

JAMAICA AWARENESS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

**JAAK**

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**FUNDRAISING BANQUET**

**SATURDAY**

*November 11, 2023*

6 PM - 1 AM

**LOS ANGELES AIRPORT MARRIOTT**  
Los Angeles, California

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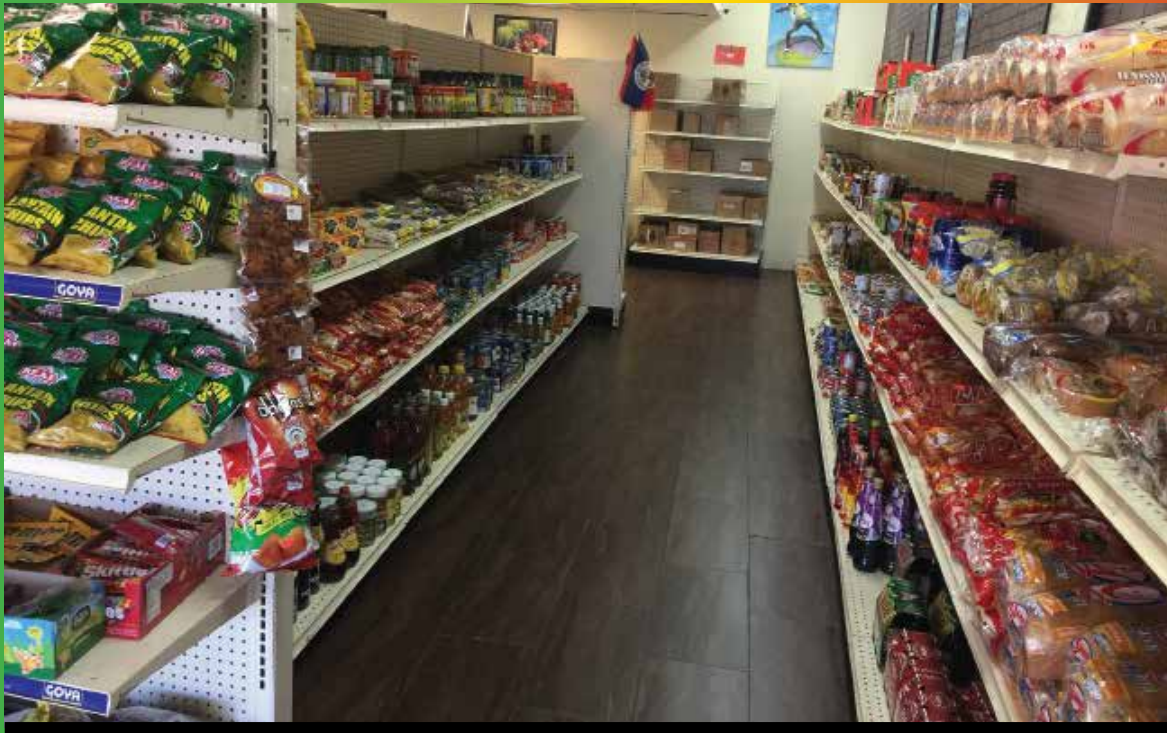


# Congrats to JAAC

on their 35th Annual Fundraising Banquet and  
Completion of the 23rd Annual Mission to Jamaica



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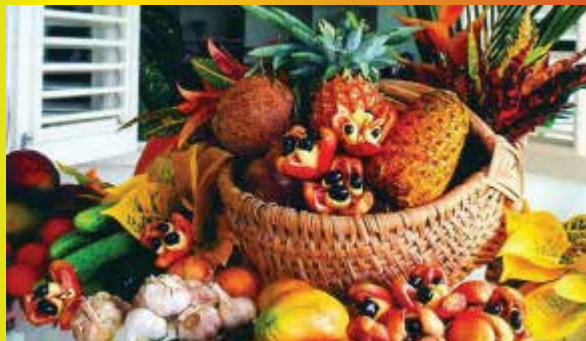
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# Evening Program

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*Cocktail Hour (No Host Bar) 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.*

*Steel Drum Entertainment – Cecil “Censi” Francis*

## **Masters of Ceremonies**

*Mr. Jeffrey Anderson-Gunter*

*Miss Shauna Chin*

## **Invocation**

**National Anthems - *Mr. Orland Bailey***

**Dinner Served 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

**President’s Welcome & Message**

*Mr. Patrick Williams*

**JAAC 2023 Recognition Award**

*Dr. Rosalyn Beswick – Community Service Award*

**President’s Award – *Mr. Orland Bailey***

## **Entertainment**

*Island Passion Band featuring Mr. Orland Bailey*

*DJ Nigel*

## **Dancing**

**Door prizes**

**Live Auction**

**Silent Auction**

**Grand Raffle Drawing**



Island Passion Band



Orland Bailey





**MESSAGE FROM  
THE MOST HON. ANDREW HOLNESS, ON, PC, MP  
PRIME MINISTER**

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Banquet  
Jamaica Awareness Association of California (JAAC)**



I extend warm regards and commendations to the Jamaica Awareness Association of California (JAAC) on the occasion of your 35th Annual Fundraising Banquet. This milestone stands as a testament to your unwavering commitment to the betterment of our beloved Jamaica and the broader Los Angeles community.

