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# SERHA TIMES

South East Regional Health Authority



*Mr. Billy Heaven (centre), Chief Executive Officer, CHASE Fund, examines the C-Arm Machine with Mr. Wentworth Charles (right), Board Chariman, SERHA, and Dr. the Hon. Kenneth Benjamin OJ, CD, (left), Chairman of the Hospital Management Committee, Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC) in the operating theatre at the hospital.*

The surgical staff at the Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC) is set to perform minimal invasive surgery for the first time in Jamaica thanks to the generous donation by CHASE Fund. The hospital is now equipped with two critical pieces of equipment to enhance the precision of surgical procedures, while facilitating training for residents in paediatric surgery.

The C-Arm and laparoscopy machines valued at JA\$46 million, were handed over by Mr. W. Billy Heaven, Chief Executive Officer, CHASE fund during a ceremony at the hospital on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. It is

used to provide high-resolution X-ray images in real time, the C-Arm machine will allow doctors to monitor progress and immediately make any corrections during surgical, orthopaedic and emergency-care procedures, while the laparoscopic equipment enables minimally invasive surgeries.

During his remarks, Mr. Wentworth Charles, Board Chairman SERHA, said that both patients and staff will benefit significantly from the C-Arm Machine. The C-Arm Machines are mainly used in orthopaedic, pain management, and emergency procedures. The equipment will also be used to visualize the small

bones of children in real time, allowing for their accurate reduction and subsequent placement.

Dr. Sarah Marshall Niles, Consultant Paediatric Surgeon, BHC, explained during her presentation that there are several benefits of invasive surgery, including smaller scans for the patients, less wound pain, a shorter hospital stay, and fewer funds needed for pain medication. She added that for the staff, the equipment will enable the team to see more clearly and improve precision in surgery.



# The National Cancer Treatment Centre Celebrated its 5th Anniversary at St. Joseph's Hospital

The National Cancer Treatment Centre celebrated its 5th Anniversary at St. Joseph's Hospital in the month of November 2023. Since the opening of the Centre, many Jamaicans have received world-class cancer treatment using state-of-the-art linear accelerators. Here are the highlights from the Anniversary celebration held at the Centre on November 29, 2023. Ms. Maureen Golding (in photo 4 from left), Chief Technical Director, Ministry of Health and Wellness, was also present at the event. The management of SERHA commends the staff at the National Cancer Treatment for their hard work, dedication, and service.



Photo 1

Photo 2



Photo 4



Photo 3



Photo 6



Photo 5





## 1,045 Beneficiaries Get Second Chance Smiles



**Mr. Kirk Edwards shows off his new smile at the regional launch of Second Chance Smiles, hosted at the Hagley Park Health Centre on (December 14, 2023).**

Ten thousand (10,000) Jamaicans are to benefit from the Ministry of Health & Wellness' latest oral health and dentures replacement programme dubbed 'Second Chance Smiles'. The announcement was made by Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health & Wellness, during his Sectoral presentation on May 3, 2023.

"This year, we will introduce a programme called #2ndChanceSmiles where Jamaicans under 60 years old will get an opportunity to apply for denture replacement through any of our over 82 dental centres across the island," the Minister said. "Persons who apply will get measured at these locations and orders made for manufactured dentures. We expect to spend JA\$60 million on this programme over 18 months," Dr. Tufton added. He noted that the Ministry will also do an assessment of its oral health programme to see what additional measures can be implemented to support tooth/teeth-saving procedures instead of extractions as a first option.

"When we extract, particularly poor people's teeth, especially when they are in the productive years of their lives, we might address the pain, but we also restrict their life chances for happiness and economic gain," the Minister maintained, "a 35-year-old young man without any front teeth is likely to be less employable and less likely to find the ideal partner than someone of a similar age with all his working parts."

# Surgical Breakthroughs at BHC



The Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC) continues to give Jamaican children a fighting chance with groundbreaking Liver Transplant surgeries. Two surgeries have so far been done in 2023, and a further six patients are awaiting transplants. Dr. Colin Abel, Chief and Consultant Paediatric Surgeon at the BHC, explained that over the past ten years, an increasing number of children have been experiencing liver failure.

