Serha Times
South East Regional Health Authority

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Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health and Wellness (front: 2nd from left), tours the renovated Children’s Ward, the Accident and Emergency Department and the Parish Emergency Operations Centre with Ms. Maureen Golding, Regional Director, SERHA (left) and Ms. Melecia Linton, CEO, PMH (right). Other members of staff who were present are from left to right: Mrs. Colleen Wright, Parish Manager, St. Thomas Health Services (partially hidden), Dr. Christopher Munroe, Accident and Emergency Consultant, PMH (partially hidden) and Mr. Angus Gordon, Member of the Board of Directors, SERHA

The Children’s Ward at the Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) in St. Thomas has been renovated to facilitate the potential COVID-19 patients.

The PMH has the distinction of being the only secondary health care facility in the parish and it has the tremendous task of providing health care to over 120,000 residents.

The Minister of Health and Wellness said that the hospital has put in place a 10-bed ward with all the amenities to deal with the COVID-19 response preparedness. The official tour was held on May 16, 2020. He also thanked the management and staff of the hospital for working very hard during the pandemic.

In addition, the staff welcomed the improvements that were undertaken.

Like and follow us on: Facebook.com/serha.jamaica Twitter:@theserhajm Instagram: @theserhajm Youtube Channel: theserhajm
1. What year did you start working at Ministry of Health/SERHA?
I started working at the Ministry of Health SERHA in 2008.

2. What are some of the positions you have held?
Trained Cardiac/Critical Care Registered Nurse, Registered Midwife, worked in Ophthalmology Department for approximately 3 years, worked as a Charge Nurse and presently working as an Infection Prevention and Control Nurse at KPH.

3. What do you like the most about your job?
The thing I like the most about my job is that I am able to connect with my patients on such intimate level even under very difficult and stressful circumstances.

4. What inspires you?
I am inspired by God because my steps are ordered by him. Humanity also inspires me because I find humans to be an interesting subject to study and understand although personalities vary.

5. What is your greatest achievement?
My greatest achievement was being awarded as Employee of the year for KPH/VJH in 2018 and my academic achievements.

6. What word of advice would you like to give to the staff?
My advice to staff is to make Jesus Christ the center of their lives and he will give them the inner drive to love each and work effectively as a team. Their love for humanity will motivate them to give patients quality care in a courteous manner that will positively impact the patients' lives and help them to heal.

7. What is your personal mission statement?
Provide high quality preventative and care that will help in curing and rehabilitate patients in a timely, courteous and efficient manner to all citizens of Jamaica and all other nation.

8. Did you always want to work in the health?
I have always wanted to work in the health field.

9. What is the most important life lesson you have learnt?
The most important lesson I have learnt is not to let others dictate the way you live your life, live selflessly and always remember to work as a team.

10. What do you do in your spare time?
In my spare time I listen to gospel music, meditate on the word of God, read and bond with family members.

The Superstar for this month is:
Ms. Rachael-Lee Francis
Specialist Nurse
Kingston Public Hospital
The frontline workers at the Kingston and St. Andrew Health Department (KSAHD) received groceries from Shoppers Fair Supermarket, Liguanea (a subsidiary of Progressive Grocers of Jamaica Limited) on April 30, 2020. Mr. Anthony Wood, Parish Manager, Kingston and St. Andrew Health Services (KSAHS) said that the food items donated will be used to make delicious sandwiches for the technical team at the Health Department. He also thanked the company for its thoughtful gesture during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Anthony Wood, Parish Manager, KSAHS (right), and Ms. Rosemarie Stewart, Assistant Manager, Shoppers Fair Supermarket, Liguanea Branch (left), hold items at the handover presentation.

The South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA) mourns the loss of Ms. Kameka McNaughton, Former Patient Care Assistant at the Spanish Town Hospital. She died on April 27, 2020.

May her soul rest in peace.
**Spanish Town Hospital Gets New 30-Bed Ward**

Ward 7 is the new 30-bed building at the Spanish Town Hospital that was official opening on Tuesday, April 28, 2020. The 3,600 square feet ward will benefit over 3,000 individuals and includes all the necessary amenities such as a reception area, bathrooms, shower stalls with wheelchair access, examination rooms, storage, meeting rooms and a lunchroom. The funding for the project was provided by Kind Hearts Foundation and construction completed by Food For The Poor.

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**TWCL Gives Gallons of Juice to Healthcare Workers**

The St. Catherine Health Department and the Spanish Town and Linstead Hospitals received 800 gallons of juice from Ms. Keresha Ferguson, Marketing Coordinator at the Trade Winds Citrus Limited (TWCL) on May 4, 2020. While accepting the products, Mr. Dwayne Francis, CEO of Spanish Town Hospital, thanked TWCL for the juices. He added that “we will be sending these juices to all of our wards and departments. It shows your thanks to the front-line responders of Spanish Town Hospital”. Ms. Lauren Mahfood, Brand Manager at TWCL, emphasised the company’s gratitude for the work of all healthcare professionals.
Liguanea Lane Pharmacy Donates Masks to NCH

The Liguanea Lane Pharmacy donated surgical masks to the National Chest Hospital (NCH) on May 6, 2020. Ms. Nicole Brown, Director of Nursing Services, NCH expressed thanks to the company for the kind gesture in which she said will help both the patients and staff at the hospital from the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The handing-over exercise took place inside the National Chest Hospital Conference Room.