The story of JAAC also reflects the indomitable spirit of Jamaicans, both in our homeland and in the diaspora. Founded in 1987 by a group of dedicated individuals in Los Angeles, your organization has steadfastly pursued a noble mission, one that resonates deeply with our shared values. Your dedication to providing assistance to needy students and to advancing the health and education systems in Jamaica and Los Angeles is nothing short of inspiring.

The annual medical and education missions undertaken by the organisation in rural Jamaica since 2000 have brought hope, healing, and opportunity to those who need it most. Your efforts have not only transformed individual lives but have also contributed to the advancement of our nation as a whole.

As you gather for your 35th Annual Fundraising Banquet, I applaud the tireless work of JAAC and the unity it represents. This event is not just a celebration of your accomplishments; it is also a demonstration of the power of community, the strength of friendship, and the boundless potential of collaboration and partnerships. It brings together not only the friends of California and the Caribbean community but also the dreams, aspirations, and goodwill of many.

Certainly, this gathering is a beacon of hope, and it bears testimony to the profound impact we can achieve when we come together for a common cause. It is a reminder that, as Jamaicans, we are connected not only by our shared heritage but also by our shared responsibility to uplift the less fortunate and to contribute to the betterment of society.

Let this banquet be a symbol of our commitment to fostering positive change, not just within our communities but throughout the world. To this end, I want to express my deepest appreciation for the dedication and passion that the Jamaica Awareness Association of California has displayed over the years. Your work is a source of inspiration and a testament to the incredible potential we all hold to make a difference in this world.

May your 35th Annual Fundraising Banquet be a resounding success, and may it continue to light the path towards a brighter, more prosperous future for all.

*The Most Hon. Andrew Holness, ON, PC, MP Prime Minister*



# President's Message



Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Executive Board, Advisory Committee, and the fantastic members of the Jamaica Awareness Association of California (JAAC), I extend to you a warm and hearty welcome to our 35th Annual Fundraising and Awards Banquet. We are absolutely thrilled to have both our seasoned champions who have been with us throughout our 35-year journey, and our new friends, joining our organization's events for the very first time. It's an exciting time for JAAC as we continue to evolve, grow, and stay ever vigilant in our commitment to serving the community's needs. In conjunction with the theme of Jamaica's 61<sup>st</sup> year of independence, we the members of JAAC also declare being - "Proud and Strong".

As we gather here tonight to celebrate, let's take a moment to shine the spotlight on those remarkable individuals who embody the spirit of volunteerism. We have an extraordinary group of heroes amongst us; folks who selflessly dedicate their time and efforts to make JAAC a resounding success. These incredible men and women don't seek gratitude for their actions; instead, they're grateful for the opportunity to make a difference. This year, their hard work and dedication have brought more smiles and hope to many lives.

Tonight, we hail the nurses who tirelessly tended to wounds, checked vital signs, and brought comfort to sick children. We thank the doctors and dentists who worked under challenging conditions to improve the health of the less fortunate. Sincere appreciation to the pharmacists who dispensed much-needed medications, and the surgeons who spent hours under blazing lights, working in operating rooms desperately needing upgrading, to remove tissue masses or repair organs. Our volunteers traversed the treacherous roads, to deliver much-needed resources to schools situated in remote valleys. This past year, an incredible 90 such volunteers embarked on a mission to Jamaica to make this happen. We also had volunteers who worked locally, partnering with the Food Bank to provide health screenings. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you, for your unwavering commitment. Your contribution has been tremendous, and without you, we wouldn't be able carry out these promised commitments. The reality is, you are the real-life superheroes in the lives of the many children and adults you have touched. We are Proud to announce the dollar value of the mission we just completed for the year 2023, in Jamaica, is over USD\$500,000.00; to include services and equipment used to aid the success of the mission. The cost we incurred in realizing the completion and success of this year's mission is approximately USD\$150,000.00. "Gratitude is a Must".

To our esteemed guests, be assured, tonight is all about you. Every detail has been meticulously tailored to ensure your enjoyment. You will be treated to electrifying live entertainment, indulge in a sumptuous feast, and have a chance to take home treasures from our silent and live auction. If you are feeling lucky, you can try your hand at one of our raffle drawings. And of course, the night would not be complete without some dancing to the infectious rhythms of our band and DJ. So, let loose and have a blast!

I'm delighted to extend our heartiest congratulations to our two Honorees this evening:

- Mr. Orland Bailey, who has never hesitated to serenade us with his melodious voice, all the way from Jamaica.
- Dr. Rosalyn Beswick, for her years of dedicated service to the Annual Medical Mission in Jamaica.

As an unknown author once said, "Hope for mankind's future lie in selfless acts of giving and volunteering".

The JAAC is committed to continuing our work, both locally and in Jamaica, by embarking on even more ambitious projects. We aim to strengthen our partnerships with local organizations and charitable groups and plan to donate more medical equipment to hospitals in Jamaica, following the immense appreciation we received for the Laparoscopic surgical tower donated last year. In the upcoming year, we aspire to increase the number of scholarships awarded to high school students, building on the five made possible by our generous sponsors this past spring.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt thanks for gracing us with your presence tonight and for your unwavering support. We look forward to your continued support as we embark on this incredible journey of service and community building.

