

JAMAICA OUTREACH PROGRAM

REPORT TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS & other interested parties

Re: Dental Mission to St. Pius—Kingston, Jamaica; March 22 – March 26, 2025

From: Michele LaBasi, MEd, BS, RDH

March 2025 Clinical Team and Jamaican Support Staff



CLINICAL New: Dr. Adam Goodwin (TX), Janie Goodwin (TX), Dr. Tony Jean Pierre (CN), Andrea Tresner, RDH (MO), Maddie Hoffman, RDH (MO), Rebekah Sculley, RDH (TX), Nyla Norsavanh, DA (NY), Violet Buchanan, RDH (NY) **Returning:** Denisha Stewart, DA (JA), Marie Mattai (JA), Rosemarie Warren (JA) Michele LaBasi (OH)

TWO OUTREACHES

Outreach #1 –Saturday, March 22, 2025 Collaborative Jamaican Dental Mission JOP| JDA|UWI

Vision and Objective: This outreach aimed to engage more Jamaican dental professionals and students from local university dental schools. With the assistance of Dr. Sarah Tibby, a Kingston-based dentist and adjunct professor who frequently conducts dental outreach programs across the island, we conducted our second collaborative effort. This initiative sought to foster sustainable dental care solutions in the community.

Team and Execution:

- **Composition:** The team primarily consisted of Jamaican professionals, bringing awareness of JOP's presence in Jamaica and opportunities to become involved. Dr. Tibby recruited dental students near graduation, a dental hygienist, Dr Ranger from St Mary's, in addition to JOP's March dentists.
- **Equipment and Setup:** Dr. Tibby secured portable dental chairs, which were set up in the St. Pius computer room to facilitate cleanings, fluoride varnish application, sealants, and an extraction. The dental clinic was used for more complex procedures such as cleanings, fillings, extractions, and minor oral surgeries.

Outreach #2 –Monday, March 24 – Weds, March 26, 2025

Team Contributions | Together, we are making a difference—one patient, one smile at a time.

The March dental team made a profound impact at the clinic, providing essential care to patients, many of whom had never received dental treatment before. With a focus on both urgent care and preventive measures, the team worked tirelessly to address immediate needs while fostering trust among the youngest patients. By creating a safe and supportive environment, they helped alleviate fear and build confidence in children, laying the foundation for a lifetime of better oral health.

Despite the emotional toll of witnessing severe dental conditions and the moral injury that healthcare providers often experience in these settings, the team demonstrated exceptional resilience. They set aside their emotions in the moment to ensure patients received the best possible care, knowing they would have time to process their experiences later. Their ability to stay present and focused speaks volumes about their dedication and professionalism.

A shared vision united the team, driving them forward even as fatigue set in. Their unwavering commitment to the mission kept spirits high, fostering a sense of camaraderie and purpose. Every member played a crucial role in delivering not only dental treatment but also hope and reassurance to the patients they served. Looking ahead, tentative plans are in motion for future outreach events. The team is already strategizing ways to expand their impact, and once the details are finalized, they will be presented to the board for approval.

Stay tuned as we continue building on this momentum to bring even greater access to dental care to those who need it most.

Treatments Provided

The March mission focused on seeing adult patients for preventive, restorative, and surgical procedures. The primary goal was finishing the oral hygiene school program and dental treatment to DuPont students identified through the Oral Hygiene (OH) education and screening program in September as needing additional care.

TALLY REPORT - MARCH 2025 DENTAL MISSION					
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	TOTAL
HYGIENE PATIENTS	22	28	23	25	98
FILLINGS	18	5	7	17	47
EXTRACTIONS	10	21	18	19	68
Ex, Ref, or Elev B/P	1	1	2	3	7
SDF and Sealant Pts	2	0	2	2	6
TOTAL PTS SEEN	40	48	44	51	183

Procedures included fillings, extractions, sealants, silver diamine fluoride (SDF) applications, and cleanings. SDF played a critical role in arresting generalized decay in primary and permanent teeth, particularly for cases where restorative work or extractions were impractical due to the lack of sedation options. Dr. Adam Goodwin proposed expanding the use of Sealants, SDF, and Glass Ionomer to the entire student body to get ahead of the decay. Further discussion and planning will need to occur.

School Support

Special thanks go to Mrs. Morris-James, Interim Principal, and Mr. Gregory Williams, Guidance Counselor, for their outstanding collaboration. Mr. Williams was instrumental in organizing and escorting students to their appointments, ensuring access to care they otherwise would not receive. We completed the 2024-2025 Oral Health Program by seeing 467 students this mission plus 628 from September 2024, totaling 1,095.

Looking Ahead

The next mission is scheduled for May 27 – May 31, 2025 in Seaford Town, Westmoreland. The team is assembled and plans are well underway.

Support Opportunities

For more information about volunteering or donating tax-deductible dental supplies, please contact: Michele LaBasi michele@jamaicaoutreach.org