

JAMAICA OUTREACH PROGRAM

REPORT TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS & other interested parties

Re: Dental Mission to St. Pius—Kingston, Jamaica; March 15 – 19, 2026

From: Michele LaBasi, MEd, BS, RDH

March 2026 Clinical Team and Jamaican Support Staff



CLINICAL New: Dr. Yasmin Tontat, (NY), Dr. Mike Thornton (NC), Karen Clarke, RDH (NY), Winsome Cheung, RDH (NY), Shamala Tucker, RDH, (GA). Nargiza Zakirova, RDH (NY), Anna Kravchenko, DA, (NY), Sergey Viazenko, DA (NY),
Returning: Nyla Norsavanh, DA (NY), Violet Buchanan, RDH (NY), Marie Mattai (JA), Michele LaBasi (OH), Boxer (JA) *Not in photo:* Rosemarie Warren (JA)

Treatments Provided

The March mission focused on providing preventive, restorative, and surgical care to adult patients, while prioritizing dental treatment for DuPont students for prevention and early intervention.

A significant enhancement to this mission was the addition of 25 students from St. Patrick's Primary School, transported under the guidance of Ms. Susan White, Principal, and Ms. Amanda Hall, Practical Nurse. This first-time collaboration was highly successful and will be repeated in April 2026.

Procedures completed included fillings, extractions, sealants, silver diamine fluoride (SDF) applications, and cleanings. SDF played a critical role in arresting generalized decay in both primary and permanent teeth, especially in cases where restorative work or extractions were impractical due to the lack of sedation options.

DuPont School Support

Special thanks to Mr. Gregory Williams, Guidance Counselor, and Mr. Andrew Rowe, Principal, for their outstanding collaboration. Teachers continue to be consistently supportive in accompanying their classes or excusing students for dental care. In total, 449 students were seen in the gazebo for the OH Program, and 60 students (a record!) were treated in the clinic including the 25 from St. Patrick's.

Mr. Williams initiated the first-ever Cross-Cultural event with 12 students and the dental team. The school provided lunch and a program featuring drumming, singing, and an award-winning oration from a student.

During the event, DuPont students shared what they love about living in Jamaica, while team members highlighted unique aspects of their home countries. Violet also introduced a creative challenge inviting students to depict "Smiles." By the next day, posters and essays were submitted, and a winner was selected. (*See photo album at the end of the report for details.*)

Team Composition & Cross-Cultural Engagement

This mission benefited greatly from the exceptional recruitment efforts of Ms. Violet Buchanan, who personally invited the majority of the team. Most volunteers were connected with Midtown Dental Group in New York City, with additional

colleagues joining from outside the practice. The exception was Dr. Thornton, whose connection to JOP began when he was going to serve on the November team that was canceled from Hurricane Melissa.

The resulting team was strong, cohesive, and exceptionally well-suited for the Cross-Cultural event at DuPont. Members represented a wide range of countries: Ukraine (2), Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Jamaica (3), and Laos/Thailand bringing a richness of lived experience that deeply enhanced the exchange with students.

Contributions & Support

This mission was strengthened significantly by the generosity and logistical support of Midtown Dental Group and Violet's coordination. Previous donations intended for the November dentist were shipped to Dr. Tontat in NYC, who graciously transported them to Jamaica. We recognize the effort involved in packing, carrying, and safeguarding these supplies during travel. Their willingness to shoulder that burden is deeply appreciated and directly contributed to the success of the mission.

Infrastructure Updates

1. It is reported that the building is being opened between missions to release heat buildup and prevent equipment damage.
2. The building still requires repairs and termite treatment before it becomes unusable.

Maintenance Concerns

1. Jolly completed his routine pre-mission repairs and identified additional maintenance concerns, all of which were addressed.
2. A leak was discovered at the start of the mission on one of the vacuum pumps where a joint between two PVC pipes had separated. Before the leak was located, it flooded an extensive area of the clinic three times. The issue has been repaired.
3. Ongoing maintenance concerns remain consistent with those reported in previous missions.

Looking Ahead

The next mission is scheduled for April 14–18, 2026, with a mixture of returning and first-time team members. It is always a joy to welcome those who return to serve, they know what to expect and are ready to guide those who are new. The team is assembled, and preparations are well underway.

Support Opportunities

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

Mission in Photos – [2026.3 JOP Dental Mission](#) (click to see album)

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	TOTAL
HYGIENE PATIENTS	26	29	21	76
FILLINGS	8	6	7	21
EXTRACTIONS	15	24	26	65
Ex, Ref, or Elev B/P	3	2	13	18
SDF and Sealant sites	54	36 14	26 13	116 27
TOTAL PTS SEEN	44	53	56	153