Since 1997

Fall 2026

Jamaica Outreach Program

Annual Newsletter

OUR MISSION: ...is to help the poor in Jamaica.
JOP provides love, respect, funds, goods and services for health care, education, housing, and basic support, to improve the lives of the poor in Jamaica without regard to religious affiliation, personal history, gender, age or race.
Jamaica Outreach Program (JOP) is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Federal Tax ID: 20-8041251

Letter from John Derek Persaud - Bishop of Mandeville

On behalf of the Diocese of Montego Bay and Mandeville, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the **Jamaica Outreach Program (JOP) of Naples, Florida**, for its extraordinary generosity and enduring friendship with the people of Jamaica.

Through your support, children have remained in school, families have benefited from free medical and dental clinics, and the Diocese has received assistance with essential operational needs. Year after year, your commitment has reflected a genuine spirit of Christian service and compassion.

That spirit was especially evident in your response to **Hurricane Melissa**. JOP was among our **first financial responders**, acting with remarkable speed and generosity when our people and institutions were facing unprecedented devastation. The seamless Board approval and expeditious wire transfers enabled us to respond to urgent needs when they mattered most.

Your ministry recalls the words of St. Paul:

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.

These words so beautifully describe the spirit of JOP. You have not grown weary in doing good. Rather, you have consistently seen an opportunity to serve and have responded with generosity, compassion and faith. In a moment of great need, you did not hesitate to stand with the people of Jamaica.

Your generosity has been more than financial assistance - it has been a **living expression of Christian charity, solidarity and hope.**

From our hearts, we say **thank you**. May God richly bless the Jamaica Outreach Program, its Board, its supporters/donors and all who make this ministry possible. May He continue to strengthen you in your service and reward your faithfulness with an abundant harvest.

Oct. 2025 to Sept. 2026 Highlights

$378,000 in Hurricane Melissa *relief and recovery grants*
565 meals or food package*s delivered to the elderly and poor each week*
483 students received aid for tuition, supplies, books, uniforms, lunches & transportation
5 housing units were built for the poor
5 mission trips were staffed by 39 volunteers
1,114 patients received ***dental care***
273 patients were treated or ***screened at medical health fairs***
267 patients received eye exams and ***114*** received eyeglasses



Together, these efforts reflect the heart of JOP's mission — bringing hope, dignity, and opportunity to those who need it most. Read on to discover all the exciting ways your generosity has helped JOP make a difference this past fiscal year.

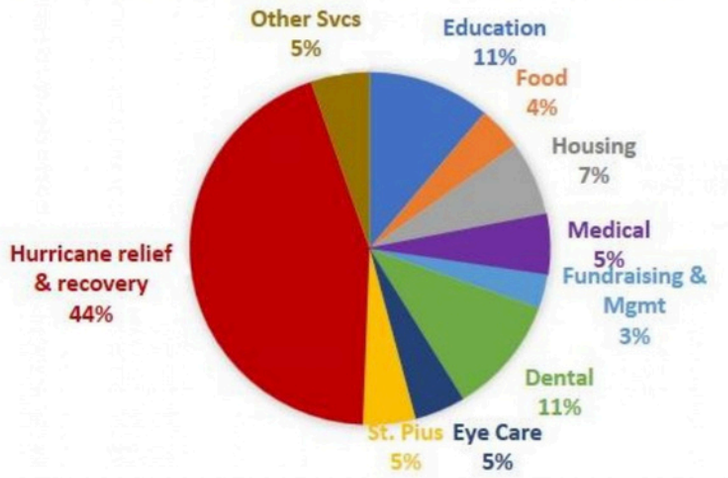
Financials

Thanks to your incredible support, the Jamaica Outreach Program continues to thrive and grow. Every contribution - large or small - helps bring hope, healing, and opportunity to those in need. We take great care in using your gifts wisely and effectively, ensuring that the majority of every dollar goes directly to programs that change lives.

Below is a summary of our financials, highlighting how your generosity made a difference this past fiscal year.

Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended 9-30-26

97% SPENT ON SERVICES TO THE POOR



Revenue*	$	1,268,782
Expenses*	$	858,290
Incr. in Net Assets	**$**	**410,492**

**Includes $139,991 "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@JamaicaOutreach.org or jamaicaoutreach.org/policies-financials.





DENTAL REPORT

Michele LaBasi, MEd, RDH

Although our November 2025 dental mission was canceled because of Hurricane Melissa, we never lost sight of our commitment to bringing compassionate, quality dental care to those most in need. When teams returned in March and April 2026, volunteers provided preventive, restorative, and surgical care to both adults and children, while continuing to prioritize students from DuPont Primary School. A successful new partnership with St. Patrick's Primary School enabled 50 additional children to receive dental treatment over the two missions.