He added that while there are surgeries that can be done to allow them to live a little longer, it is likely that without a transplant the liver will fail. He further explained that the programme began in 2013 when a patient at the BHC required a liver transplant. “We searched to see who would be able to help us, but it is prohibitively costly-over USD\$500,000. We were fortunate enough to make links with the Children’s Hospital of Delaware (CHD), which took the child and transplanted for free”.

A relationship between the two hospitals led to other children benefitting from liver transplant as well. It was eventually determined that a plan should be put in place to do the surgeries in Jamaica.

“It meant looking at what we had in terms of hospital facility, the structure, the available resources and what we would need. We realized that we did not need much because we had good nurses, good doctors, and a good Intensive Care Unit,” Dr. Abel informed.

He further explained, that the next step was to ensure that the requisite testing facilities were in place as well as medication that would be required for transplant patients. This process took approximately two years of work, following which the first two liver transplants were performed in 2018. Since then, the BHC has done nine liver transplants.

Dr. Abel in commending the success of the surgery, said that the BHC has also been able to assist our Caribbean neighbours, with a recent transplant for a child from Antigua, whom he notes is doing well.

The programme involves what is called “Live Related Liver Transplants”. This means that a parent of the child will donate a part of their liver which will then be transplanted into the child. The bad liver of the child is removed and replaced with the good liver from the parent.



# ***Board of Directors' Cocktail Party Highlights***



Board of Directors'  
Cocktail Party held on  
December 14, 2023 at  
the Liguanea Club.





# End of Year Staff Highlights



## Regional Office

Winter Wonderland Party held at Hope Zoo on December 16, 2023.





# ***End of Year Staff Highlights***



## ***Kingston Public, Victoria Jubilee and St. Joseph's Hospitals***

Highlights of the Staff Award and Christmas dinner for the staff at the Kingston Public, Victoria Jubilee and St. Joseph's Hospitals held on Saturday, December 16, 2023, on the lawns of the St. Joseph's Hospital. The management of the hospitals lauded the staff for their outstanding service in 2023.





# End of Year Staff Highlights



## Spanish Town Hospital

Highlights of the Spanish Town Hospital staff party held at the Terra Nova Hotel on Tuesday December 19, 2023.





# ***End of Year Staff Highlights***



## ***Liguanea Region of Hospitals***

Highlights of the Liguanea Region of Hospitals staff party at the Terra Nova Hotel on Wednesday, December 20, 2023.





# Spanish Town Hospital Modernisation to Improve Patient Care



*The Most Hon. Andrew Holness, ON, PC, MP (second from right), Prime Minister of Jamaica, and Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (second from left), Minister of Health and Wellness, sign a contract for the start of the redevelopment of the Spanish Town Hospital project. Sharing in the occasion from left are: Mr. Orett Clarke (seated left), Programme Manager, HSSP; and Mr. Ding Biao (seated right), Jiangsu Zhenhuai Construction Group Company Ltd. They are joined by (standing from left) are: Mr. Abdon Campbell, Parish Manager, St. Catherine Health Services; Ms. Jacqueline Ellis, Chief Executive Officer, Spanish Town Hospital; Mr. Wentworth Charles, Board Chairman, SERHA; Ms. Rachel Clarke, Officer, HSSP; and Mr. Errol C. Greene OD, JP, Regional Director, SERHA.*

Medical services at the Spanish Town Hospital are set to be transformed with the redevelopment of the 430-bed facility, marked on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, by the ground-breaking ceremony held on the hospital's grounds. The renovation works, valued at some JA\$5.5 billion, will see the building of a state-of-the-art, six-story facility spanning more than 17,000 square metres.

As a result, patient care delivery at the facility will expand to new services to include urology, oncology, cardiology, gastroenterology, ophthalmology, and psychiatry. It will be equipped with cutting-edge technology, including electronic access to patient medical records. The move is in keeping with making available reliable and modern infrastructure for health service delivery; a goal articulated in the Ministry of Health and Wellness' Vision For Health 2030 Ten-Year Strategic Plan. "The Government of Jamaica is determined not only to transform the health system for patients and their families, but also, critically, for the staff who make it possible to deliver care to the many thousands who visit this and other facilities islandwide," said Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. The Hon. Christopher Tufton.

The Redevelopment of the Spanish Town Hospital is being implemented by the Government of Jamaica through financial support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). A total of USD\$148 million has been allocated for the Health Systems Strengthening Programme, of which the

Government of Jamaica has committed USD\$87 million to Spanish Town Hospital, which is the largest 'type B' facility in the island, and will receive the largest investment in infrastructure works.

## State-of-the-Art Facility

The new building will include an Accident and Emergency Wing on its ground floor, alongside an Ambulance Bay; Triage and Consultation rooms; and lounge areas for medical staff. The ground floor will also feature the Radiology Department, equipped with MRI, X-Ray and CT Scan Rooms, among other diagnostic services. Outpatient Services, Endoscopy Unit, a Surgical Suite and an Intensive Care Unit will also form part of the redeveloped facility. Six operating theatres with all the necessary services will be among the resources. Multiple general wards, and special wards, including Isolation Rooms will be on the facility. The facility will also boast a separate wing for laboratory services including Immunology, Haematology, Serology Labs and Blood Collection Centre.

The infrastructural works will position the hospital to improve its efficiency and quality of care while further meeting the growing demands of services.



# Regional Procurement Department Hosts 1st Seminar

The Regional Public Procurement Department at SERHA hosted its first seminar on January 31, 2024, at the AC Hotel by Marriott. The seminar was done for Procurement Officers across the parishes of St. Thomas, St. Catherine, and Kingston & St. Andrew to garner a deeper knowledge of the subject.

At the seminar, the staff was educated about the compliance standards of the OPPP and relevant policy guidelines, emotional intelligence, HR+ implementation, stress management, and other relevant topics. During his welcome speech, Mr. Wentworth Charles, Board Chairman, SERHA, commended the Procurement Department under the leadership of Ms. Roxanne Henlon, Senior Director Public Procurement, SERHA, for hosting this kind of seminar in order to improve the procurement process in the Region. The highlights are below:



*Ms. Nickiesha Wildman, Public Procurement Officer, SERHA, presents a gift basket to Dr. Gail Hudson, Consultant at the Ministry of Health and Wellness after the presentation on emotional intelligence.*



*Ms. Margaret Allen, Office Manager, SERHA, who was the Master of Ceremonies at the seminar, holds microphone to allow Ms. Nicola Chambers, Public Procurement Officer, National Chest Hospital to respond during the question and answer segment. Looking on from left are: Ms. Shanice Gayle, Senior Public Procurement Officer, Kingston and St. Andrew Health Department and Ms. Jinnel Facey, Public Procurement Officer, St. Catherine Health Department.*



*Ms. Tamara Sweeney, Senior Public Procurement Officer, SERHA, presents a gift basket to Ms. Aneika Angus, Project Officer My HR+ after the presentation on the My HR+ Implementation.*



*Mr. Rayon Craig, Senior Public Procurement Officer, SERHA, presents a gift basket to Ms. Samoya Smith, Director of Public Procurement Policy Development & Compliance-OPPP, MOFPS after her presentation on compliance standards of the OPPP and relevant policy guidelines.*



## More Than 550 Kingston Residents Registered for #KnowYourNumbers

More than 550 residents took advantage of the various health tests on Thursday, February 1, 2024, as the Ministry of Health and Wellness, in conjunction with the South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA), the Kingston and St. Andrew Health Department, and the National Health Fund, hosted the fourth in a series of major health screenings as part of the #KnowYourNumbers programme.

The event, which was held at St. William Grant Park in Downtown Kingston, saw residents benefit from core health services that included screenings and examinations for body mass index, hypertension, diabetes, eye test, cholesterol, HIV/syphilis, dental checks, denture impressions, and fitness assessments.

90% of residents benefited from free blood pressure checks, 75% from blood cholesterol levels, and 80% got tested for blood sugar. Additionally, members of the public participated in a workout session to promote physical activity.

Dr. Sandra Chambers, Regional Technical Director, SERHA, who was on location encouraged the visitors, staff and patients to #KnowYourNumbers. She said that the #KnowYourNumbers campaign is very important as it helps to educate Jamaicans about the importance of regular health screening.

Persons at this event were given an opportunity to know their health status and were given information about the risk factors of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).



*A Community Health Aide checks height of an elderly woman during the #KnowYourNumbers Road Tour at St. William Grant Park on February 1, 2024.*



*A patient is receiving a free eye care examination from an ophthalmologist at Phoenix Health and Vision during the #KnowYourNumbers Road Tour at the St. William Grant Park.*





HEART MONTH

February 2024



# 6 Steps to a Healthier Heart



Avoid Smoking



Move Your Body



Improve Your Diet



Get To A Healthy Weight



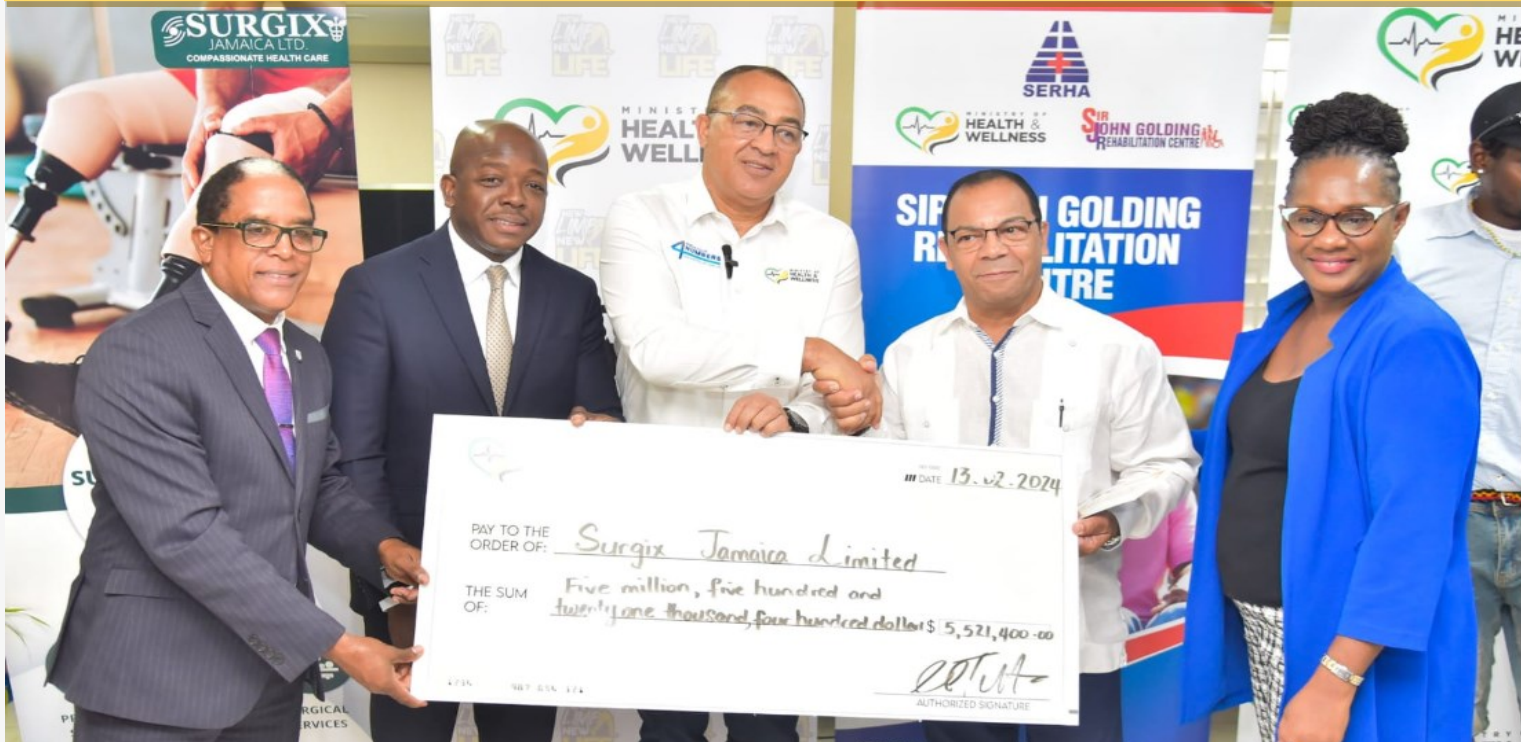
Maintain Healthy Cholesterol, Blood Pressure/Sugar



Lower Your Stress Levels



# Prosthetic Partnership Lifts Jamaicans with Disabilities



*Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (centre) Minister of Health and Wellness, presents a cheque to Mr. Winfield Boban (second from right), Managing Director of Surgix Jamaica, one of two suppliers of prostheses under the New Limb, New Life initiative. Dr. Tufton is flanked by (from left) Dr. the Hon. Norman Dunn, Minister of State, Ministry of Labour & Social Security; the Hon. Parnel Charles Jr, Minister of Labour & Social Security; and Dr. Christine Hendricks (first from right), Executive Director, Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities.*

Sixteen Jamaicans will have a second chance at mobility through prosthetic devices, following the handover of cheques to two suppliers under the New Limb, New Life initiative a partnership between the Ministries of Health and Wellness, and Labour and Social Security.

Through the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities (JCPD), an agency of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, lower limb prosthetic devices will be provided under the New Limb, New Life initiative, enabling individuals with physical impairments to lead healthy, productive, and independent lives.

The funding will go to eligible amputees who have lost their limbs due to diabetes, arterial disease, trauma, and cancer.

Addressing the ceremony on Tuesday, February 13, at the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre, Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton signalled that New Limb, New Life is part of the Ministry's preventive message as it seeks to support the rehabilitation of Jamaicans

who have lost a limb. "Rehabilitative services play a pivotal role in our commitment to holistic healthcare. By addressing gaps in service delivery for persons with disabilities, we not only promote well-being but also foster functional independence," the Minister said.

Approximately 15% of the world's population is challenged by disability due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs), with diabetes being a significant contributor in Jamaica.

"In Jamaica, a staggering 80% of amputations are linked to diabetes, highlighting the urgent need for preventive care and rehabilitative interventions," Dr. Tufton explained.

The cheques, valued at a total of JA\$6,261,400 were presented to Surgix Jamaica Limited and Tutu Prosthetics. The allocation, of which the Ministry of Health and Wellness is contributing JA\$5,941,400, is for the first 16 beneficiaries who will receive limbs from the two suppliers. An additional donation of JA\$320,000 is from the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities.



# Sagicor Sigma Honour Run 2024

The Sagicor Foundation hosted its 26th staging of the Sagicor Sigma Honour Run on Sunday, February 18, 2024. The Honour Run was dedicated to the late philanthropist R. Danny Williams, founder of Life of Jamaica Limited, now Sagicor Life Jamaica. The beneficiaries for this year are the National Chest Hospital, the Savanna-la-Mar and the Williams School for the Deaf. The goal was to raise JA\$100 million to purchase much-needed equipment for the institutions. Participants from the Regional Office, along with team Bustamante Hospital for Children, were in full support of the National Chest Hospital. Special thanks to Facey Pharmaceuticals and Roche for sponsoring Team SERHA's branded T-Shirts. The highlights are below:





# Sandals Foundation Refurbishes Counselling Space to Boost Mental Health Services at Bustamante Hospital for Children

Mental health services for patients, families, medical professionals and staff at the Bustamante Hospital for Children have been bolstered with the renovation of a counselling space made by the Sandals Foundation. The project, valued at approximately \$1.2 million, includes the provision of couches, chairs, and appliances, as well as the installation of an air conditioning unit and art to provide a private and comfortable space for families and members of the hospital team to decompress, speak with a counsellor, and support their mental wellbeing.

Additionally, to further support the spirituality of persons, the philanthropic arm of Sandals Resorts also aided in the repainting of the St. Mary the Virgin Chapel at the hospital. Speaking at the official handover ceremony on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, Mr. Wentworth Charles, Board Chairman, SERHA, said that “the counselling space is very critical and timely for staff to relieve their stress, even as they serve and care for the nation’s children who come to this facility for treatment. The facelift of the chapel will also be of great importance to the children and staff, as it will continue to be a safe environment.”

Adding, that the project aligns with the national mental health programme of the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Mr. Charles said, “the recently added space will assist people to cope with distress resulting from tough medical news for family, loved ones, and friends as well as the impact of natural disasters, among other adversities.”

For Heidi Clarke, Executive Director at Sandals Foundation, the project marks a key element of the philanthropic organization's investment into the region’s healthcare services. “The Sandals Foundation is committed to enhancing healthcare systems across the Caribbean in its many dimensions.

Mental wellbeing is an integral part of physical wellness, and for families who are coping with the illness of a child, this counselling space at the Bustamante Hospital will provide solace, comfort, and strength. The space will also aid medical practitioners in recentering themselves and supporting each other.

The handover event, which also included a rededication of the St Mary the Virgin Chapel was attended by patron of the Hospital, Her Excellency the Most Hon. Patricia Lady Allen.

