OVERVIEW

Company Mission

Our mission is to encourage young people to volunteer for worthwhile work in developing countries. We expect that doing this kind of voluntary work will in time become the norm. As more and more people join us, we aim to create a multi-national community with a passion to serve, to learn, to understand, to teach, to inspire and to be inspired.

Medicine and Health Care Programme Mission

Our Medicine and Health Care Programme mission is to create additional opportunities for organizations, agencies and groups to provide necessary medical and health care services through volunteerism while fostering a mutually beneficial environment for medicine and health care volunteers to develop their skills and abilities.

Background Information

Projects Abroad Jamaica is cognizant that the impact of our programmes and projects are heavily dependent on how closely they are linked to global and national goals and guidelines. Article 6 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child emphasizes that children have a right to survival and development; it’s their right to live and develop healthily.

Given that Jamaica is a signatory to the UNCRC through the Medicine Programme, Projects Abroad Jamaica seeks to fulfil this right by offering impactful projects within health care facilities and communities through the offering of primary, secondary and tertiary health care.

Similarly to our responsibility to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Medicine and Health Care Programme develops its activities to support the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) which has its fourth fifth and sixth goal to “reduce child mortality,” “improve maternal health” and “combat HI/AIDS and other diseases” respectively. In light of this, Projects Abroad Jamaica uses activities within the Medicine and Health Care Programme to provide adequate support to nurses, doctors and other health care professionals working within the areas of Maternal health and child care, general medicine, mental health and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Vision 2030 - Jamaica’s National Development Plan to have Jamaica be “the place of choice to live, work, raise families, and do business” has as its first national outcome to have a “healthy and stable population.” The Medicine and Health Care programme under this outcome seeks to partner with local and international health groups and organizations to implement purposeful and impactful projects within the health facilities and communities that will provide added opportunities for Jamaicans to access these health care services.

The goal of the Projects Abroad Jamaica Medicine and Health Care Programme therefore is to plan, develop and implement worthwhile projects that will contribute to the wholistic development of
partnering facilities in their service delivery in medicine and health care. It also has as its broad focus for 2014 to strengthen the existing bonds with stakeholders through the development of activities focusing on preventive and curative health within health facilities and communities. Between health facilities and assist in the service delivery of health services to those unable to readily access these services. This therefore calls for continued partnerships between several key agencies and organizations such as the hospitals, health centers, the Regional Health Authorities, the Ministry of Health, Government and Non-Government Agencies as well as communities and social groups.

PARTNERS

The programme currently works in active partnership with the following placements: the Mandeville Regional Hospital, the Black River Hospital, the Percy Junor Hospital, the Jamaica Police Convalescent Center, the Mandeville Comprehensive Health Centre, Porus Health Centre and other health centres as the need arises, in the parish of Manchester as well as the Manchester Infirmary.

LOCATION OF PLACEMENTS

Map of Jamaica with the parishes of St. Elizabeth and Manchester highlighted where placements are located.

Key

- Manchester
- St. Elizabeth
GOALS

Goal 1: To provide assistance and support to doctors and nurses within health care facilities in order to improve service delivery to at least nine thousand (9,000) patients by the end of 2017.

Since the implementation of no user fees within public health care facilities, the patient count has increased and health professionals are being pushed harder to deal with the high volume of work (Alexis, 2014). Vision 2030, Jamaica’s National Development seeks to offer universal health care within the health facilities. This universal health care speaks to superior customer and health care service delivery which is best accomplished with adequate staffing of health care professionals. However with the health sector’s constant cry for more funding, this will not be easily achieved. Hence the need for global partnership such as the ones established with Projects abroad Jamaica within the Medicine and Health Care Programme.

Goal 2: To improve access to basic health care and to promote awareness of non-communicable diseases to at least fifteen hundred (1500) disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals by the end of 2017.

Minister of Health Dr. Fenton Ferguson in a Commonwealth Health online article entitled “Health in Jamaica”, reported that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have been the leading causes of death within Jamaica and suggested that “the Government believes that increased focus on community involvement in care through the development of primary healthcare is the best approach to combating these conditions and to addressing these health realities.”

This goal speaks to the services the Medicine and Health Care Programme offers through the monthly outreach to individuals registered with the Manchester Poor Relief as well as community and home visits done by our volunteers to reach these individuals.

Goal 3: To increase awareness of healthy lifestyle practices for at least nine thousand (9,000) children, teenagers and young adults by using the creative and performing arts and other community interventions by the end of 2017.

The Minister of Health further noted in his online report, in the article entitled “Health in Jamaica” that “The four underlying risk factors – tobacco use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity and the harmful use of alcohol – are largely responsible for the development of NCDs.”

Through health education efforts of the outreaches previously mentioned coupled with the home and community visits our volunteers participate in, the Medicine Programme will help the ministry in realizing their mandate of improving service delivery in the primary health care setting.

RESOURCES

- An average of 80 volunteers per year on the Medicine and Health Care Programme.
- One Medicine and Health Care Project Officer and one Programme Development Manager
- Myprojectsabroadresources (www.projects-abroad.co.uk/resources)
- Books, Stationery, Laptop and internet access
• Weekly Project meetings/discussion sessions with volunteers
• Monthly outreaches
• Quarterly workshops

MONITORING & EVALUATION

• Quarterly placement feedback
• Weekly placement visits by staff
• Annual review of Teaching Management Plan
• Volunteer Debriefing Forms and End of Placement Feedback Forms.
• Checklists for each goal
• Feedback from beneficiaries