Onward together, supporting JAAC's Motto "***Improving lives today, for a better Tomorrow***".

Patrick L. Williams

## JAAC 2023-2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



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**Dr. George Savage**  
Appointed Board Member



**A big thank you to other JAAC members and friends who added to the success of this event.**

Ava Hyman  
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Claudette Hecker  
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Claudette Coleman  
Verona Hall  
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Jennifer Cornwall

Sharon Small  
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**Jamaica Awareness Association of California, Inc.  
Congratulatory Message  
from  
Her Excellency Audrey Marks  
Ambassador of Jamaica to the United States of America**



On behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica, I extend hearty congratulations to the Jamaica Awareness Association of California, Inc. (JAAC).

I also take this opportunity to congratulate the JAAC on its 23rd Annual Medical and Educational Mission to rural Jamaica. The JAAC's remarkable 23-year-strong medical outreach program, training opportunities, and donations of medical equipment have positively enhanced the health and wellness of countless Jamaicans, and for this, we are grateful.

As you celebrate your 35th Annual Fundraising Banquet, I commend the JAAC for building a strongly-knit community in the West dedicated to nation-building.

Since its establishment in July 1987, the JAAC continues to remain a beacon of hope and progress. It has actively contributed to the betterment of Jamaican communities by providing scholarships to aspiring students and making well- needed injections of support to various schools.

With over three-and-a-half-decades of unstinting service, the Jamaica Awareness Association of California remains a vital and indispensable partner for Jamaica's development. I encourage you to continue working in the interest of the Jamaican/ American community and for the advancement of Jamaicans at home.

May this festive occasion serve as a moment of reflection, recognition, and renewed determination to continue your endeavours for the benefit of Jamaica and her people.

As you recommit to achieving even greater feats of nation-building in the future, accept my best wishes for a successful and memorable 35th Annual Fundraising Banquet.

# Dinner Menu

Assorted Rolls with Butter

## *California Citrus Salad*

cheese, orange segments, dried cranberries, cherry tomatoes,  
Red wine vinaigrette & walnut vinaigrette served on the side

## *Jerk Marinated Chicken, pomegranate molasses*

or

## *Pan Roasted Salmon, balsamic reduction & red wine beurre blanc*

## *Chef's Accompaniments:*

Jasmine Rice with Kidney Beans, coconut milk, pimento, thyme and Fresh Seasonal Vegetables

## *Vegetarian Option*

Sear King Oyster Mushroom

Green pea puree, roasted pee wee potato, red chimichurri, yellow pea shoots

## *Dessert*

Red Berry Marquis with kiwi drizzle

Lemon Tart with raspberry drizzle

Starbucks Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee & Tazo Tea Service





## *Our fmcees this evening...*

### **Jeffrey Anderson-Gunter**



Years ago, at the Rialto theatre in Jamaica, West Indies, Jeff saw his first movie, titled "One Potato, Two Potato." He admired the talent, class, and sophistication of the woman portraying that character, and turned to his mom and said, "That is what I want to do when I grow up, be an actor and be as good as that woman."

Years later, he auditioned and landed a role in "Play Mas" with the Urban Arts Corps. The role was a dancing witch doctor in a grass skirt, and he should be a West Indian who can sing, dance and act.

He has since done many movies for the screen, "Predator II" "Marked for Death," "Don't be a Menace," "Only the strong," to name a few and numerous guest spots for television, including lead roles in the series, "Hudson Street" for ABC and "Union Square" for NBC, prime-time shows and daytime soap operas, and other series lead roles for the major television networks.

A director of numerous productions on and off-Broadway. He recently directed and premiered in, "Speak of Me as I Am," the story of Paul Robeson with K. B. Solomon at the North Carolina Black Theatre Festival, to rave reviews.

Jeffrey was Associate Producer for and performed in the Black Star of The Great White Way" event at the prestigious Carnegie Hall in N.Y. in June of 2014. He is the founder and artistic director for the Caribbean American Repertory Theatre West, in Los Angeles. He sits on the boards of the National Black Theatre Festival in North Carolina, Hollywood Diversity Association and Splasher.com, winner of several NAACP theatre awards and a contract instructor for Theatre of Hearts/Youth First. His film, the musical, "Revival" was released in 2017. He is also a father, an activist and teacher of voice, articulation, and American Sign Language. He is currently, in pre-production for the Docudrama, "Justice Delayed" the account of a trial that Marcus Garvey won in Jamaica.



### **Shauna Chin**



Ms. Shauna Chin is the Vice Chair for the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council and the Representative of the USA West and Mid-West.

Shauna uses her skills as a US Army trained Nurse and her notoriety as an actress to augment her humanitarian efforts and raise awareness to various causes. The Gulf War veteran served 8 years in the United States Army and achieved two baccalaureate degrees: one in Business Administration and a second in Nursing which she utilized to teach nursing students before transitioning to an acting career. Thus, affording her the unique circumstance of bringing not just one, but multiple areas of expertise to the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council in the key subject areas: citizen security, education, health and wellness, arts sports and culture, commerce and development issues.

