The Superstar for this month is:

Mrs. Charmaine Vassell-Shettlewood  
Senior Public Health Nurse  
Kingston and St. Andrew Health Department  
She was one of the first responders to Bull Bay lock down during the threat of COVID-19

1. What year did you start working at Ministry of Health/SERHA?

I started working at the Ministry of Health/SERHA in October 1987.

2. What are some of the positions you have held?

Registered Nurse, Specialist Nurse, Public Health Nurse, Clinical Preceptor, In service Coordinator and Senior Public Health Nurse

3. What do you like the most about your job?

What I like most about my job is serving people

4. What inspires you?

I am inspired by the word of God that provides guidance and accountability.

5. What is your greatest achievement?

My greatest achievement is observing the persons who God has impacted through me.

6. What word of advice would you like to give to the staff?

Whatever, you do; do it as unto God and not man for He see and knows our motives.

7. What is your personal mission statement?

May those who come after me find that I was faithful.

8. Did you always want to work in the health?

Yes, from a child all I wanted to be was a nurse. I knew from then that this was my God given call.

9. What is the most important life lesson you have learnt?

People will only remember how you made them feel in any situation.

10. What do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy swimming and working in my mini farm.
SERHA Receives New Buses for Health Care Workers

The South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA) received four new 29-seater Coaster buses for Health Care Workers across the Region and the Nurses Association of Jamaica received one new 15-seater bus from the Ministry of Health and Wellness during the official handover on Thursday, March 19, 2020 at the St. Joseph’s Hospital. The vehicles are valued at over JA$57M. In addition, Toyota Jamaica loaned two additional 16-seater buses to the Ministry of Health and Wellness. These buses will assist with transporting the Health Care Workers to and from the institutions. Mr. Wentworth Charles, Board Chairman, SERHA, thanked the Ministry of Health and Wellness for their commitment and support. He assured the Health Ministry that SERHA will be putting in place a proper maintenance system and a schedule for drivers.

From left): Maureen Golding, Regional Director at SERHA; Carmen Brissett, Vice President of the Nursing Association of Jamaica; Wentworth Charles, Board Chairman at SERHA and Marcia Thomas Yetman, Regional Nursing Supervisor at SERHA smile for a picture during the hand over ceremony.

Drivers from SERHA posed beside the new vehicles during the handing over ceremony.
The South East Rural Regional Health Authority (SERHA) received a 29-seater Coaster bus from Guardian Life Jamaica to assist in the transportation of health care workers at the Kingston Public and Victoria Jubilee Hospitals.

The bus, which is valued at over JA$12M, was handed over on March 30, 2020 at Jamaica House.

Mr. Wentworth Charles, Board Chairman, SERHA, expressed gratitude to Guardian Life Limited on behalf of the Region for the timely donations that will greatly assist in transporting Health Care Workers to the institutions especially during this fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

He added that a programme and policy is put in place to ensure that the vehicles received by SERHA are properly maintained.

Health Care Workers Receive Meals from Island Grill

Health Care Workers at the Kingston Public and Victoria Jubilee Hospitals received 500 meals from Island Grill during a distribution exercise inside the board room at the KPH on Saturday, March 21, 2020. Chairman for Island Grill, Mr. Howard Mitchell said that Island Grill in partnership with National Commercial Bank (NCB) Foundation have so far supplied Health Care Workers and Police Officers with a total of 2300 meals. Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health and Wellness in thanking Island Grill and NCB Foundation commended them for going beyond the call of duty to support workers who are on frontline duties during the COVID-19 pandemic on the island.

Mr. Wentworth Charles (right), Board Chairman, SERHA and Mr. Howard Mitchell (second right), Chairman, Island Grill distributed a meal to Sister Sapphire Steel, Nursing Manager at the Kingston Public Hospital during the distribution exercise. Looking on from back left to right: Ms. Maureen Golding, Regional Director, SERHA and Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health and Wellness.
The Kingston Public and Victoria Jubilee Hospitals (KPH & VJH) received a cheque valued at $2 million on March 25, 2020 from Man-Hing Company Limited.

During the hand over, Mr. Wentworth Charles, Board Chairman, SERHA, commended Mr. Henry for his generosity.

He added that the money will be used to purchase much needed items such as gloves, surgical masks and respiratory equipment for the Frontline Workers at KPH and VJH.

The Kingston School of Nursing graduating class of 1979 handed over 6 blood pressure machines and digital thermometers to the nursing administration at the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. The management of KPH extends appreciation to the graduating class for the kind donation that will go a far way in assisting the hospital’s ability to delivery better health care. See highlights below:
KPH Receives COVID-19 PPE from Local Chinese Community

The Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) benefited from a donation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the Chinese community in Jamaica, to help fight the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the island.

The handing over took place at Garmex Freezone on March 31, 2020.

According to Wentworth Charles, Board Chairman, South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA), the donations will assist the Region tremendously in protecting Health Care Workers from exposure to the virus and to improve occupational health and safety.