From left are: Mr. Martin Isaacs, Hospital Administrator, NCH; Ms. Nicole Brown, Director of Nursing Services, NCH; Ms. Christelle Harris, Director, Liguanea Lane Pharmacy and Mr. Victor Kirlew, Manager, Liguanea Lane Pharmacy

Modern Investigation and Security Limited Hands Over Gowns and Thermometers to NCH

Ms. Jacqueline Ellis, CEO, National Chest Hospital received surgical gowns from Mr. Glenroy Stewart, Management Director, Modern Investigation and Security Limited on April 21, 2020 (captioned in photo). The company also donated 5 infrared thermometers to the hospitals. The items are valued at $150,000 and will be used to provide protection for the frontline staff. Ms. Ellis thanked the company for the timely and practical donations that will go a far way especially during the fight against the novel coronavirus. Looking on is Mr. Martin, Isaacs, Hospital Administrator, NCH.
JCF Celebrated the Nurses on International Nurses Day

The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) visited several hospitals across the island, including the Bustamante Hospital for Children, the Kingston Public, Victoria Jubilee and Linstead Hospitals to honour the nurses. International Nurses Day is celebrated each year on May 12. As part of the activities, Corporal Andre Gillepsie of the JCF Band Division serenaded the group of nurses with beautiful renditions, while Inspector Shaunjaye Mitchell, Corporate Communications Unit gifted them with orchid flowers. The highlights are below:

SERHA Receives More Lucozades for HealthCare Workers

Frontline workers from SERHA received 600 more cases of Lucozade Energy Drink from World Brands Services, a division of GK Foods & Services Limited. Ms. Pauline Roberts, Director of Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations, SERHA (right), received the donations on Thursday, May 14, 2020 at the National Chest Hospital. Ms. Roberts thanked the company for the additional supplies. Sharing in the photo are other members of staff.

The energy drinks were distributed to the Bustamante Hospital for Children, Regional Office, St. Joseph’s and Liguanea Hospitals. The Kingston and St. Andrew and St. Thomas Health Departments also received.
SERHA Gets COVID Support from Food For The Poor Donors

The Region received Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other items including mattresses, critical care patient monitors and patient care trolleys on Thursday, May 28, 2020 courtesy of Food For The Poor (FFP) and their local and overseas donors including the Issa Trust Foundation, Diane Pollard, Friends of Food For The Poor, Young at Art Jamaica, Tanya Khouri and Boss Furniture. Included in the hospitals that benefited are the Bustamante Hospital for Children, the Kingston Public, Victoria Jubilee and Spanish Town Hospitals. These items will provide protection for the hospital staff and to assist them to treat COVID-19 patients. Ms. Maureen Golding, Regional Director, SERHA thanked the donors for the timely and practical items that will provide protection for the staff. The handover exercise was held at the Bustamante Hospital for Children.

JMMB Donates PPE to Frontline Workers at KPH

JMMB Group donated over 100 face shields to healthcare professionals at KPH in the month of May 2020.

Dr. Donavon Jackson, Consultant Internist at KPH and Gastroenterologist, who was a recipient, lauded the JMMB team’s efforts for the timely donations.

Dr. Jackson noted that, based on his area of specialization, which requires interaction with the respiratory system, it is critical to have PPE, as there tends to be even higher risk in treating patients with gastric conditions.
The year 2020 has been dubbed by the World Health Organization as the Year of the Nurses and Midwife. International Nurses Day was celebrated under the theme: **Nurses: A Voice to lead-Nursing the World on Health.** As the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, the important role that nurses play is even more evident in these challenging times. Mr. Wentworth Charles, Board Chairman, SERHA in his statement saluted all our hard working and devoted nurses. The Region would like to specially thank the Jamaica Constabulary Force, Tru-Juice and Honey Bun for making the day extra special for our nurses. Here are the highlights from the Kington Public, Victoria Jubilee, Spanish Town, Linstead and National Chest Hospitals.
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

COMPENSATION

Excerpts from the Staff Order for Public Service

6.7.5 Official Quarters

i) Officers who are required by nature of their duties to reside in some particular location shall occupy such Government quarters as are available, subject to applicable rental arrangements.

ii) Officers who are eligible for Government quarters may make their own arrangements, at their own expense, provided that the arrangement in no way impairs the efficient and effective performance of their official duties.

iii) Officers who are not entitled to free quarters and who occupy Government quarters are required to pay such rental as may be fixed from time to time.

iv) If an officer occupying official quarters is transferred with less than one (1) month’s notice, the Permanent Secretary/Head of Department may authorize the continued occupation by the officer’s family for a period not exceeding one (1) month from the date on which the officer received the notification of transfer.

V) Officers who are eligible to be provided and who occupy official quarters, shall continue to occupy such quarters during periods of absence on sick, departmental, vacation, pre-retirement or maternity leave.

Continuation in the next publication