She is a long-standing champion for diaspora matters, previously serving as Goodwill Ambassador for the National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organizations (NAJASO) and is the current United Nations Association of Jamaica (UNAJ) Ambassador. For the period 2014-2018, she volunteered at the Consulate of Jamaica-Los Angeles where she implemented a successful immigration and deportation plan with the goal for every Jamaican national in her region to have: a valid government issued ID; an immigration and deportation plan and increased access to their nearest Consulate to ease doing business with Jamaica.

*Congrats IAAC!*

# **O'NEIL DENNIS**

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# JAAC 2023 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

*Dr. Rosalyn Beswick*

**DNP ANP-BC CWONP EDSc**



Dr. Rosalyn Beswick was born in Kingston Jamaica, the third of four girls. She migrated to the US in 1983. She began her nursing career as an LPN and furthered her career by obtaining her AAS, BSN, MSN, and finally earned a Doctoral Degree from George Washington University in 2021.

Rosalyn currently works as a Wound Consultant for Renew Wound Care Consultant. Her passion for helping others is reflected in her dedication to caring for her patients. Rosalyn's numerous years as a nurse involves working in various hospital settings: *Level One trauma Emergency Department at Kings County in Brooklyn NY, Medical ICU and Open-Heart Surgery ICU at Northwell, Long Island NY.* However, she was not satisfied. She went on to obtain a specialization to prevent and treat various complex wounds. Her most significant experience was being employed at Mount Sinai hospital as Wound Care

Manager. It was there where she met Connie Duvall who told her about this amazing experience of becoming a volunteer that involved giving back to the people of Jamaica. She was eager and excited to participate; and the rest is history.

Rosalyn Beswick is married to her wonderful, amazing husband Rudolph Brabham and is blessed to have four amazing children and an adorable grandson.

**JAAC applauds Rosalyn for her dedication and exemplary service to our mission.**

## JAAC 2023 President's Award

*Mr. Orland Bailey, Esq.*

Orland started his musical journey as a teenager, while attending Cornwall College in Montego Bay, Jamaica, where he sang in the school's choir. Music was his oxygen and so he lived and breathed music; not only at school but also at church. He was a member of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Montego Bay, Jamaica, where he directed both senior choirs for several years. He was also a member of Vivene Deokora's - Magnify God choir.

This surely encouraged his vocal studies and he later became a voice student of the late Clarice Crawford. Orland has hosted several vocal recitals and has been amongst the line-up of artists, offering the highest standards of entertainment and vocal support for several engagements/concerts all over Jamaica.

Although Orland works a 9-5 job and gives of himself to serve the people of Jamaica as a Justice of the Peace, music is never placed on the "back burner" for him.

**"If music is the food of love, play on."** A quote from William Shakespeare's play, "Twelfth Night." Orland finds this quote, a most inspirational one; and strives to never stop singing, as the world will always need love.

**JAAC is grateful to Orland for his continuous support of the organization.**





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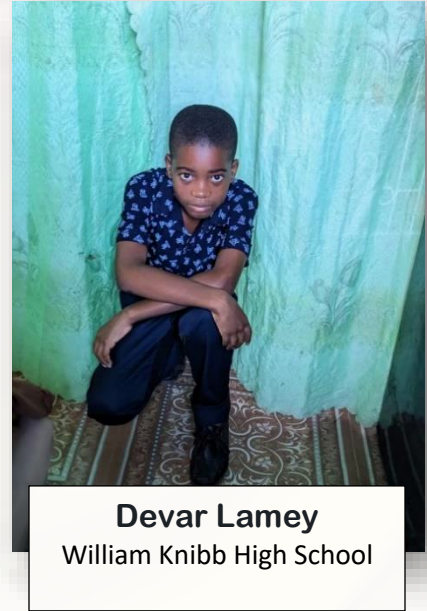
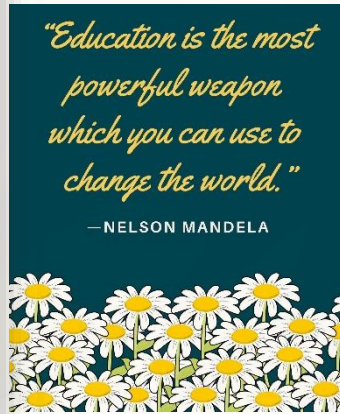


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Rice	\$4
Jerk Pork	\$8
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Bammy	\$8

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Callaloo Plate	\$ \$15	L \$19
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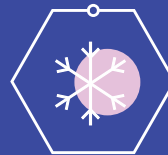
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Mr. Patrick Williams  
 President  
 Jamaica Awareness Association of California

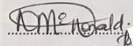
Dear Mr. Williams

The Board of Governance of Mount Grace Primary & Junior High School would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your team for your visit on June 15, 2023 and your timely contributions of Smart Televisions, portable P.A. System, Projector, soccer balls, tablets and over one hundred (100) bag packs with stationery items to the school and our students, which had impacted their lives tremendously. We pray that your missions will continue to impact lives globally.