He also expressed thanks to the Chinese community in Jamaica for their kind gesture which will strengthen the relationship between Jamaica and China.

Maureen Golding, Regional Director, SERHA, noted that the PPE received will be distributed to other institutions that falls under SERHA where there is a shortage of supplies. She also expressed that in times like these, the staff and patients’ health and protection is of utmost priority.

The equipment donated include 100 surgeon gloves, 25 sharps container with cover, 20 boxes of N95 masks, five gallons of hand sanitizer, 166 surgical gowns, 50 nurse caps, syringes with needles and other valuable items.
Sanmerna Foundation Limited (SFL) partnered with the Kay Morris Foundation (KMF) Limited based in Canada to graciously hand over US$20,000 medical supplies and equipment to the Kingston Public Hospital, as the nation grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The donation took place on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at the facility.

Dr. Natalie Whylie, Senior Medical Officer, KPH, thanked the company for the donations in which she said will go a very far way in terms of ensuring that the hospital is able to provide a good response to the Jamaican people.

The medical supplies donated include X-ray prep kit, surgical gowns, beds, wheel chairs, patient assistance bars and other items/equipment.

Wisynco donated modified Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET), bottles to the Kingston Public Hospital on March 26, 2020. These bottles will be used as Spacers for use with Metered dose inhalers by Asthmatics and other patients with respiratory conditions.

This will reduce the need for nebulization of patients and reduce the risk of exposure of aerosolized respiratory secretions of Healthcare Workers in the Accident and Emergency area on the wards.
Ten adolescents who suffered from severe scoliosis received corrective surgery at the KPH from Duncan Tree (DT) Foundation.

The Foundation, which conducted its 12 medical mission at KPH from March 8-11, 2020, is a US-based, non-profit organization, serving the health needs of the poor and vulnerable in selected countries like Jamaica.

The value of the surgery, had the patients been flown to New York, would be close to US$250,000 for each patient, including hospital stay, surgeon's and anesthesia fees, implants, instruments, neuromonitoring, etc., all are being provided free of cost by DT in partnership with the KPH.

Since March 2012, DT has provided expensive titanium implants, corrective spine surgery and intraoperative neuromonitoring close to two hundred adolescent patients in Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and the Philippines.

For the past nine years, the foundation has assisted with improving the lives of over 150 future leaders in Jamaica.
I want to hear from you!
Tell me what is happening in your facility. Call Shuwana Johnson, Public Relations Officer at (876) 816-8058.
E-mail: shuwanaj@serha.gov.jm or serhapublicrelations@gmail.com

Excerpts from the Staff Order for Public Service

6.7.3 Duty Allowance

i). A duty allowance may be payable to officers who are required to work beyond established working hours on a regular basis.

ii). To be eligible for duty allowance, the duties performed must be related directly to the regular duties of the officer.

iii) Such a duty allowance may only be paid to the officer who actually performs the duties in respect of which the allowance is granted.

iv) Duty allowance rates and other eligibility criteria are determined by the Ministry with responsibility for the Public Service.

v) The allowance may be paid to the substantive holder of the position to which the duties are attached, during any period of leave of absence not exceeding twenty (20) working days at any one time.

vi). In the event of an officer who is in receipt of a duty allowance being granted a leave of absence in excess of twenty (20) working days, the officer acting in the position and performing the duties will be paid the allowance for the duration of the acting appointment and the substantive holder of the position will receive the duty allowance for the first twenty (20) working days only.

vii). Officers who receive overtime payment for working excess hours are not eligible for duty allowance.

Continuation in the next publication

KINGSTON PUBLIC & VICTORIA HOSPITALS
1. Medical Officers (HPC/MO1) General Surgery/Internal Medicine/Accident and Emergency
2. Registered General Nurse (HPC/RN1)
3. Registered Midwives (HPC/MW1)

SPANISH TOWN HOSPITAL
1. Medical Officers (HPC/MO1) General Surgery/Internal Medicine/Accident and Emergency
2. Registered General Nurse (HPC/RN1)
3. Registered Midwives (HPC/MW1)

BUSTAMANTE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN
1. Specialist Nurse (A & E Operating Theatre, Critical Care)
2. Registered General Nurse (HPC/RN1)

LINSTEAD HOSPITAL
1. Medical Officer (HPC/MO1 & 2)

Deadline for all applications is Tuesday, April 28, 2020. Interested persons are asked to submit their applications with resumes to:

Director
Human Resource Management & Industrial Relations
South East Regional Health Authority
The Towers, 2nd Floor
Kingston 5
Or
Email: employment@serha.gov.jm

I want to hear from you!
Tell me what is happening in your facility. Call Shuwana Johnson, Public Relations Officer at (876) 816-8058.
E-mail: shuwanaj@serha.gov.jm or serhapublicrelations@gmail.com

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