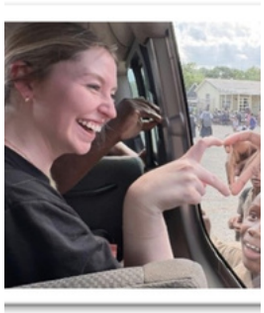
Together, the March and April teams provided care to 300 patients, including 143 children treated in the dental clinic. Through school-based outreach, 814 DuPont students received oral health screenings and education, while an additional 195 first- and second-grade students at St. Patrick's Primary School participated in oral health education, reaching a total of 1,009 children. These missions also completed dental evaluations for the entire DuPont student body. The addition of portable dental equipment, collaboration with Jamaican dental professionals, and the dedication of returning and first-time volunteers expanded access to care, including accommodations for children with sensory needs. Beyond dentistry, the missions fostered meaningful cultural exchange between Jamaican students (special thanks to DuPont Primary for arranging that) and volunteers from around the world, strengthening relationships that extend well beyond the dental chair.

Donor generosity also helped maintain and repair clinic equipment and facilities, ensuring that high-quality care could continue in a challenging environment. Every gift supports not only treatment today but also the long-term health and well-being of children and families throughout the communities we serve, demonstrating that your contributions are being used thoughtfully, efficiently, and with lasting impact.
For more information about volunteering or donating tax-deductible dental supplies, please contact: Michele LaBasi michele@jamaicaoutreach.org









MEDICAL REPORT

Dr. Joe Vento & Loretta Vento

Fall of 2025 was a very difficult time for Jamaica. Hurricane Melissa hit very hard. The medical team went to several parishes in the Kingston area on November 11th with hopes of later going from Kingston to Montego Bay area to provide care for those severely affected by the hurricane. The team was prohibited from going to Montego Bay area because of poor food, water and shelter conditions. However, thanks to the generosity and foresight of each team member, we were able to send 7 large suitcases filled with supplies including dry and canned foods, roof tarps, health care kits, batteries, flashlights and much more to the hard-hit area of St. Elizabeth via bus courier.

The medical team also planned a mission to the parishes in the St. Elizabeth and Black River areas of Jamaica for January 2026. The Ministry of Health denied the request due to continuing infrastructure issues caused by Melissa. The team regrouped and was granted permission to go to this area in February. The devastation from Melissa was still painfully visible but most of the area finally had water and electricity restored. Dr. Vento and Dr. Freitas made visits to home bound patients.

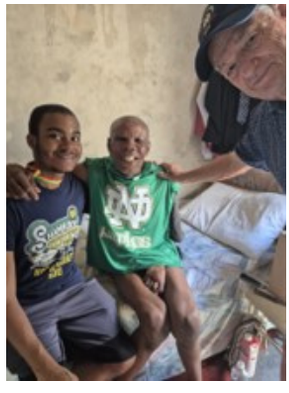
In April a small medical team went to the Holy Spirit Clinic in Maggotty. Again, with many supplies in hand and the hope of assisting as many patients as could be reached. They also brought books to help replenish the school library destroyed by Melissa. Care was provided to over 100 patients, several with severe festering wounds from diabetic complications.

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











FOOD & GOODS



Jeff Meyerson

With the help of St. John The Evangelist Church and other supporters of Jamaica Outreach Program, we continue our efforts to feed the elderly and poor in Jamaica. Within the Diocese of Kingston and Montego Bay, JOP was able to help with the delivery of 565 meals per week.

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

Serving the community with dignity

EDUCATION REPORT

Ray Shawcross

Investing in Jamaica's Students and Schools

This year, the Jamaica Outreach Program provided financial assistance through educational grants to 483 students, helping them continue their education by providing much-needed support for tuition and books. These grants offer students an opportunity to pursue their studies and work toward a brighter future.

JOP also responded to the devastating impact of Hurricane Melissa, which struck Jamaica in October 2025. The hurricane destroyed more than 100,000 homes and severely disrupted the lives of students, teachers, and families throughout the island. JOP provided direct financial assistance to several schools that suffered significant structural damage, helping them begin the difficult process of recovery and rebuilding.

The response to the hurricane extended beyond financial assistance. Students at an elementary school in Naples organized a school-supply drive to help children in Jamaica whose schools had been affected. Through their generosity and hard work, 390 pounds of school supplies were collected and shipped to an elementary school in Kingston, Jamaica.

These efforts reflect what JOP and its supporters can accomplish together. Your generosity helps provide Jamaican students with the educational resources they need not only to remain in school, but to build a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

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



On the right is a photograph of grateful students at St. Benedict School after receiving these supplies.

HOUSING REPORT

Jeff Meyerson

Due to Hurricane Melissa, the need to rebuild hampered JOP's effort to help build houses. However, with the support from donors, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and Food for the Poor, JOP was able to fund 5 new homes. If you would like to be part of the program, the cost of a new house is $12,300. These homes are life-changing for the people who receive them and include everything a family will need. If the $12,300 price for a home is too much for one donor, JOP will combine two $6,150 donations to build a house.
For more information about Housing please contact jeff@jamaicaoutreach.org.

VISION CARE

Paul Connor

Our vision teams have once again provided quality and individualized eye care to our brothers and sisters in Jamaica. In October of 2025 a team consisting of Peggy Johnson (Kentucky) Sue O'Brien (Florida) Dr. Tom Kelly and Paul Connor (Ohio), traveled to Seaford town Jamaica. The Trip was planned for three days but was cut short by Hurricane Melissa. While they were there, the team was able to do 53 exams and 39 ordered glasses. Additionally, 25 non-prescription sunglasses were distributed. Unfortunately, the mission had to be abandoned to get off the mountain and find flights before the storm made landfall. All team members made it home safely.

A subsequent optical mission to Kingston the following week was also cancelled in anticipation of the hurricane

In July, Dr Jeffrey Zimm led a team of six to Kingston for a very successful three-day mission at St. Pius X compound. They were able to provide 214 eye exams with 75 of the patients getting glasses ordered. There were additional eye health issues discovered that may be handled at a later mission.

For more information about Vision Care please contact weyes@neo.rr.com.







Hurricane Melissa Relief & Recovery

On October 28, 2025 Hurricane Melissa damaged or destroyed over 190,000 homes in Jamaica. Churches, schools and clinics that served entire communities were reduced to rubble. Multiple families are still living together in crowded temporary shelters. The storm delivered a devastating blow to Jamaican fishers and farmers who feed their families and nearby communities. More than 70,000 farmers lost their crops and over 1.25 million animals. Fishing communities saw the loss of boats and equipment. The loss of local food sources continues to cause significant food security concerns, shortages and skyrocketing food prices across the entire island.

Thanks to the outpouring of support from donors like you and the trusted partnerships we have developed in Jamaica, JOP was able to respond with hurricane relief and recovery efforts in the past year. Your gifts accomplished the following:

- **$220,600 to replace or repair homes and community facilities including churches, schools, a soup kitchen, and library/computer center**
- **$70,700 for food and supplies to vulnerable families**
- **$60,000 for boats, tools, seeds, and livestock to help hundreds of fishing and farming families**
- **$26,700 for education assistance related to the hurricane's impact**



Behind every number is a priest who slept in his car, a family living in a shipping container, or a farmer who watched unharvested crops rot in flooded fields. These are the people you have given hope to. A hurricane of that dimension will take years to recover from and with your help, JOP is committed to being there for the poor we have served for over 29 years. THANK YOU!









After Hurricane Melissa devastated Jamaica, families are slowly repairing homes, and building up their livelihoods with boats, plants, chicks and livestock that will provide both food and a sustainable source of income. The rebuilding process will continue with your help.

Fr Tom's mission to Jamaica cut short due to Hurricane Melissa

Jamaica Outreach Program's teams held an optical mission and inspection tour in the Montego Bay Diocese on October 21, 2025. Father Tom Zalewski, pastor at St John the Evangelist, participated in both missions. The teams cut their missions short & evacuated Jamaica safely.





Before Hurricane: Soup Kitchen prep & Food Distribution to "Street people" & "Shut-ins"

In memoriam: Bishop Burchell McPherson
May 7, 1951 - March 25, 2026

We mourn the loss of our beloved founder, Bishop Burchell McPherson. In 1997 he partnered with Father Tom Glackin as founders of the Jamaica Outreach Program (JOP). They twinned their two parishes to alleviate the plight of the impoverished in the St Pius X community. Bishop Burchell's love of the poor and his powerful presence inspired many volunteers and donors to support the mission as it grew from serving one location to multiple areas in Jamaica over the past 29 years

In a 2022 letter to JOP, Bishop Burchell wrote "I implore you to continue with enthusiasm and joy, to support of our youth, the elderly, the sick and the homeless.... Your triumphs and challenges through your ministry over the years gives Jamaica hope .... Keep building on the solid foundation laid by those who have served before you and prepare the way for those yet to come!"

Thank you Bishop Burchell for creating JOP's solid foundation and building upon it. Your life was a blessing and we will treasure all the memories in our hearts.



JAMAICA OUTREACH PROGRAM

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To Make a Donation or Bequest:

Mail your check to the address at left, or donate by credit card using the QR code or go to www.JamaicaOutreach.org/give.

Our federal ID is 20-8041251.
For gifts of securities, please contact Jeanne@JamaicaOutreach.org or 239-248-3248

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