Your kind gesture in making these contributions is greatly appreciated.

Warm regards

Mount Grace Primary  
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 Cadian Kerr (Mr.)  
 PRINCIPAL

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October 25, 2023  
 Mr. Patrick Williams  
 President  
 Jamaica Awareness Association of California  
 5855 W Century Blvd.,  
 Los Angeles,  
 California

Dear Mr. Williams,

On behalf of the Management, Staff and Students of this noble institution I write to express our sincere gratitude for your kind donation of school bags, stationeries and tablets for our students. It is interesting to know that thirty percent (30%) of our students come from under-privileged and poor socio-economical background and sometimes find it difficult to acquire needed resources.

With your organization's generous donation, some of our students were able to acquire these much needed resources. We work closely with the Ministry of Education's mandate, which is to provide quality education in an innovative, inclusive and enabling environment, where our students can maximize their God-given talents and make meaningful contributions to communities and the nation at large.

Once again, our deepest gratitude is conveyed to your organization and trust that this partnership will continue for many, many years to come.

Sincerely yours,  
**ST. MARY'S PREPARATORY AND KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL**  
 Dr. Anthony Taylor LLB, JP  
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**“Congratulations to JAAC  
on their 35th Anniversary Banquet and to  
Patrick Williams, JAAC President  
Best wishes for a successful event.”**

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# REACH ONE, TEACH ONE



## JAAC EDUCATION MISSION 2023

This year marked Jamaica Awareness Association's 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Medical and Education Mission to Jamaica. On behalf of the education Team, I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to JAAC's members, leadership team and the many volunteers, who all worked tirelessly in planning and executing a successful mission.

The Education Team visited over 17 schools over a five-day period. We visited schools in the parishes of Portland, St. James, Trelawny, Hanover and Westmoreland. We were able to distribute almost 2,000 backpacks and school supplies directly to the students. We were also able to donate to the schools, computers, laptops, PA systems, tablets, microphones, and projectors. JAAC continued to expand its scholarship program and awarded five new scholarships to deserving students this year. The first scholarship, the Enid Davis Scholarship in honor of one of our former VPs, was awarded to Tashauna Erskine. The David Haughton Scholarship, in honor of our founder, was awarded to Rodrick Sterling. With the participation and support of sponsors, we were also to award an additional five scholarships to worthy students. The Shernette Wedderburn Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Tashanna Brown, the Wedderburn Scholarship was awarded to Devar Lamey and the Academic Freedom Scholarship was awarded to Muhammad Dialo. Congratulations to all new scholarship recipients and we look forward to seeing great things from you in the future.

Thanks again to the volunteers and sponsors. Your contributions were vital to the success of our mission and our executing our objective in making a positive difference in our community.

### DONATED SUPPLIES

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- Computer Tablets
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- Flat screen TV monitors
- PA systems
- Microphones
- Bluetooth speakers
- Backpacks
- School supplies
- Sports equipment





***“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”***

***Benjamin Franklin***

***Schools visited during the 2023 Mission***

Windsor Castle  
Mt. Zion Primary  
First Hill All Age School  
Brownsville Primary  
Chambers Penn Primary  
St. Mary Primary  
Cave Valley Primary  
DRB Brant Basic School  
Tower Hill Primary (and Watford Hill)

Buff Bay Primary  
Barrett Town Infant & Primary  
Wakefield Primary  
Mr. Hannah Infant & Primary  
Mr. Carey Basic  
Revival Primary  
Mt. Salem Infant & Primary  
Mt. Grace Primary

***Our 2023 team:***

Mr. Patrick Williams  
Ms. June Royes  
Ms. Nicole Nugent  
Dr. Audie Black  
Ms. Sashana Clarke  
Dr. George Savage  
Mrs. Verona Hall  
Ms. Sharon Simmonds  
Ms. Yasmin Facey  
Mr. Leighton Savage



***“A good education is a foundation for a better future.”***

***Elizabeth Warren***



# Thank You Notes.....



"This week is an amazing week in the life of the school. Through Jamaica Awareness Association of California all our students received a bag pack, ten students received tablets, and other significant gifts to the school..."

**Mount Grace Primary  
Westmoreland**

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June 19, 2023

Jamaica Awareness Association of California, Inc.  
P. O. Box 431298  
Los Angeles, CA 90043

Dear Mr. Patrick Williams,

On behalf of the Board of Management of the above institution, the students and teachers we express heartfelt gratitude to you and your organization for the generous donations that was made to the school and the students. Your donations will go a long way in enhancing teaching and learning at school and the welfare of our students.

Thank you very much.

Yours Sincerely,

Alorna Montaque-Nelson

Principal (Acting)



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**Assistant Bursar:**  
Ms. Tanya Smith

June 9, 2023

The President  
Jamaica Awareness Association of California Inc.  
P.O Box 351769  
Los Angeles  
California

Dear Mr. Williams,

The Mount Salem Primary and Infant School family would like to express its sincerest thanks to your organization for its donation of much needed educational resources recently. We would also like to extend our gratitude to your dental team that were instrumental in providing dental services to the staff and students.

We hope that this partnership will continue to thrive for years to come as, "Together We Shine Like a STAR". We pray that God will continue to bless this organization as you continue to serve the Nation's children.

Yours respectfully,

Dr. Ann Shaw, J.P  
Principal

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## 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MEDICAL MISSION 2023

A team of Physicians, Dentists, Nurse Practitioner, Dietitian, Pharmacist, Nurses, and Dental Students completed a medical mission the week of June 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

This year our medical mission took us back to the parishes of St. Mary, St. Ann, Trelawny, and Mandeville. We added visits to Westmoreland, Hanover, Sav-La-Mar and Montego Bay. A laparoscopic tower was donated to Falmouth Public General Hospital to commence a laparoscopic surgery training program going forward.

JAAC was able to ship over 100 boxes of supplies. Boxes of supplies were either delivered or collected to Noel Holmes Hospital, Sav-La-Mar Hospital, Annotto Bay Hospital, Mandeville Hospital, and Falmouth Hospital. Shipment included a laparoscopic tower, surgical supplies & equipment as well as boxes of medication and supplies that were used in the hospitals, medical and dental clinics as follows:

**Granville Baptist Church:** Total of 77 patients: Dental 26, medical 55, children 11. CPR classes, attended by 15 participants.

**Brown's Town Baptist Church:** Total of 122 patients: Dental 56, medical 58, Children 10. Nurse visit 26, 5 triaged then left.

**Spicy Hill Community Center:** Total of 123 patients: Dental 56, medical 76, Children 23

**Perfect Health Clinic:** Total of 54 patients: Dental 43, medical 32

**Brown's Town Nursing College:** CPR Class with Certification for 26 Nursing Students.

**Holiday Inn Resort:** Total of 67 employees Dental 34 medical 62.

**Professional Eye Care Clinic:** Total 61 patients: Dental 30, medical 27, Children 4. Total of 50 students at Montego Bay High School participated in CPR class.

**Jamaica Green Botanicals:** Total of 111 patients: 72 Adults 39 Children. Dental 39, medical 72.

**New Testament Church of God:** Total of 156 patients: Dental 77, medical 79

**Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hope Teaching Health Clinic:** Total of 66 patients: Dental 29, medical 37.

**Mt. Zion Primary and Infant School:** 31 Students received medical and dental care.

**Mt. Carey Baptist School:** Total of 86 patients

**St. Mary Prep. School:** Total of 32 patients

**Watford Hill Primary School:** Total of 40 students.

**Mt. Salem School – 4 days:** 294 students and 19 adults received medical and dental care. 53 extractions performed.

## **Surgical Team**

### **Falmouth Hospital**

4 Open Inguinal Hernia Repair; 1 Vaginal Hysterectomy; 1 Open Hysterectomy, 1 Ovarian Cystectomy; 1 Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy,

### **Annotto Bay Hospital**

3 Laparoscopic Cholecystectomies

### **Mandeville Hospital**

1 Diagnostic Laparoscopy, Lysis of Adhesion; 1 Laparoscopic assisted Vaginal Hysterectomy converted to Total Abdominal Hysterectomy; Bilateral Salpingo-oophorectomy.

1 Laparoscopic Bilateral Ovarian Cystectomy (Endometriosis); 1 diagnostic Laparoscopy (Endometriosis); 1 Laparoscopic Right Ovarian Cystectomy with drainage of 12cm Endometrioma Chocolate Cyst.

Throughout the week, diagnoses included, but were not limited to, hypertension, diabetes, skin disorders, asthma, dental ailments, GYN related ailments, HIV, aches and pains. Medication and education were given as appropriate. Copies of intake sheets were left with the staff at each center for follow-up or given to patients seen at community centers with instructions to take to their personal physicians. All patients were encouraged to return to their personal physicians for follow-up. Approximately 50 patients were given blood pressure machines with instruction to monitor their pressure.

All follow-ups, and after care are provided by the SMO and medical team of each hospital.

*Submitted by Claudette Coleman  
Medical Chair for 2023 Mission*







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**Congratulations Patrick Williams**

JAAC President

**Thank you JAAC**

for over 30 years of Community Service  
to Los Angeles and Jamaica.

*Best wishes for a successful  
Fundraising Banquet.*

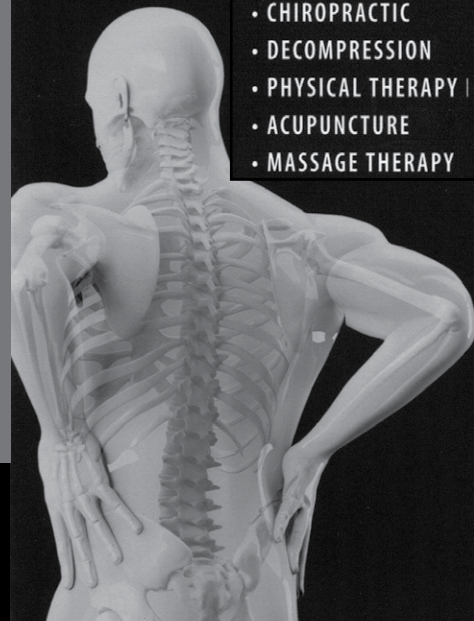
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## **MARJORIE R. GRANT-FULLER**

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THE GOVERNMENT of Jamaica appointed Marjorie Grant Fuller as ambassador/special envoy to four African states, namely Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa and Togo in 2021.

In making the announcement, Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, minister of foreign affairs and foreign trade, said, "This appointment is another step by the Government to deepen its outreach to the continent and to identify specific opportunities for enhancing trade and investment to support Jamaica's economic development. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, in collaboration with JAMPRO, launched the Economic Diplomacy Programme last year. Both these initiatives, and the work being undertaken by diplomatic missions, are geared at expanding and driving the momentum for trade and investment promotion."

Jamaica has strong and historically important relations with Ghana, South Africa and Nigeria, and hopes to translate these into meaningful economic opportunities.

A Certified Public Accountant by profession, with over 30 years in the field, Grant Fuller has worked for both the public and private sectors in the USA, including within the oil and petroleum industry. A graduate of the Roosevelt University, with a master of science in accounting and a bachelor (of business administration), Grant Fuller has also served as a visiting professor in accounting and auditing.

Grant Fuller, a Jamaica-born member of the diaspora in the United States of America, was appointed on March 1, 2021 and will serve for a period of two years.

***"Excerpted from Gleaner Article published on May 6, 2021"***

# **Law Office of Casey Campbell**

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July 3, 2023

Patrick Williams  
President  
Jamaica Awareness Association of California, Inc.  
P.O. Box 351769, Los Angeles CA 90035

Dear Mr. Williams,

I hope this letter finds you well.

On behalf of the Management and Staff of Falmouth Hospital, and the people of Trelawny, I sincerely thank you for your recently concluded successful mission. We are truly grateful for the support; supplies and the High Definition Universal Control Tower for Laparoscopic surgery which were donated, and can assure you that they have been put into use.

We are encouraged by this gesture and pray for your continued success, as we partner to improve healthcare service delivery to the clients we serve.

Looking forward to another successful mission in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Keriesa Bell Cummings, MBA  
Chief Executive Officer (actg)



Thanks much. I'm a beneficiary of this gift. Thanks to all those who made this surgery successful and possible for me. God be praised!

[Marcia Johnson](#)



**Falmouth Hospital gets laparoscopic machine**

#GLNRTODAY

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# History Made at Falmouth Hospital

US-based JAAC performs first laparoscopic surgery after donating US\$300,000 in equipment

BY HORACE HINES Sunday Observer writer [editorial@jamaicaobserver.com](mailto:editorial@jamaicaobserver.com)

Jun 18, 2023

**F**ALMOUTH, Trelawny — Doctors have performed a historic laparoscopic surgery at Falmouth Public General Hospital here.



It occurred last Thursday, days after the US-based Jamaican Awareness Association of California (JAAC) handed over equipment valued at US\$300,000 (around \$45 million) to the medical institution to establish laparoscopy services there.

The doctors are all members of JAAC.

On Friday there was a mood of euphoria among stakeholders, including Senior Medical Officer (SMO) Dr Leighton Perrins who could not contain his joy regarding the establishment of laparoscopy services at the Type B facility, which resulted in the historical surgery.

"This is a historical moment. It is the first laparoscopic surgery done at the Falmouth Public General Hospital," Dr Perrins expressed.

The laparoscopic procedure was used to remove a gall bladder from patient Marcia Johnson. If the jubilant mood in which the patient was captured on Friday, a day after the historical surgery, is anything to go by then the procedure may be deemed successful.

Performing procedures the laparoscopic way, Dr Perrins argued, allows for less risk of infections and wound complications — and patients spend reduced periods in hospitals.

"It [laparoscopic surgery] shortens hospital stay; they [patients] eat quicker; they are back to baseline. She [Johnson] is up and about walking. A surgery like this done in a private setting would cost between \$1.5 million and \$2 million," the SMO said.

St Andrade Sinclair, director of the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA), was also elated over the advent of laparoscopic services being offered at Falmouth.

"I welcome it, look forward to it, and hope that we can capitalise on this moment because we can not only get rid of our backlog, but it will be less stress — both on our staff and our purse and everything. It gets people back to work quick, quick, quick, and it cut back on major surgery because this is now minimally invasive," Sinclair said.

Over the years JAAC's medical team has left its mark at other medical institutions, among them Annotto Bay, Savanna-la-Mar, Mandeville, Victoria Jubilee, Princess Margaret, May Pen, and Kingston Public hospitals.

The charity organisation's President Patrick Williams told reporters that Thursday's surgery by JAAC doctors also doubled as training for local doctors.

*Excerpts taken from Observer Article published on June 18, 2023*



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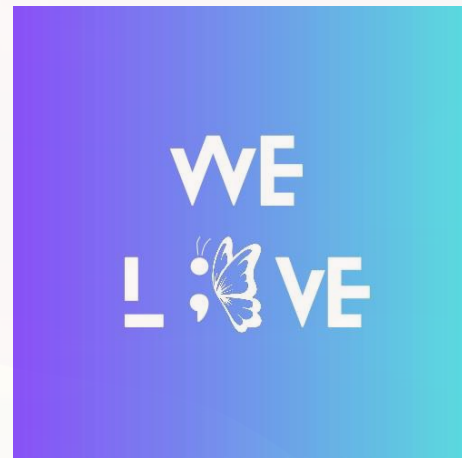
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*“Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so  
much.”*

Helen Keller

Thanks to the stellar JAAC Medical/Dental  
2023 Mission Volunteer Team

### Surgery Team

Raymond Wedderburn  
Donald Phillibert, MD  
Uchenna Acholonu MD  
Ijeoma Ejeh MD  
Maleasa Marie Mauro  
Ashlee Green  
Tochukwu Ejeh  
Deborah Dubensky  
Leroy Sutherland

### Clinic Providers

Rosalyn Beswick, DNP  
Karen Staple, DNP  
Janet Martinez, DNP  
Odette Cohen MD  
Jeremiah Weekes DO  
Tavonia Ekwegh

### Dental Team

Isaac Brown  
Deidra Harrison-McClain  
Eric Oates DDS  
Monique McEachem  
Yvette Stokes  
Joyce Barbour  
Stockhouse Anese  
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Lashunda Collins  
Paris Little  
Christine Estime  
Kayla Brown  
Jazmine Stubblefield  
Munira Yusuf  
Craighead Teosha  
Julian Jones  
Marlene Dontsap  
Dequincy Bingam

### Pharmacists

Kimberly Sarosky  
Jennifer Wiafe

### Nurses

Claudette Coleman  
Delveta Harris-Clarke  
Anthony King  
Queenie Lee White  
Judine Tong  
LayDiana Santana  
Laishah Bay  
Sharon Daniels

### Support Team

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Hermin Hussen  
Dr. V. Oates  
Aaron Oates  
Jasvinder Oats  
Jahdiya Oates  
Simone Cameron Stokes  
Julian Carson Stokes  
Maxine McGill  
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The Executive Board and members of JAAC would like to sincerely thank all those who donated time, talent and financial resources to make this fundraising banquet a success. We especially acknowledge those who sponsored some of the expenses of this event and donated items.

**Banquet Program MC**

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Shauna Chin

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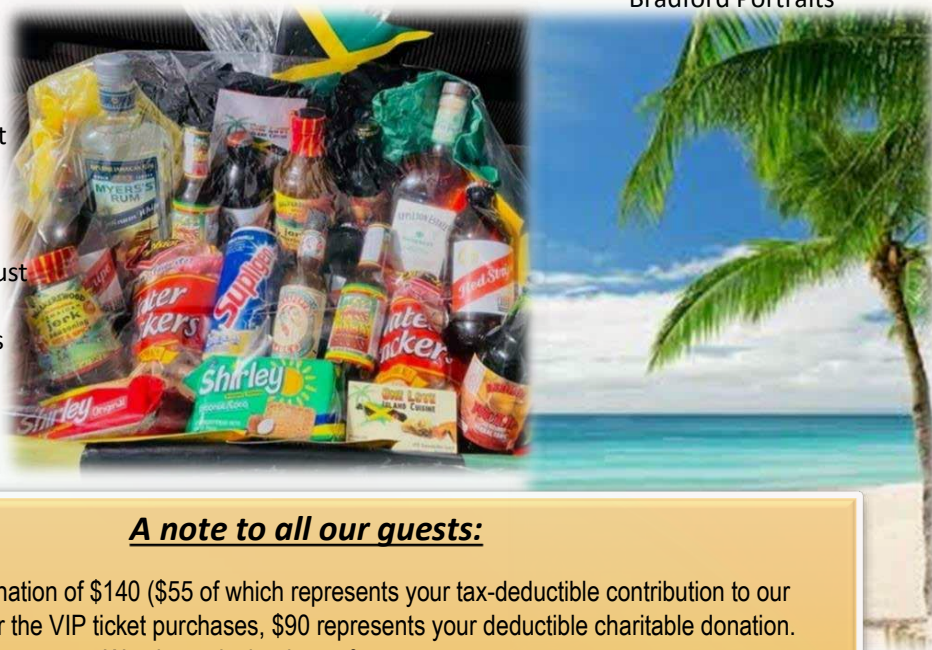
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### TRIBUTE FROM THE JAMAICA AWARENESS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA FAMILY

#### IN GRATITUDE FOR THE LIFE OF CHANI KHAN GILLING-JOHNSON



It goes without saying that the loss of Chandi Khan Gilling-Johnson is a tragedy not only for the Gilling family, but for the entire community and the extended communities that Chandi has touched.

It is always especially difficult when a child precedes their parents in death.

We honor and celebrate the life of Chandi, while we deeply mourn her loss.

On behalf of the Jamaica Awareness Association of California, we join with everyone in attendance in extending our deep heartfelt condolences to Leo, Linda, Stephan, Nigel and everyone who is experiencing grief with Chandi's passing.

Leo and Linda have been a part of the JAAC family for decades, Leo having been president of the association during which time he made a tremendous contribution to the growth of JAAC. We stand with the family and we are here for you in any capacity that we are able to give help and support during this very painful season.

God knows better than we do what the plan is and she is part of that larger plan.

*Our deepest heartfelt condolences to your family, from the JAAC family.*

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