and some patients. Dr. Zimm with his Daughter and a Jamaican Patient.

EDUCATION REPORT



552 students (from 25 parishes) received JOP assistance for books, tuition, fees, uniforms and lunch. Grants were given for teaching aids, salaries, repairs, parent literacy, and other programs to:

- DuPont Primary School (on St. Pius X Grounds).
- Marcus Garvey Basic (Kingston pre-school, 45 students).
- Toddler and Youth Camps (Archdiocese of Kingston, 90 children).
- St. Mary Basic (pre-school in Montego Bay Diocese, 72 children).
- Msgr Gladstone Wilson Boys' School (Montego Bay Diocese).

For more information about Education please contact edu@jamaicaoutreach.org.



Photos Left to Right:

St Benedict Primary: Zaymar grade 5, Ramario grade 2, Damario grade 6, Gerard grade 5.

DuPont Primary students getting new uniforms and shoes.

Latavia (St Pius) grade 10 Holy Childhood HS.

Immaculate Conception student with JOP grant.

Dujuan, JOP awardee, Montego Bay.

Message from Jamaica

A man named Peter, who I believed to be of unsound mind, would come and sit in front of the rectory once a week, waiting for me to get home. We had a deal; I would give him Ja\$100 (US\$0.70). So, religiously, Peter would come for the funds promised to him. Recently, he wanted more money because someone stole his National ID Card and it cost Ja\$2500 to replace. Baffled by his clarity it hit me: this man is not of unsound mind; he is just poor and homeless. My encounter with Peter heightened my desire to be more impactful in caring for the homeless and elderly. Those on the margins of society should not be ignored.

I am Rohan Tulloch, SJ, Pastor of St. Benedict the Moor R.C. Church, located in Harbour View. Today, many older persons in the community are confined to their homes and seldom venture out. The parish has prioritized caring for the aged, and in 2024, created a group called "Women of Mercy." With funding from the Jamaica Outreach Program (JOP), Women of Mercy started by preparing and delivering meals to 30 persons every other Saturday. After three months in operation, they are now preparing and distributing meals every Saturday to 50 persons and offering food hampers to the elderly.

Through the generosity of the JOP donors, we can move from the "seeing" stage of identifying the problem to the point of "doing". We are utilising the members of the parish to be agents of change. Very soon, we shall be opening a convent with three religious sisters. They will work collaboratively with the "Women of Mercy" by providing daycare and other services to the elderly who are marginalised.

JOP has been committed to assisting those on the margins of Jamaican Society for 27 years and has been an agent of change, assisting persons like Peter. JOP has been very impactful, be it through the dental, optical, and medical clinics, educational grants or food hampers. We can make a difference through acts of kindness, be it small or significant. Let us all continue to be the change we want to see. Thank you very much for your ongoing support of the work of JOP.

Submitted by:

Very Rev. Fr. Rohan G. Tulloch, SJ, VF,
Pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Church,
Dean of Deanery One, Archdiocese of Kingston, Board member of JOP

Thanks for your support!

JAMAICA OUTREACH PROGRAM	239-325-2103
www.jamaicaOutreach.org info@jamaicaoutreach.org	P.O. BOX 110581 Naples, FL 34108 - 0110

FL registration #CH35318. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORESEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE